

A P R

1918

WILL BRING DOWN HIS BUDGET TODAY

Finance Minister Will Show That Revenue for Year Will Be Sufficient to Meet Expenditures.

VICTORIA, April 1.—Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, will bring down the budget in the legislature tomorrow. The debate on it is not expected to occupy much time, most of the opposition criticism being reserved until the estimates are in committee.

The finance minister will be able to show in his budget speech the revenue for the fiscal year ending on Sunday will be sufficient to meet the expenditure, but on capital account there will be a deficit of \$1,500,000, principally accounted for the provincial obligation to pay interest on Pacific Great Eastern bonds. It was the intention of the government to bring the session to an end by mid-April, but this will be impossible. It will be the end of the month before a conclusion of business is reached.

HOUSE IS OPPOSED TO ANY PAYMENTS

Legislature Passes Resolution Protesting Against Any Money Going to Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann.

WILL STRENGTHEN HANDS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Lieut. Frank MacKenzie of Delta Takes His Seat Without First Being Sworn; Land Act Criticized.

VICTORIA, April 2.—Lieutenant Frank Mackenzie, the member for Delta, who has just returned from his duties abroad, occupied his seat in the legislature for the first time this afternoon. His presence was the occasion of a little incident when a vote was taken.

All of the other members held up their right hands as requested by Mr. Speaker, except Lieutenant Mackenzie, who made no move. Hon. John Oliver called attention to this with the remark that according to the rules a member who was in his seat when a vote was taken must record his vote.

"I may say," replied Lieutenant Mackenzie, "that owing to the absence of the clerk of the house, I have not yet been sworn in. I will retire if the premier wishes."

To this the premier made no reply. He had evidently taken for granted that the member had complied with all the formalities before taking his seat.

Opposes Payments.

Attorney-General Farris made a vigorous speech in favor of the resolution offered by Mr. Hall protesting against any further sums being paid to Mackenzie and Mann by the Dominion government before they have completed the railway construction covenanted by them in British Columbia. He thought the legislature was doing a kindness in presenting this resolution to the government at Ottawa, because he was satisfied the Ottawa government wanted to do the right thing and this would strengthen their hands.

Hon. W. J. Bowser said the opposition would vote for the amendment offered by the member for Kamloops—Mr. Anderson. This amendment raised no objection to any payments to Mackenzie and Mann, but simply called upon the Dominion government to have the obligations of the Canadian Northern as to railway construction in British Columbia completed at the earliest possible moment.

Resolution Carries.

On the vote being taken Mr. Anderson's amendment was lost. It had 12 supporters of whom eight were Conservatives, the others being Mes-

srs. Anderson, Thompson, Weart and Hawthornthwaite. The resolution offered by Mr. Hall was then put and carried, the negative votes being only ten, the eight Conservatives with Messrs. Anderson and Thompson. The other two, Messrs. Weart and Hawthornthwaite, voted this time with the majority.

The bill to amend the B.C. Fire Insurance Act was given its third reading. The act for the protection of seed was put through committee and stands for third reading.

Criticizes Land Act.

Mr. W. R. Ross treated the house to a lengthy criticism of the bill to amend the Land Act. This measure is designed largely to prevent the spread of settlement over unserved lands of the provinces. He described it as a "truck garden policy" rather than a farming policy. He objected that it virtually deprived settlers of statutory rights and subjected them to the minister's discretion. He criticized the government for not taking steps to develop the grazing industry. He advocated taking the land settlement policy entirely out of the hands of the minister of agriculture and placing it under a separate minister. He suggested that E. O. Barrow, the member for Chilliwack, would be an excellent man for the new portfolio.

Irrigation Legislation.

J. W. Jones, of North Okanagan, spoke on the measures taken by the government to meet the difficulties that have arisen in the irrigation district. He thought it would be well to consider whether something might not be done for the bondholders of companies that have got into difficulties. If their capital was completely lost, the effect might be bad on future prospective investors. In his opinion the government should control the water, so there would be absolute security for the lands affected. Many systems would have to be reconstructed. If they were thrown back on the people, there would be much discussion and delay, whereas the government could decide at once what should be done and proceed to do it. The government could amalgamate some of the systems and thus bring several thousand more acres under cultivation. But the chief benefit of government control would be that the buyer of land would always feel sure of being able to get water.

Travelling Expenses.

The minister of finance stated that the total sum paid to W. R. Ross, then minister of lands, for travelling expenses during the fiscal year 1916-17 was \$1,355.25. After the defeat of the Bowser government at the polls and before it resigned office, Mr. Ross incurred \$150.45 travelling expenses.

The following bills were given their second reading: To amend the administration act, to amend the legal profession act, to amend the supreme court act, to amend the bills of sale act.

LATE GOVERNMENT A GOOD EMPLOYER

Machinery Was Sent Up Sufficient for a Country Many Times the Population, Says Hon. Mr. Farris.

VICTORIA, April 3.—In speaking this afternoon on the second reading of the bill to amend the game act, the attorney-general said that hitherto there had been some forty game wardens in the province and it was doubtful if the service given had been justified by the expense incurred. There was a general feeling that one of the troubles with the late administration had been a multiplication of officials. A governmental machinery had been set up sufficient for a country of many times the population and the expenditure had been greatly out of proportion to the capacity of the people to pay taxes. The present bill would place game protection under the provincial police.

There would be a game conservation board consisting of chief game inspector, the curator of the provincial museum and three others. The chief game inspector would be under the general control of the head of the provincial police but would be responsible primarily for the enforcement of the game laws. Incidentally Mr. Farris intimated that there is to

be an increase in the pay of the provincial police but he gave no hint as to when this would come into effect.

Oppose Inspection.

Hon. W. J. Bowser moved the adjournment of the debate. Some opposition was displayed to the proposal in the Hospitals Act that all sufferers from tuberculosis should be subject to inspection under government supervision. The provincial secretary, Dr. MacLean, agreed to modify the measure so as to provide merely that the government shall have control of the hospital chart records of tuberculosis patients.

Mr. George Bell, of Victoria, urged an inter-provincial agreement which would relieve this province from the expense of looking after tubercular patients from other provinces attracted here by the climate. He instanced one case of a small municipality in British Columbia which has already paid out \$2,000 in caring for a person who came from Alberta.

INVESTIGATION IS ASKED BY MEMBER

Mr. Nelson of Slocan Offers Resolution in House Urging Probe Into Conduct of Trail Smelter.

VICTORIA, April 3.—An inquiry into the conduct of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Limited, which is the official name of the Trail smelter, is requested by a resolution offered in the legislature this afternoon by Charles Nelson of Slocan.

The resolution recites that the company has recently imposed a new and much higher schedule of rates for the treatment of lead and zinc ores carrying silver. This it is claimed will greatly curtail shipments and in many cases cause the closing down of mines. On the other hand the company claim that the new schedule is based on actual cost plus a minimum of profit.

Idea of Schedule.

Mr. Nelson asked that the standing committee on mining be instructed to take these allegations and report to the house. He pointed out that the matter has already been before the committee, but the point was raised with it unless the question was referred to it by the house. Mr. Nelson remarked that the belief is entertained in some quarters that the whole idea of the new schedule is to crush the independent mining operators. "One thing is clear," said he. "No matter what may be the reason at the back of it, if these rates are continued to be charged it is going to bar the small shippers from participating in the business of the country." He added that the company had expressed a willingness to submit to investigation but were not anxious to have it very searching. The company feared that an investigation by a royal commission might interfere with their business, but were willing to have it before a committee of the house. He thought the house was not only concerned with conditions in the upper country but could also claim to be concerned with the operations of the smelter, which was very much in the nature of a public utility.

Opposes Committee Probe.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite saw no particular purpose to be served by an investigation by a committee of the house. There was no doubt a vast amount of dissatisfaction with the operation of these smelters which practically had the mine owners completely in their hands. There was a belief that the smelters were deliberately refusing to take ore from some mines with the ultimate intention of getting possession of these mines. He suggested a royal commission of three representing the smelter, the independent mine owner and the government. The independent mine owners, he said, would not be satisfied with a report from a committee of the house.

The debate was adjourned on motion of Hon. John Oliver, who will take occasion to state the government's view of the matter within a day or two.

WOULD MEET

Provincial Resolution Covering No Distinction

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WOULD EQUALIZE MEN'S PENSIONS

Provincial Legislature Adopts Resolution Offered by Vancouver Member—Should Be No Distinctions.

VICTORIA, April 3.—A resolution dealing with the question of pensions to Canadian soldiers was adopted unanimously by the legislature this afternoon on motion of J. S. Cowper, who said that he introduced it at the request of the Great War Veterans' Association and that a similar resolution would be presented before all the legislative bodies of the Dominion.

Class System Repugnant.

It set forth that Canada is a nation of democratic ideals in which class distinctions founded on social differences are repugnant and inimical to the national welfare. It then went on to condemn any scheme of pensions for disabled soldiers which would give less to men who served in the ranks than to officers. It then declared "that this legislature places itself on record as being opposed to a class system of pensions for soldiers and in favor of the equalization of war pensions for disabled soldiers."

Entitled to Consideration.

Mr. Cowper declared that the soldiers were a body of men whose services entitled them to the best consideration. The rank and file had been drawn from every walk of life. It was an injustice that disabled men who had volunteered should not receive the same consideration for disability as those who perhaps would not go unless they obtained a commission. Where there was a difference of social rank it was only the difference between the brain worker and the brawn worker and as a matter of fact the brain worker would suffer less from the loss of a limb than would the brawn worker. If a difference were made in pensions purely on social grounds, it involved a danger to democratic ideals.

Treatment on Vessels.

He referred particularly to the recent case of a vessel bringing Canadian soldiers back from England. On this vessel one-third of the deck space was allotted to 529 privates and the other two-thirds to twelve officers. If that sort of thing were to become the law of the land for the next generation it would strike a blow at the institutions upon which this government is founded.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Ralph Smith and adopted without further discussion.

FRI DAY, APRIL 5, 1918

INQUIRE ABOUT ARENA.

VICTORIA, April 4.—J. H. Schofield (Trall) will ask in the house on Monday for information regarding the skating arena in Vancouver. He will ask if it is a place of amusement under the Amusement Tax Act, what amounts it has paid into the provincial treasury under the act, if it is under the act and if the management collects the tax every time the arena is open to the public. The minister of finance will reply.

SUBJECT MRS. SMITH TO SOME CRITICISM

Member for Fernie Suggests Domestic Servants Should Have Been Included in Bill; Others Champion Her Cause

VICTORIA, April 4.—A brief but interesting debate on the women's minimum wage bill took place in the house today, when the measure came up for second reading. During the course of a speech A. Fraser (Fernie) declared that he felt there was no doubt that exorbitant profits were being made in the manufacture and refinement of sugar and in the production of coal, and yet these materials would be a factor in determining the minimum wage. The government should eventually fix the price of foodstuffs. A. I. Fisher (Fernie) also criticised Mrs. Smith (Vancouver) for not including domestic servants in her bill. J. H. Hawthornthwaite (Newcastle) vigorously defended Mrs. Smith, while M. A. Macdonald (Vancouver) paid Mrs. Smith the high compliment of giving her full credit for having been the cause of introduction and passing of the bill, which was a measure that he supported and that was needed.

Only Amelioration.

Mr. Fisher devoted over half an hour to supporting the bill, but warned the government that such legislation was merely amelioration of the present conditions of women, and the real solution was to fix the cost of living. He went at length also into the matter of discontinuity of labor, and spoke on the non-competitive condition of the market which bought P. Burns & company's products in the Crow's Nest Pass country. He urged, or rather pointed out, the desirability of the establishment of cold storage facilities in districts where there were none, so that retail distributors could take advantage of low initial prices of products and be able to offer them to the consumers at reasonably low prices. Mr. Fisher also said that Mrs. Smith did not introduce in the women's minimum wage bill clauses which would affect her sisters. That is, there was no mention of a minimum scale for domestic help, the bill providing only for employment affecting men employers.

Defends Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite arose to the defence of Mrs. Smith, and spoke at length on economic problems. He did not think the member for Fernie was arguing along logical lines.

Mr. Macdonald, who followed Mr. Hawthornthwaite, thought the principles of the bill could be discussed without going into the by-paths of oratory taken by the two preceding speakers. In the labor world men had the advantage of strong unions, and could meet the problems which confronted them, but women were not strongly unionized, and therefore it was only fair that a commission should set a minimum wage. Establishments paying reasonable wages had nothing to fear from the commission's investigations. The aim of the minimum wage bill was higher than the consideration of freedom of contract. To Mrs. Smith belonged full credit for the introduction of the bill. She had brought it in, no matter whether it had been nebulously considered before. She had displayed the action necessary to have it placed before the legislature. The bill will come before the committee of the house on Friday afternoon.

Mr. Bowser Is Humorous.

At the conclusion of the debate the house took up the adjourned grain bill. W. J. Bowser, who had the floor, created a generally favorable impression when he spoke.

"I moved the adjournment of the debate on this bill until today," he said. "But I find I am reluctant to proceed. I have a headache. Also we have listened to much this afternoon. We have heard the doleful speech by the hon. minister of finance; we have been privileged to listen to the illuminating address by the member for Fernie; we have benefited by the deep philosophy of the member for Newcastle. Therefore, with consent, I shall adjourn the debate until tomorrow."

When the premier had overcome his own emotion and the house resumed its wonted air of quiet decorum, the desired permission was granted.

WILL ESTABLISH TWO SEED AREAS

That Is the Intention of the Government This Year, Says Premier; May Be Created by Order-in-Council.

VICTORIA, April 4.—While in committee considering the Seed Protection Act, Hon. John Oliver moved the following amendment: "It shall be lawful for the lieutenant-governor-in-council by order of the council to establish one or more seed production areas in the province, such order to define the boundaries of said areas."

In answer to questions by members, the premier stated that the government did not contemplate the establishment of more than two such areas this year and these would be placed in districts "wherever it was found necessary from information furnished the department."

Passes to Third Reading.

The bill was passed to third reading with the amendment. J. W. Weart (South Vancouver) moved the adjournment of the budget debate.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite spoke briefly in support of his amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act, in which he is endeavoring to have the act cover certain injuries and diseases which it does not now do. The debate on this bill was adjourned by Hon. Mr. Farris.

Four bills passed third reading, the act Amending the Settlers' Estates Act, the Infants' Act amendment, the amendment to the Ditches and Waterways Act, and the amendment to the Burnaby-New Westminster Sewer Act.

Other bills considered were: The Hospitals Act amendments, Statutes and Journals Act amendments, the amendment to the Administration Act.

DISCUSS MINING

Mining Men Ask Government to Appoint Special Committee.

VICTORIA, April 4.—J. J. Warren, of Trall; R. R. Bruce, of Windermere; J. E. Sears, representative of the Granby Consolidated, met the special mining committee this morning and discussed the mining taxation. The result of the conference was that a resolution was passed by the committee asking the government to appoint a special committee of the house to co-operate with a committee of mining men in an endeavor to solve the mining problem. The solution is sought along the lines of a tax on net profits as outlined by J. W. Weart, M. L. A. It is the intention to have the proposition as presented printed and circulated throughout the mining districts in order that it may be fully understood, considered, and discussed by next session.

In the meantime it is agreed that this year a substitution will go into effect whereby the two per cent. royalty tax on ore will be retained and an additional tax of two per cent. placed on all properties where the output exceeds \$50,000 per year, according to smelter returns. The resolution was presented to Hon. John Hart for his consideration and approval. The recommendation of the committee does away with the ten per cent. income tax to which mining men have taken strong exception.

B.C. BUDGET BROUGHT DOWN IN THE HOUSE

PROVINCE'S FINANCIAL NEEDS.

Requirements of the public service for the year, which are chargeable to income	\$9,658,254.08
Estimated revenue	\$9,900,055.13
Surplus of revenue over expenditure on current account	\$241,801.05
Expenditure on capital account	\$1,953,440.00
Net estimated deficit on year's operations	\$1,711,638.95
Amount which the legislature is asked to vote for the fiscal year 1918-19	\$11,611,694.08

VICTORIA, April 4.—The budget brought down in the legislature today estimates the revenue for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1919, at \$9,900,055.13, with an estimated expenditure of \$11,611,694.08 of which \$1,953,440 is chargeable to capital account. If the anticipated revenue is secured the actual deficit will be \$1,711,638.95. The capital expenditure provides for such sums as \$907,200 for interest on Pacific Great Eastern Railway bonds; \$718,940 for sinking funds, and \$208,650 for roads, streets, bridges and wharves. Of the estimated expenditure of revenue the principal item is \$1,794,940 for public works. Only \$41,750 is set aside for railways and so far no provision has been made for any construction work on the Pacific Great Eastern, which, if undertaken, must be provided for out of capital account. The education department calls for an expenditure of \$1,777,290 for the fiscal year; the attorney-general's department, \$999,778; the department of finance, \$693,604; department of lands, \$697,608; department of mines, \$335,504; the provincial secretary's department, \$1,633,345; and the department of agriculture, \$219,684.

Exempt From Improvements.

In his budget speech Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, said the government would insure taxation would be fairly apportioned. Farm improvements will be exempt from taxation. A new assessment of real property is to be made on which the 1918 rolls will be based. Income tax, he said, was expected to bring in \$2,215,000; real property tax, \$1,000,000; personal property tax, \$560,000; and the amusement tax, \$220,000 during the fiscal year. No new sources of taxation were outlined, but it was intimated all the existing taxes will be maintained.

The debate on the budget was adjourned by J. W. Weart (South Vancouver).

Former Government Responsible.

Hon. John Hart, in his budget speech, showed the financial position of the province to be such as to give legitimate cause for worry to a finance minister confronted with the task of making income square with expenditure. Nevertheless, he regarded the situation as "not incapable of satisfactory solution," though he could hold out no hope of immediate relief from increased taxation.

For the present condition of the finances, the former government was entirely responsible. Not only did they squander a large surplus but the public debt was increased from \$10,303,146 to \$23,153,146, a total expenditure over and above ordinary revenue of \$21,819,734.74 in six years.

Interest on Railway Bonds.

In addition, a liability of over 55 millions was saddled on the people for railway guarantees, and the taxpayers are being asked this year to put their hands in their pockets and contribute an additional one million dollars to cover interest on P. G. E. bonds, which interest has been paid by the province for the past couple of years.

It is also necessary to call upon the taxpayers to contribute \$2,111,868 annually to meet the interest and sinking fund on the large debt, principally created by the spendthrift policy of the late government. While this reckless spending was going on the revenue had fallen from \$12,510,215.08 in 1912-13 to \$6,291,693.60 in 1915, a reduction of 50 per cent.

The interest on the P. G. E. and interest and sinking fund on public debt equal the amount of real property tax and income tax to be collected this year.

Collection of Taxes.

With regard to the question of new taxation, the finance minister stated that the government plans to have a complete new assessment of all real property coming under provincial taxation made during the next few months, on which the 1919 rolls will be based.

It is further the intention of the government to exempt from taxation improvements on farm lands up to a certain value, and an amendment to this effect will be included in the Taxation Act amending bill.

A surtax doubling the amount payable by banks was imposed for 1917, but no change was made in the rate of taxation for this year, the banks

sinking funds invested to a total of \$3,429,135.37 for the redemption of stock and debentures, so that the net funded debt at the date mentioned was \$19,724,010.63.

Revenue for Current Year.

"Passing now," continued the minister, "to the revenue and expenditure of the year which closed on Sunday, March 31st, 1918, it will be found that the net revenue for the nine months ending with December 31st, amounted to \$6,794,671.30, against which we have a net expenditure chargeable to income of \$5,544,839.03. Unfortunately, however, obligations for which this administration is not responsible, account for a further expenditure of \$2,365,576.12. This is made up of \$708,472.64 invested in sinking funds, \$281,210 applied to the redemption of the 1887 loan, \$1,251,847.92 on account of loan to and interest paid on account of the Pacific Great Eastern, and \$24,045.56 paid out in interest on behalf of the Nausup and Slocan. In addition to this we have made advances to the Land Settlement Board amounting to the sum of \$74,994.09.

"These later items have necessitated the borrowing of \$2,350,000, of which \$1,000,000 was in the form of a special overdraft at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, \$900,000 in a Treasury Bill issued under the Loan Act of 1916, and under the Loan Act of 1917, \$300,000 in a debenture issue and \$250,000 in a Treasury Bill.

Borrowed from Dominion.

"When I took office ten months ago it was necessary to go on the market to obtain four million dollars for our requirements, but inasmuch as the best rate obtainable at the time was 7-1/2 per cent, it was thought wise to await a more favorable market. Through doing so the government profited to the extent of approximately two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in the saving which it has effected in interest charges. The matter of our financial needs was taken up with the Dominion government by the late premier on his last visit to Ottawa, and the Federal authorities have agreed to loan us three million dollars at 6-1/2 per cent. We have been fortunate in securing a further million at a rate a little over 5-3/4 per cent. I think the government may justifiably feel proud of this, as tending to prove that the credit of the province in the money markets is improving as a result of the businesslike and economical administration which is now in force, and this is a direct answer to the statement of the leader of the opposition that he did not consider the bonds of this province good security."

Table of Expenditures.

For the current year 1918-19 the interest on the public debt is \$1,409,678.08. The other heads of expenditure chargeable to income for the year are:

Legislation	\$ 100,000
Premier's office	12,750
Agriculture	219,684
Attorney-General	999,778
Education Department	1,777,290
Finance Department	692,604
Fisheries	17,175
Labor Department	16,170
Lands Department	697,608
Mines Department	335,504
Provincial Secretary	1,633,345
Public Works	1,794,940
Railway Department	41,730
The expenditures which will have to be made on capital account are as follows:	
Sinking Funds	\$ 718,940
(Nakusp and Slocan) Int. on bonds	11,500
P. G. E. Rly. interest	907,200
Wellington Colliery Co.	15,000
B. C. House mortgage	9,750
Songhees Reserve works	50,000
Essondale Hospital	10,700
Colony Farm	4,000
Roads, Streets, Bridges, and Wharves	208,650
Ferries	17,700

Some Sources of Income.

The minister estimated the revenue for the coming year at \$9,900,055.13, "practically the same as was anticipated for 1917-18." Among the chief items of expected revenue are: fees and licenses in attorney-general's department, \$514,360; interest on sinking funds and in connection with the Dying Assessment Act, \$209,000; lands department, \$2,209,050; income tax, \$2,215,000; mineral tax, \$85,000; real property tax, \$1,000,000; personal property tax, \$600,000; taxes on wild, coal and timber lands, \$700,000; poll tax, \$300,000; amusement tax, \$220,000; succession duties, \$300,000.

offering to submit proposals which would, it was claimed, bring in the same amount of revenue from this source as the government planned to obtain but would levy it more fairly upon the various banking institutions. However, the banks have not been able to implement this promise, and the government intend to introduce an amendment which will place the rate of bank taxation at \$3,000 for one office or branch of a bank and \$500 each for any other branches in the province.

Arrears Are Being Got In.

The policy of appointing special collectors for the purpose of getting in the large amount of arrears owing to the public exchequer, and also collecting the poll-tax in the cities, has fully justified itself by results. These will be kept at work. It is the intention to make a close collection of the income tax, and collectors have been instructed to get in arrears of this tax still owing. It is also the intention of the government during the present year to hold a tax sale, it being several years now since one was held.

"The arrears of general taxes which were outstanding on December 31st last amounted to \$4,776,408.12, in addition to which the arrears of school taxes outstanding amounted to \$168,402.99. Returns from assessors in all but the more remote districts show that during 1917 there were collected arrears to the large sum of \$353,511.83. The sum represents arrears for every year from 1897 onwards and includes some arrears of school taxes. Received More Than Estimated.

"For the fiscal year 1916-17 the actual net revenue was \$6,906,783.63, as against an estimated revenue of \$5,944,015.13. The chief items in which the estimate was below the actual amount received were those of timber licenses, where there was \$208,000 more received than was foreseen by the minister of finance of the day; mineral tax, where the excess was \$187,000; succession duty, \$127,000; and real property tax, which was greater by \$82,000. On the other hand, the actual net expenditure was \$9,079,317.70, as compared with the estimate of \$11,301,374.86. The net result of the year was a deficit of \$2,172,534, which rolls up the grand total of the deficits which the late government accumulated in five years to \$18,358,751.

"The total funded debt of the province as at March 31st, 1917, is shown under the head of capital liabilities to be \$23,153,146. The province has

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1918

FORMER MINISTER GRILLED IN HOUSE

W. R. Ross Is Charged by Alex. Manson With Having Made Criticisms from Viewpoint of Political Duty.

VICTORIA, April 5.—W. R. Ross, minister of lands under the Bowser government, came in for a stiff grilling from Alex. Manson (Omineca) in the debate on the amendments to the Land Act today. Mr. Manson declared that the criticisms of the act which were made by the member for Fort George were apparently made more from a sense of political duty than a keen sense of the principles involved. The speaker severely scored the policy of land settlement under the administration of the preceding government, which he stigmatized as haphazard and so unsatisfactory that settlers came, saw, and vanished because of the neglect of the government.

The present land policy of the government was one which aimed at a sane settlement of the land, a policy which would help new settlers, and furnish land where the followers of other callings could settle down in contentment when they had left their occupations of younger and more vigorous days. Mr. Manson spoke of the splendidly rich lands adjacent to the Grand Trunk Pacific and other lines in the province where, with the proper assistance, rich agricultural communities would spring up and flourish. And he declared that the policy of the present government would tend toward the accomplishment of this desirable condition of affairs.

Assist Grazing.

Touching on grazing, Mr. Manson aroused applause when he stated that it was generally understood that the present government was contemplating bringing in legislation which would prove of real assistance to the grazing industry and would impart an impetus that would result in great provincial prosperity in these lines.

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Mr. V Hart's land tax ment. and by and of "wild" J said, th 25 cent from 21 from 50 from 75 venture money t cels in than th to. Sec should num of parcels On th ing fun district vince T deficit. have a Of the, no deb know, have a Mr. of the making cipality the m allow I the m over a year. In te tion of the me with G absorp by the questio

Unlike the preceding governments, the present one was not afraid to endeavor to solve the problem itself instead of leaving it to the interested parties, the sheep and cattlemen, to blindly struggle for. The Land Act amendment was one which makes the settler more bona fide, eliminates the speculative pre-emptor and prohibits fake pre-emption. J. Yorston (Cariboo) adjourned the debate.

Fred Anderson (Kamloops) in the debate on the amendment to the Water Act yesterday took J. W. Jones (South Okanagan) to task for his criticisms of the act as amended. He declared that the member for South Okanagan left himself open to correction, and to the charge of not uttering constructive criticism.

The speaker said credit was due to the former minister of lands for the Water Act of 1914. True, it fell down in administration, but the act was creditable legislation.

He denied the statement made by the member for South Okanagan that the water rates would run to \$8 or \$12 an acre, declaring that he was confident the minister of lands would not permit the charges to run over \$5 an acre.

J. W. Thompson (Fraser Forks) adjourned the debate.

FAVORS FEDERAL CONTROL OF BANKS

J. W. Weart Proposes in Legislature That People Make Demand; Western Provinces Might Establish a Bank.

VICTORIA, April 5.—One of the most comprehensive and effective addresses heard this session was that delivered this afternoon by J. W. Weart (South Vancouver), on the budget. Mr. Weart was particularly strong on the banking systems of Canada, and offered radical suggestions for betterment of those conditions, suggesting that the people insist on the federal government so changing the banking laws as to have a Dominion banking institution which would be the only one having power to issue paper money, handle exchange or accept deposits. He pointed out the gradual assimilation of banks and the centralization of control, the danger of interlocking directorates and the possibilities offered thereby for restraint of trade. Lieut. Mackenzie (Delta) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Touching on purely provincial matters, Mr. Weart, in his opening remarks, thought the two per cent. ore royalty tax basis unfair. He advocated a fair allowance for exhaustion, for depreciation, for interest on borrowed capital and for development, also that after paying a profit of seven per cent. all surplus profits should be divided between the crown and the owners on fair rates, 25 to 50 per cent. going to the crown.

Revision of Taxes.
Mr. Weart was glad to note Mr. Hart's statement that a revision of land taxes is proposed by the government. The total of real property taxable by the province is \$131,694,000 and of this \$25,600,000 is classed as "wild" property. In this province, he said, there are 10,341 parcels paying 25 cents per annum, 6,368 paying from 25 to 50 cents, 9,419 paying from 50 to 75 cents and 13,765 paying from 75 cents to \$1 per annum. He ventured to state that it costs more money to collect from the 16,700 parcels in the first two classifications, than the actual tax revenue amounts to. Section 52 of the Assessment Act should be amended, making a minimum of \$1 per annum on any and all parcels of land.

On the questions of municipal sinking funds, the speaker said that of 28 district municipalities within the province nine have no debt, 10 had no deficit in sinking fund, while nine have deficits aggregating \$272,000. Of the city municipalities four have no debt, on two the debts are not known, 13 have no deficit and 15 have a deficit aggregating \$1,569,000.

Mr. Weart urged that section 191 of the Municipal Act be amended by making it compulsory for each municipality to deposit sinking funds with the minister of finance, who could allow five per cent. on them, giving the municipalities an increased profit over savings interest of over \$90,000 a year.

Banking Situation.

In touching on the banking situation of Canada, Mr. Weart spoke of the merging of the Bank of B. N. A. with the Bank of Montreal, and the absorption of the Northern Crown by the Royal Bank. He said the question arose as to the desirability

of allowing the banking system to be placed under the domination of the few. He declared that banking in Canada was backed by the credit of the nation. He submitted that the credit of the nation should be used for the benefit of the nation.

To remedy the present conditions in banking he suggested that the Federal parliament should establish a national banking institution that would be the only one having power to issue paper money, the only institution having power to accept deposits, the only institution dealing with exchange. This could be accomplished without hardship or injustice to the banks, and he urged that the people of Canada so place the matter before parliament that the parliament be forced to act along these lines. The banks were now enjoying unfair advantages given them in error by the Federal governments of the past.

He suggested that the four western provinces might form an interprovincial bank, each province subscribing \$5,000,000, and thus create a stronger institution than any of the private concerns now operating.

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1918

The New Land Policy

Speculation in farm land and timber limits will be discouraged by the enactments put through the British Columbia legislature during the present session.

It is idle to exchange recriminations as to who was responsible for the system formerly prevailing. Pretty much everybody was in it more or less, and they all expected to get rich. Nobody thought of blaming the government until the bubble burst.

In future, the legitimate settler will get a chance, which is as it should be. He will not be expected to pay toll to men who had merely made themselves an incubus and who were doing nothing for the country's development.

By confining settlement to surveyed areas, the comfort of the people will be greatly promoted. The provincial expenditure for roads and other necessary public works should also be diminished.

In short, the era of speculation will be replaced by an era of production. There will not be so much "easy money," but the aggregate wealth of the community should presently begin to show a marked increase.

Provincial Mineral Display

Hon. Wm. Sloan, minister of mines, has his eye on the government printing bureau at Victoria. He thinks it would make an excellent headquarters for the provincial department of mines. He is right.

At present the provincial mineral display is housed in an old building where hardly anybody ever sees it. The average visitor to the capital doesn't even learn of its existence. Most of the members of the legislature would have to be told where it is.

With the museum in one end of the legislative building and the mineral exhibit in the other, a proper balance would be preserved.

Part of the bureau might well be given to the offices of the department of mines, and the rest devoted to an adequate display of British Columbia's mineral resources.

The printing bureau plant could be removed without detriment to the public service. Its location is a matter of entirely minor consequence.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1918

SESSION OF B.C. LEGISLATURE MAY END IN TEN DAYS

Strenuous Effort Will Be Made to Complete Business Week From Tomorrow; to Sit Both Afternoon and Night.

TAXATION AMENDMENTS WILL PROVIDE DEBATE

Not Many Changes Can Be Expected as Province Requires Money; However, Relief for Mines Likely.

VICTORIA, April 8.—Unless something unforeseen eventuates the legislative session is likely to end about next Wednesday. The disposition is to crowd all work possible into this week by a double shift—sessions in the afternoon and evening. In the mornings the usual work of the committees will proceed, so that altogether the members face at least ten days of strenuous going.

Amendments to the Taxation Act will provide the subjects for time-consuming debate. Every interest affected by increased taxation has voiced objection to it, and all have their legislative advocates.

These various interests put in their arguments some time past, and not many more delegations are expected. The representations which were made are in the hands of the government and have been given what considerations were possible.

Not Many Changes.

Not many changes are to be expected, as Hon. John Hart, finance minister, has set out quite clearly in the budget speech the condition of the province financially, and Premier Oliver has frankly stated to deputations who desired taxation relief that the province had certain obligations it must meet or become a defaulter.

There is, however, a certainty that considerable change will be made in the taxation of mines. Last year the government charged the mining interests a two per cent. royalty tax, as had been in existence for several years, and, in addition levied a ten per cent. income tax and a supertax. It was variously pointed out that the mining business would be greatly retarded by the imposition of so high a tax and, as a matter of fact, several large corporations will not proceed with extensive development plans they were about to undertake, notably the Britannia, Consolidated, and Granby, the three biggest companies. A number of smaller corporations will have to cease altogether, it has been stated. It is proposed this year to grant a measure of relief, Hon. John Hart having come to the conclusion that there is considerable to say on the side of the mining industry. But the mining interests declare the relief proposed is insufficient for the successful operation of their properties.

Back Up Minister.

The mining committee has recommended the abolition of the income tax on mines and increase in the royalty tax. It is understood the position of the mining committee is resented by the cabinet, the members of which are inclined to back up the minister of finance.

BILL GIVES POWER TO CONSCRIPT LOTS

Authority to Be Given to Municipalities to Help Increase Food Production Under the Premier's Measure.

VICTORIA, April 8.—Premier Oliver introduced a bill at tonight session of the legislature to give to municipalities power to conscript for food production purposes any lots not in use. The bill while giving powers of conscription stipulates what are intended to be proper safeguards. The lot conscription proposition originated in Victoria, but may spread to other places. If the measure passes it will result in this city taking over for purposes of cultivation several lots whose owners already have refused to volunteer them in the lot cultivation campaign here.

A large part of tonight's session was taken up by Hugh Stewart (Comox) in a speech on the budget during which he advocated general extension of trunk roads, saying there would be of material aid to rapid land settlement. He could show the government many thousands of acres on Vancouver Island where there was no settlement because there were no roads. Mr. Stewart advocated increased taxation of automobiles as a means to add to the revenue of the province. He would also like to see agricultural and timber lands classified for taxation purposes.

M. A. Macdonald (Vancouver) adjourned the debate.

Amendment to Act.

J. W. Weart (South Vancouver) submitted an interesting amendment to the Land Act designed to make easier the lot of land pre-emptors in obtaining certificates of improvements in the case of partnerships where one or more of them may abandon his interest. Under the Weart amendment instead of cancelling such record only the proportion of land represented by the partners would be eliminated and the record left in good standing. The minister of lands said he would accept the amendment with pleasure for there was much merit in it.

Discussing the Land Act, W. R. Ross (Fort George) wanted to know what was to be done about timber on pre-empted land.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo said it was the intention to collect stumpage. He said he believed much land in the Fort George district had been staked as agricultural land but really for the timber on it. Intimating his belief in the ulterior purpose of such land locations, Premier Oliver said it was the intention of the government to put a stop to "this or any other kind of thisery."

Mr. Ross said the men who had staked these lands were still doing business in this province. The premier replied they would not long continue if they were dealing in the old way.

"Depends on their political complexion," suggested the Fort George member.

"Right is right, no matter what the politics," retorted Hon. Mr. Oliver.

Did Not Agree.

The leader of the opposition did not see eye to eye with the minister of lands as to an amendment by which it is proposed that it should not be necessary for a pre-emptor to live six months out of every year on his homestead, but could continue at his customary work if he would manage to make \$300 worth of improvements to the homestead annually.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite (Newcastle) thought this would leave an opening for corporations to tie up homesteads, and he pointed out the government should keep in mind the fact that a lot of land will be required for returned soldiers. Dr. Sutherland (Revelstoke) supported the amendment, instancing the situation of railway men who could, under the proposed change in the act, take up a homestead, comply with the regulations, and not lose their positions through the necessity of having to spend six months on their pre-emptions as the act operates at present. The bill made considerable progress in committee.

ESTABLISH FREE BUREAUS.

VICTORIA, April 9.—According to a reply to questions by J. W. Weart (South Vancouver), Attorney-General Fairis today indicated that preparations are being made to establish free employment bureaus at Vancouver, with the intention of extending the system to other centres of population as necessity requires. In the meantime the department of labor is doing what is possible to meet the demand for farm help.

NO SIGNS OF EARLY ENDING OF DEBATE

Various Legislators Are Busy Taking Notes for Their Speeches; Act Empowering Govern'm't to Reserve Lands

VICTORIA, April 9.—There appears to be no immediate signs of the budget debate drawing to a close this week, judging by the note taking of the various members who evidently are providing themselves with a supply of ammunition for use against the other side. The debate this afternoon was engaged in by M. A. Macdonald, senior member for Vancouver, and W. R. Ross, Fort George, and was adjourned by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, who will speak tomorrow. Richard Wallis is expected to follow Mr. Pattullo and J. S. Cowper may speak tomorrow night.

Little else was accomplished this afternoon. The Bowser amendment to the Elections Act to permit soldiers to vote upon a three days' residence, received its first reading. Premier Oliver introduced a bill providing power for the government to reserve crown lands or to purchase lands up to \$500,000 for the purpose of providing for soldiers' homesteads or to convey such lands to the Dominion government if so desired, in connection with plans for settlement of returned soldiers here under some federal scheme.

Disapprove Bill.

The private bills committee reported disapproval of a bill to incorporate the "Engineering and Technical Institute of B.C." the committee being of the opinion the bill was not in the public interest, inasmuch as its objects apparently were in conflict with those of other societies operating under Dominion and British Columbia charters.

A large number of questions which the leader of the opposition asked Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, relative to various provincial receipts contained some interesting information. Out of an estimated revenue for timber licenses amounting to \$1,168,000 for the fiscal year, there had been collected \$1,063,510 to date. Of an income tax revenue estimated at a million dollars, the collection is \$654,273. Timber royalties were estimated at \$900,000, and \$741,321 was collected. The poll tax collections were double the estimate, which was \$150,000 and the collections were \$300,590. Game license estimate was \$55,000 and the collections \$65,000. One hundred thousand dollars was the estimate from the amusement tax for five months and the receipts were \$104,392. The land tax estimate was \$915,000 and the collections amounted to \$668,549. Out of a mineral tax estimate of \$300,000 the collection was \$255,230. A stumpage estimate of \$154,000 yielded \$135,233. Personal property tax estimate was \$700,000 and \$509,054 was collected.

CALL FOR OPENING OF TOWN.

VICTORIA, April 9.—That the provincial government has made a demand on the owners of the town of Anyox, the Granby Mining & Smelting company, in connection with the decision to open to the public the privately-owned townsites of the province, is indicated by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, in reply to Dr. Rose (Nelson), who requested the information. The formal demand has been made on Anyox, and as to the others, the minister says all so-called "closed" towns are not subject to the clause in the Land Act providing that they be open.

Methods of Expenditure

In the old days when the Conservatives reigned at Victoria their habit was to engage in an acute annual controversy over the division of public works expenditure.

The differences of opinion as to how much should be spent in each constituency were sometimes so warm that even the genial diplomacy of the late Sir Richard McBride was severely taxed to keep the peace.

The new government has adopted a different, if not a better method. The public works expenditures are simply to be voted in a lump sum. The administration will be left with a wide discretion as to where the spending shall be done.

The reform may or may not be an improvement. Perhaps it will mean less waste and the postponing of work not strictly necessary. It will certainly make the private member a person of less importance in his district than formerly.

As he will have less to say about what is done with the money, his influence will be correspondingly less pervasive.

PREMIER IS BOOED BY BIG DELEGATION

Returned Soldiers and Others in Victoria Parade to Parliament Buildings And Present Resolutions to Cabinet

"BILL OF INDICTMENT AGAINST GOVERNMENT"

This Is the Way Hon. John Oliver Characterizes Resolution Urging Appointment of Civil Service Commissioner.

VICTORIA, April 10.—Over 1000 returned soldiers and members of societies interested in their welfare tonight marched through densely lined streets to the parliament buildings and presented to Premier Oliver and the provincial cabinet a resolution protesting against the present attitude of the Ottawa authorities toward the alien question and asked that the provincial parliament forward the resolution to Ottawa with its endorsement. Many spectators fell in and accompanied the parade to the buildings, making the attendance on the lawn nearly 3500 by the time the ministers came out to meet the soldiers.

All along the parade were striking banners, spaced a few feet apart, calling for the internment of aliens, the enlistment of conscientious objectors as stretcher-bearers and, "Down with graft and profiteering," there being nearly two dozen of these slogans.

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Met by Premier.

Hon. John Oliver met the deputation at the head of the provincial cabinet, and the resolution was placed in his hands by Major T. B. Monk, who said that the matter of action on the alien question had been brought before the Dominion government by the Great War Veterans, but that nothing had come of the representations made. The returned soldiers were convinced the Union government was anxious to tackle the matter, and the parade had been got up in order that the hands of Sir Robert Borden might be strengthened.

Mr. Oliver said that the matter dealt with in the resolution was one which was strictly reserved to the Dominion parliament.

"You have given us no time to consider this matter. You demand to know what we are prepared to do," he said. "I have never been one to shirk any question which may be put up to me, and so I will tell you that this government will take these resolutions which you have submitted to us, and we will give them careful consideration."

Many Interruptions.

The crowd began a series of sustained interruptions mingled with calls of "No excuses" and "What are you going to do about it?" and Mr. Oliver then stated that he and his colleagues were heartily in favor of bringing about the conditions which the returned men desire.

Major Monk introduced Comrade A. R. Berry, who said that while the matter just discussed was undoubtedly one for the Dominion authorities, he had a matter to submit which was strictly a provincial affair. He then read a resolution urging on the provincial government the advisability of immediately appointing a civil service commissioner and asking the premier to announce at once that such an appointment will be made forthwith.

The resolution was greeted with rounds of applause by the crowd, and a great shout of approbation indicated its adoption after Comrade Gjolma had formally seconded it.

Unfair, Says Oliver.

"This is a bill of indictment against this government which you have just submitted," said the Hon. John Oliver. "This is most unfair, it is unjust not only to us who live but also to the memory of the late premier of the province, the Hon. Mr. Brewster, in that it accuses him of negligence and playing politics to the full as much as it accuses us. I will not receive this. No man can make me do something against my conscience. We have been working over here to the limit of human endurance, and we have not had time to get this matter attended to. Besides, this is a matter requiring careful consideration, and I personally do not know exactly what this Civil Service Act really entails."

Then the soldiers gave vent to their feelings, which they had held in check with evident effort during the earlier portion of the proceedings.

No "Glad Hand."

"Boo, we'll make you take it." "You've had a year to start work." "What did we put you in for?" and many other remarks came from all sides, and Mr. Oliver had to wait for a few minutes before he could make himself heard. He then said: "When you think this matter over tomorrow you will think more of John Oliver for not being over-ready with the 'glad hand.'"

Comrade Gjolma then asked for permission to ask a question and amid a silence asked:

"The government passed that act when you were a member of the cabinet, and you voted for it?"

The premier: "Yes."

"You do not know what it really means?"

The premier: "No."

"Then you admit that you voted for something which you don't know anything about, being at that time a minister of the government?"

A shout of joy went up from the crowd as the clear voice of the soldier made itself heard even at the outskirts of the gathered thousands, and the purr of the motors as the procession started its downward way toward the premier's angry disavowal of the interpretation which had been read into his explanation of the delay.

**FRI DAY, APRIL 12, 1918
PROVINCE HELPS DOCTORS**

Physicians in Sparsely Populated Places Aided by Government.

VICTORIA, April 11.—Twenty-four doctors in the outposts of the province, where settlement is scattered and due to small practice, doctors must be given financial assistance to provide medical attention in such localities, are being recompensed in varying amounts, according to Hon. J. D. Maclean, provincial secretary. The places where doctors receive grants, and the amounts, are as follows: Alert Bay, Quatsino, Van Anda and Masset, \$500 each; Gulf Islands, \$600; Rock Bay, Chase, Chilcotin, Clayquot, Denman and Hornby Islands, Kitwanga, Nass, Port Simpson, Quesnel, Vanderhoof, Windermere, Smithers, Atlin Inlet and Terrace, \$300 in each place; Telegraph Creek, \$400; Nakusj, \$200; Campbell River, \$200; Gibsons Landing, \$250.

**PREMIER DESIRES
TO GIVE EVIDENCE**

Mr. Oliver Tells C. N. R. Commission He Wants to Prove the Condition of the British Columbia Undertaking.

TORONTO, April 11.—There likely will have to be an extension in the time given the government commission to complete the valuation of 600,000 shares of C. N. R. stock. This was indicated by counsel for the railway to Sir Wm. Meredith, chairman, just before adjournment this afternoon, in which it was said that the evidence would not be concluded before April 24.

Asks to Be Heard.

A week's argument by counsel is expected to follow the taking of evidence. In addition, Hon. John Oliver, premier of British Columbia, telegraphed the commission today of a desire to be allowed to appear personally to prove the condition of the British Columbia undertaking and state the claims of the government of his province, but that he would not be able to appear before three weeks. Sir William Meredith remarked that they did not want to give the British Columbia premier an opportunity to say that he was shut out from stating his case. In consequence, a telegram will be sent Mr. Oliver informing him that the British Columbia correspondence has been read by the board and setting a date on which he must appear if he wants to be heard.

B. C. Claims.

Almost the entire sitting today was occupied with consideration of the British Columbia claims, the charge being made that the railway, with the consent of the late British Columbia government, had diverted \$600,000 provided for one branch line to apply it on another.

F. H. Phippen, K. C., counsel for the railway, expressed the opinion that Premier Oliver was desirous of passing the provincial guarantee of \$47,000,000 to the Dominion government.

**GOVERNMENT STILL
FIRMLY IN OFFICE**

Opposition Makes Attempt at Last Night's Sitting to Overthrow Provincial Ministry; Motion Out of Order.

VICTORIA, April 11.—A resolution of no confidence in the government, moved by J. W. Jones (South Okanagan) and an amendment motion to the same effect by Dr. Rose (Nelson) were offered at tonight's session of the legislature, but declared to be out of order by Mr. Speaker. There was a hurried looking up of rules and decisions, the move of the opposition taking the government by surprise. The basis of the resolution was the failure of the government to bring a resolution urging the federal government to conscript alien enemies as suggested by the returned soldiers and the foundation for the amendment was the allegations that the government had not carried out its promises.

Made Four-hour Speech.

The attempt of the opposition to overthrow the government came at the close of a sensational four-hour speech by Mr. Jones, who was followed by F. J. MacKenzie (J. milkman). The exhibition by Jones was one of the greatest speaking efforts seen in the local legislature in years. It was in connection with the time-wasting-endeavor of the opposition to prevent the budget debate coming to a close tonight, as was contemplated. For reasons best known to himself, W. J. Bowser, leader of the opposition, desires the debate shall not end tonight and it is said he wants to speak tomorrow afternoon. A rumor is floating round the lobbies tonight that the opposition has staged a demonstration to take place in the gallery purely for political effect. Members of the opposition deny any such plans are under way to their knowledge. Mr. Jones commenced to speak at 5 o'clock and resumed at 5 o'clock when the house reconvened for the night sitting. He was going strong at 11 o'clock.

Strong on Irrigation.

Mr. Jones read one volume on irrigation almost through and the opposition rooms were sent in ready to his hand bound volumes of newspapers and data from all parts of the globe on the subject of irrigation. He described in minute detail the great irrigation projects of the world, jumping with a word from the Okanagan Valley to the Nile, back to the Wenatchee Valley and over to Italy.

Mr. Jackson (Islands) interrupted on several occasions in an appeal to Mr. Speaker to shut Mr. Jones off, and though Mr. Speaker drew to the attention of the opposition member the fact that he was trying the indulgence of the house, the member persevered and labored hard to perform his share of the filibuster tactics determined upon by his leader. The time of the house was absolutely wasted during the whole of the night session. It was said at a late hour that the premier intended to continue the sitting all night, though the majority of the members urged that intention to try to let the opposition wear itself out be foregone for the night.

Mackenzie was still speaking at midnight.

QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED

Premier and Attorney-General Reply to Opposition Members.

VICTORIA, April 11.—The questions which the leader of the opposition, W. J. Bowser, asked the other day of the Attorney-General Farris as to whether any promise of financial aid had been made to the Comrades of the Great War or the Great War Veterans' association, have been answered in the negative by Hon. Mr. Farris.

Answering questions by W. R. Ross as to how many Chinese have been employed by the government at Fronges farm, Premier Oliver has tabou information that six were employed during September, October and November of last year.

QUERIES FOR GOVERNMENT

South Vancouver Member Will Push Old Age Pensions Plan.

VICTORIA, April 11.—J. W. Weart (South Vancouver) gave notice at this afternoon's session of the legislature that on Monday he would move that the house resolve itself into committee of the whole to consider the introduction of legislation this session or the 1919 session, providing for old age pensions.

Mrs. Ralph Smith (Vancouver) gave notice that tomorrow she will question the government as to its intentions regarding the appointment of a civil service commissioner and the bringing of the Civil Service Act into force.

At tomorrow night's session, W. R. Ross (Port George) will ask for information as to what sums were paid R. T. Elliott and H. A. McLean of this city for legal services for the government and Richard Wallis (Port Alberni) will ask as to payments for legal services to S. S. Taylor of Vancouver.

MAKES HIS REPLY TO LOCAL MEMBER

J. S. Cowper Answers in Legislature, Allegations and Criticism Directed Toward Him by M. A. Macdonald.

VICTORIA, April 11.—Objecting to what he termed as "favoritism" shown in the past by the provincial government to the Law society and the Dental association, J. S. Cowper, in the budget debate this afternoon, urged that such grants or financial favors as in the past had gone to these associations should be given to the returned soldiers' club or other patriotic organizations.

Mr. Cowper replied with sarcasm to the references to him by M. A. Macdonald and remarked he was so much abused he has become hopelessly impervious to that kind of treatment.

Not Unexpected.

Mr. Cowper spoke in part as follows:

"I must admit that in one sense the attack was not unexpected. My honorable friend some time ago, I am informed, approached members of what he calls 'The Purity Squad' suggesting that they should attack other members of the government beside himself. He specially singled out the name of the late premier in connection with the contribution which the British Columbia Electric railway is alleged to have made to the Vancouver and Victoria campaign funds. While my friend's speech was ostensibly an attack upon myself and my absent soldier colleague, Dr. McIntosh, I quite recognize that it was in essence an attack upon members of the government—and a very effective attack, too. With the government's side of the case it would be presumption on my part to deal. Doubtless the government is as well able to take care of itself as I am of myself and of my friend Dr. McIntosh.

"And now to deal as briefly and with as great courtesy as possible with the complaint of my honorable friend against the treatment he received by this house and by the commission appointed by this government. My honorable friend's major claim is that he was taken by surprise and was led into making a denial of the charge through a misleading version of the charge given to him by the present premier. With the premier's side of the case I am not concerned. I think it may be significant that after being informed of the statement which the former attorney-general proposed to make to the house that the premier absented himself from the chamber while the honorable gentleman made his statement.

Twelve Months Late.

"I say that the honorable gentleman is twelve months too late, and a great number of years too soon, in making the discovery that he was taken by surprise in making his denial. Honorable gentlemen in this house will recall that the words I used in making the charge were, on motion of this house, taken down in writing, and that the honorable gentleman had time to make a careful-prepared written denial, in the

precise words. I have been informed, which Sir John A. Macdonald used in denying the Pacific scandal.

"The words I used were reported in the press, were printed on the records of this house, were themselves the subject of a debate two days later when I discovered that in the excitement of the occasion I had used the figure 25 instead of 15. Members of this house will recall that in that debate, in which I explained my error, the honorable gentleman rose in his place in this house and repeated his former denial, adding that this former denial stood good irrespective of the amount, whether \$25,000 or \$15,000, or one dollar. And if the statements of several of the honorable members now sitting in this house are correct, the honorable gentleman followed up this denial in the house by discussing the matter at a government caucus in which I am informed the honorable gentleman delivered an address of a semi-religious character, repeated the denial calling the Almighty to bear him witness and likening himself to the Psalmist of Israel whose prayer had been answered and whose enmity had been delivered to his hands.

Had His Opportunity.

"And if a further opportunity were needed, my friend had it at the opening of the enquiry at Victoria, where in the presence of several members of this house, my counsel recited the set of facts we proposed to prove, which were proved. My friend sat in court beside his counsel. Did he then admit that he had been misled? No, his counsel rose on his behalf and speaking with the responsibility of counsel stated: 'It is absolutely untrue.'

"This question of campaign funds, which my friend flippantly boasts of being an authority upon, has never yet been settled. At the C.N.R. investigation, Mr. Justice Gregory refused to allow any question as to the collection or disposal of campaign funds, whether regularly or irregularly collected, though he did say that he thought it was a proper matter for the Liberal party to enquire into. The commission of three judges who conducted the Vancouver election enquiry, refused to allow the government counsel, Mr. Douglas Armour, to cross-examine my colleague or any of the other witnesses upon the matter of campaign funds, as correspondence in my possession will prove, although it was drawn to their attention that a witness in the Gregory investigation had testified to a conversation at Victoria in regard to other amounts of which this amount (of \$15,000) was included.

Entitled to Know.

"The Liberal members of this house and of this country are entitled to know what becomes of moneys solicited or received in their name. This aspect of the question was referred to by my honorable friend's counsel who stated that the money had been distributed among the different constituencies, 'up-country' whatever that meant.

"This was not the personal matter my friend seeks to make it appear. It was a public matter. I will call to the attention of the members of this house the circumstances under which my so-called charge was made. Honorable members will recall that there was a bill before the house calling for three judges to inquire into the Vancouver election frauds. A parliamentary committee had already sat and found that a conspiracy to carry on personation on an extensive scale was entered into with the object of securing the election of the Liberal candidate. That finding was later duplicated almost word for word by the commission of three judges who said 'It is proved beyond any doubt that an elaborate and expensive scheme of personation was adopted on behalf of M. A. Macdonald, the Liberal candidate.'

Never Received Money.

"Members will recall that in my speech on that bill I argued that as John T. Scott, H. H. Pearce and other leading personages in the plugging had left the country that an inquiry in their absence would be useless. I pointed out that as the plugging conspiracy had evidently cost a great deal of money, both at the time and afterwards, it would be a very wise and proper thing to empower the commissioners to inquire into the collection of campaign funds, especially by unauthorized parties. I mentioned, not as making a charge, but merely by way of illustration, that information had come to my notice that several sums alleged to have been contributed by corporations to the funds of the Liberal party, had never reached their destination. I suggested that an inquiry along these lines might lead to the discovery of the men who had engineered and financed these plugging operations. That is why the contribution of the B. C. Electric had less interest for me at that time than those other corporation contributions which had never been accounted for. At the

investigation before Mr. Justice Gregory I called the president of the Vancouver Liberal association and Mr. John Hart, treasurer of the provincial campaign fund, and both these gentlemen testified on oath that they had never received this \$15,000 contributed by this C. N. R. director.

Taint is Transferred.

"The taint of this transaction has been transferred onto this house. My friend, the former attorney-general speaking through the lips of his counsel at the Gregory investigation, boldly claimed that this money had been distributed among the members of this house. I challenge that statement. Honorable members have assured me voluntarily that they never shared in this money. I challenge any member of this house, unless it may be the honorable member from Omicameca, to say that he shared in this money, which, it is slanderously said on the records of this house, has been distributed among the members.

"No, Mr. Speaker! I have no animosity against the honorable the former attorney-general. At his first election in the city of Vancouver I lent my credit to help raise funds for his campaign. No man worked harder than myself to secure his return. I declined to testify against him at the inquiry which he forced me into. And at least one member of the present cabinet can bear me witness that when last year a delegation of Vancouver Liberals came to interview the government and demand the expulsion of my friend the senior member, I personally besought them to withdraw their demand.

Criticizes Government.

J. W. Jones (South Okanagan) followed in the budget debate with a lengthy and detailed criticism of the government for increasing taxation, making allegations of patronage practices and payment of big salaries.

After a short debate, the legislature adopted an amendment by Hon. Wm. Sloan, minister of mines, to the Nelson resolution for an inquiry by the mining committee into the differences between the Trail smelter and mining operators over rates of treatment, and a competent man will be appointed to represent the government at the inquiry that is going on. If it is decided by the representative that an injustice is being worked on mining operators, measures for relief of the situation will be taken by the government by means of a royal commission.

Premier Adjourns Debate.

In moving the second reading of his amendment to the Elections Act so as to permit soldiers, sailors or nurses to vote after three days' residence, the leader of the opposition urged the house to show its appreciation of the men and women who had done so much for the country by adopting the amendment. Premier Oliver adjourned the debate till tomorrow afternoon.

OPPOSITION GREW TIRED AT 3 A. M.

VICTORIA, April 12.—Efforts of the opposition to prolong the budget debate till today petered out at three o'clock this morning, at which hour the legislature went into committee, following a sensational effort in obstruction. Early in the week Premier Oliver gave notice that he would move the adoption of the budget, thus closing the elaborate debate upon the subject. W. J. Bowser, leader of the opposition, desired to continue the debate today. The premier signified his intention late last night of keeping the house in session all night if necessary.

Mr. Bowser Speaks.

After the tremendous speaking effort of J. W. Jones (South Okanagan), in the obstruction tactics adopted by the opposition, there were left no speakers on that side of the house capable of sustained speaking except Mr. Bowser himself, who managed, however to speak about two hours in spite of the fact that he is not in robust health. W. R. Ross had already spoken on the budget, otherwise the debate might have been going on, for he is capable of prolonged verbosity when occasion demands. The effort of Mr. Jones ended at 11 o'clock, at which hour the opposition began to spar for time by a motion of want of confidence in the government which, because Mr. Speaker did not consider it a matter of urgency and unnecessary to take

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It is u of mines, act, cont will give compel d posit hel This will Mining A siderable eral's amc Act chang ganized d \$50 to \$2 each add reading, advanced. The hou noon.

the usual two-day course of notice, failed of its time-consuming object.

Forced Debate.
The decision of Mr. Speaker forced the debate to continue, the opposition putting up F. A. Mackenzie (Similkameen), who ran down in the course of little more than an hour when Mr. Bowser himself put on a record which he sustained until nearly three o'clock, at which hour, following remarks by George Bell (Victoria) the budget debate was closed with the government victor.

Waste of Energy

or the legislature to sit up until 3 o'clock in the night in order to prevent Hon. W. J. Bowser making a speech on Friday, looks like a waste of energy.

The leader of the opposition has been repeatedly urged with manoeuvring so as to deliver what he regards as his more important pronouncements on Friday, the idea being to get them to the public days ahead of any possible reply. Why this little scheme he thinks he secures an advantage. But does he? What does it matter when he talks, if he has nothing to say? The members of the legislature would find it convenient to comfort and health to go to bed at a reasonable hour. When they show irritation at Mr. Bowser's tactics, they merely give him a chance to smile and feel pleased with himself.

BOARD HAS FULL POWERS

VICTORIA, April 12. — Premier Oliver in the legislature today in response to questions asked by W. J. Bowser, said the government exercised no control over the workmen's compensation board. The board in being appointed was given supreme powers and it came under no department head in any manner. The legislature had no legal right to obtain information regarding its operations.

PROPOSES TO AID STEEL INDUSTRY

Minister of Mines Introduces Bill to Empower Government to Pay Bounties on Pig Iron Manufactured in B. C.

VICTORIA, April 12.—The government's intentions to aid the iron and steel industry was evidenced at this afternoon's sitting of the legislature by the introduction by Hon. William Sloan, minister of mines, of the Iron Bounties Act, which empowers the lieutenant-governor-in-council to enter into agreements with persons or corporations and make payments out of the consolidated revenue fund in respect of bounties on pig iron when manufactured in the province. For pig iron manufactured from ore on the proportion produced from ore mined in the province a bounty not to exceed three dollars per ton of two thousand pounds. One dollar and fifty cents will be paid in respect of pig iron manufactured from ore on the proportion produced from ore mined outside the province.

On Molten Iron.
A similar bounty as on pig iron under this act may also be paid upon the molten iron from iron ore which in the electric furnace, bessemer or other furnace enters into the manufacture of steel by the process employed in such furnace, the weight of such iron to be ascertained from the weight of the steel so manufactured. It is also further provided in the bill that no bounty shall be paid under the provisions of the proposed act in respect of iron or steel manufactured after December 31, 1923.

Compel Development.
It is understood that the minister of mines, who is to administer the act, contemplates legislation which will give the government powers to compel development of iron ore deposits held for speculative purposes. This will require an amendment to the Mining Act. With the budget debate out of the way, the house made considerable progress. The attorney-general's amendment to the Pool Rooms' Act changing the license fee in unorganized districts from a lump sum of \$50 to \$25 for one table and \$10 for each additional table, passed third reading, and other legislation was advanced.

The house will sit Saturday afternoon.

RESOLUTION WILL COME UP IN HOUSE

Members of Legislature to Be Given an Opportunity of Expressing Their Views on Demands of Veterans.

VICTORIA, April 12.—The resolution relating to enemy aliens which was presented to Premier Oliver at a demonstration in front of the parliament buildings Wednesday evening and which Thursday night was introduced by W. R. Ross (Fort George) as a resolution of the legislature may be discussed by the members Monday.

J. W. Jackson (Islands) has given notice that on Monday he will introduce practically the identical resolution as an amendment, the only change being where the original reads in one place "that no steps should be taken to call out the second or other class under the military service act or to return to France married men of the first contingent C. E. F. until the question of the disposition of the aliens has been settled in a manner satisfactory to the citizens of Canada." The Jackson amendment reads: "That it would be unjust to call out the second or any other class under the Military Service Act or to return to France married men of the first contingent, C. E. F. while sufficient numbers to replace them from aliens in this country remain immune."

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1918

HOUSE TO DISCUSS ALIEN RESOLUTION

Great Interest Is Expected to Be Shown Monday When Matter Come Up; Will Be Presented by Mr. Ross.

VICTORIA, April 13.—Crowded galleries are looked for by members of the legislature on Monday, when it is probable the house will discuss the "alien-enemy" resolution presented to Premier Oliver last week at the conclusion of a monster parade participated in by returned soldiers and patriotic organizations. The resolution has been presented to the house by W. R. Ross (Fort George), and an amendment changing the wording slightly will be presented by J. W. Jackson (Islands), on Monday, according to notice he has given. This may open discussion on the subject. The Jackson amendment is as follows:

"Whereas there are in Canada a great number of people of alien origin; and whereas it is improper and unjust that alien enemies should profit from the industry of this country, especially in view of the restrictions and cruelty inflicted on our countrymen in the enemy countries:

Work for Country.

"Therefore be it resolved, That the alien enemies in our midst should be employed in work of national importance in industries essential to the winning of the war, and under proper surveillance, and that their earnings, over and above an amount equal to the pay and allowance of a Canadian soldier, should be taken by the government for war purposes, and, failing their being so employed, that such alien enemies should be interned."

"Further, that measures should be taken at once to make the 'Military Service Act' applicable to all allied aliens in the same manner and to the same extent as to the citizens of Canada, either by negotiating the necessary treaties or conventions with the remaining allied countries upon similar lines or the same as those provided for in the conventions recently adopted by the United States of America and Great Britain, or, failing the obtaining of such treaties or conventions, that such allied aliens be forthwith given the option of enlisting voluntarily in the Canadian forces, or

being deported to their country of origin, as is being done under the Alien Slacker bill just passed by an overwhelming majority in the house of representatives at Washington.

"Further, that it would be unjust to call out the second or other class under the 'Military Service Act' or to return to France married men of the first contingent, C.E.F., while sufficient numbers to replace them from aliens in this country remain immune from service.

"Further, that no enemy alien should hold public office, and that all questions having to do with the alien should be taken out of the hands of the provincial authorities and taken under federal direction.

Register All Aliens.

"Further, that the Canadian government should establish an alien registration bureau, the same as obtains in Great Britain, in which every neutral, allied and enemy alien shall be registered, so as to be used to the best advantage in the national service; and, moreover, that all aliens should be compelled to wear a badge or token, prominently displayed, designating that he is an alien in his class.

"Further, that all enemy alien newspapers or periodicals should be suppressed, and all editorials and unvouched-for and unverified news-matter, should be printed in English.

"Further, that no person of alien birth, whether naturalized or not, should be permitted to have in his possession firearms of any description.

And whereas greater production of food is of vital importance; and whereas, especially in the western provinces, the farmers are laboring under a great disadvantage owing to the unreliable condition of alien labor; and whereas much hardship has resulted from frequent breaches of contract during harvest-time; it should be made an offence under the criminal code for any farm laborer of alien origin to act in breach of his contract, where it is shown that the employer has fulfilled his contract."

SUGGESTS TAXING AUTOS COMING IN

Member of Legislature for Alberni Wants to See Some Money Spent on Vancouver Island Highways.

Richard Wallis, representative for Alberni in the provincial legislature, is making efforts to have the government do some much needed repair work on the Canadian highway on Vancouver Island in the region of Fort Alberni. He characterizes the present condition of parts of this road as a disgrace and in view of the fact that the hundreds of motor tourists travel this road in the summer wishes to get action early in the season.

One plan he suggests for the raising of funds during war-time is the placing of a registration fee of \$1 on all automobiles that enter the province during the year. As a fee of this sort would amount to possibly \$10,000 in a year it would be a source of revenue.

QUERIES ARE ANSWERED

Mr. Schofield, of Trail, Failed to Discover Anything.

VICTORIA, April 13. — Answers have been given by Hon. J. H. King, minister of public works, to J. H. Schofield (Trail) in connection with the curiosity evinced by members of the opposition as to the use of government automobiles. Mr. Schofield wanted to know if J. F. Bridges, a millman in the vicinity of Cranbrook, had been making use of the government auto; what arrangements had been made with Bridges for the use of the car; by which government officials was the car formerly used, and what was the make and value of the car. According to Hon. Dr. King, Mr. Bridges had not been using such car.

Mr. Schofield also desired to know if R. E. Beattie, of Cranbrook, had been using a government road tractor on his farm. The minister answered this by saying the government owned no such machine at Cranbrook.

SESSION UNLIKELY TO END THIS WEEK

Amendments to Various Acts Are Due to Come Up and It Will Take Considerable Time to Dispose of Them.

VICTORIA, April 13.—Those who had been looking forward to the legislative session coming to an end in the coming week are doomed to disappointment, to all accounts and appearances. And the session might have gone on considerably further had it not been for the determination of Premier Oliver on Thursday night—rather in the wee hours of Friday morning—to force the termination of the debate on the budget. There are two open seasons during every session for the politicians—the debate on the King's speech and the budget. During these debates both sides have fallen into the habit of doing their best to make the other side appear in the worst light possible, and if one were to believe what they said about each other, there would be a constant string of elections. The King's speech debate dragged wearily while each side recited the shortcomings of the other. The budget debate was to a large extent repetition of what had been said before, so the termination of it was a relief to habitual frequenters of the galleries.

Changes Contemplated.

The most time-consuming item of business which will be taken up shortly will be amendments to the taxation act. A number of changes are contemplated, and during the discussion the opposition will take frequent falls out of the government, which will naturally not only defend its position, but lay the blame for the necessity of increased taxes at the door of the old regime.

The British Columbia railway act, in connection with the Pacific Great Eastern railway, which the government has assumed control of, is expected to call for some debate, though it is a subject which has been pretty well threshed out in the past.

Opportunity for members who have studied the subject of wages to air their opinions will be given when the minimum wage for women bill, being steered by Mrs. Ralph Smith, goes into committee. The lady member has prepared a number of amendments, one being that the administration board shall have five members instead of three; another is that offenders against the act pay a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100. J. W. Weart (South Vancouver) has an amendment to increase the age limit to 18.

The proposed amendments to the game act, coal mines regulations act, and the land act, will take some time to discuss, especially the latter.

Amend Water Act.

The water act is another long document which will be liberally amended on account of the plans of the government in connection with irrigation.

Several amendments to the workmen's compensation act are proposed. The Bowser amendment to the provincial election act, designed to permit soldiers, sailors and nurses to vote on three days' residence, will be the subject of considerable contention. The premier has adjourned this debate and his views may be looked for early this week.

The work of passing the items in the budget is expected to meet with more or less delay, as the opposition will require explanation in detail and take the opportunity to fire a few more rounds of criticism at the government side.

Mr. Oliver's Eastern Trip

Hon. John Oliver is to be given an opportunity to be heard before the arbitration commission which is fixing the value of Canadian Northern stock.

The Canadian Northern has sold bonds guaranteed by British Columbia without constructing some of the roads which the bonds are supposed to cover. The view on this coast is unanimous that these lines should be built, as a matter of both legal and moral obligation.

To withhold from Mackenzie and Mann the whole or any part of the value of the stock will not help British Columbia. The Canadian Northern has passed into the hands of the Dominion government. It is, therefore, to Ottawa that the appeal must be made if any practical results are to be obtained.

The Dominion in taking over the assets of the company should also take over its liabilities. The thirteen representatives of British Columbia in the Dominion Parliament ought to have some influence with the government they support.

Mr. Oliver, while he is down east, might do worse than make Ottawa one of his ports of call. An understanding with the federal administration to build these lines would be a nice little plum for him to bring back.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1918.

VICTORIA, April 16.—According to a return made in the legislature by Attorney-general Farris, in answer to questions by Richard Wallis (Alberni) as to what moneys were paid by the government to S. S. Taylor for legal services, the government paid the firm of Taylor, Harvey, Stockton & Smith \$3,632.50 for legal services in connection with the Pacific Great Eastern railway.

WILL MOVE AMENDMENT.

VICTORIA, April 16.—An amendment to the city charter amendment bill of Vancouver will likely be offered by J. W. Weart (South Vancouver), at the request of residents outside the city who pay taxes in the city and who ask that their children be permitted to attend school inside the city. Attention is drawn to the fact that whereas many of the residents of surrounding municipalities are large ratepayers in Vancouver, that they vote for members of the council and on money bylaws, their children are not permitted to go to school in Vancouver, though they may be living just outside the city boundary.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1918.

SUPPLY IS VOTED BY LEGISLATURE

Sum of \$11,702,740 Passed; Deliberations on Estimates Concluded; Private Bills to Come Up Today.

VICTORIA, April 17.—A total supply of \$11,702,740 to run the affairs of the province during the present fiscal year was voted tonight by the legislature which finished its deliberations of several sessions on the estimates. Provisions for the various departments were made as follows: Department of agriculture, \$219,684; attorney-general's department, \$909,776; education, \$1,777,290; finance, \$692,604; fisheries, \$17,175; lands, \$697,608; labor, \$16,170; mines, \$335,504; provincial secretary's department, \$1,633,345; public works department, \$1,794,940; railways, \$41,730; chargeable to capital, \$1,953,440. Private bills are expected to come before the house tomorrow and there is a probability the Vancouver charter amendments may be introduced, though it is not expected that much headway will be made on them till Friday.

MEMBERS OF HOUSE HAD HARD SESSION

It Was After One O'clock in Morning Before the Legislature Adjourned; Minister Details Lump Sum.

VICTORIA, April 17.—It was after one o'clock this morning when W. J. Bowser, leader of the Opposition, glanced at the clock and wearily drew to the attention of Premier Oliver the fact that the hour was growing on towards daylight and, as there was nothing especially contentious in the rest of the estimates, suggested it was time they closed up shop and went to bed.

"Am I to understand the leader of the Opposition promises not to oppose the rest of the estimates?" said the premier.

"Well, you know, you can't trust me. No telling what I might do," jokingly from the leader of the Opposition.

This exchange brought to a close a hard night's work by government and opposition, and they got through with their consideration of the estimates for the public works and lands departments. The total appropriation for the former is \$1,794,940, and for the latter, \$697,608.

Details Vote.

The new policy of the government, that of voting "lump sums," has been severely criticized by the opposition all through the estimates. Hon. J. D. King, minister of public works, detailed for the benefit of the opposition the lump sum of \$1,427,040 for maintenance and repairs of roads, bridges and wharves, by districts as follows: Alberni, \$26,000; Atlin, \$19,000; Cariboo, \$48,000; Chilliwack, \$19,000; Columbia, \$22,000; Comox, \$41,000; Cowichan, \$17,000; Cranbrook, \$29,000; Delta, \$19,000; Dewdney, \$35,000; Esquimalt, \$19,000; Fernie, \$4,000; Fort George, \$46,000; Grand Forks, \$17,000; Greenwood, \$17,000; Islands, \$17,000; Kamloops, \$38,000; Kaslo, \$27,000; Lillooet, \$22,000; Nanaimo, \$8,600; Nelson, \$2,900; Newcastle, \$18,000; North Okanagan, \$30,000; New Westminster, \$1,700; North Vancouver, \$5,700; Omineca, \$58,000; Revelstoke, \$23,000; Richmond, \$15,000; Rossland, \$5,565; Saanich, \$1,700; Similkameen, \$25,000; Slokan, \$26,000; South Okanagan, \$21,000; South Vancouver, \$15,000; Trall, \$25,000; Yale, \$29,000; Point Grey, \$10,000.

For Forest Branch.

According to the land department estimates, an estimate of \$132,000 will be spent in the forest branch. Thirty-two rangers will be kept in the field for six months, and also three assistant rangers for a similar period. The chief forester will have eleven assistants.

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hitherto, the rule in the British Columbia legis-
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3 if he is in his seat when the question is put,
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ime on his hands, has been delving into the prece-
ts and has discovered that he need not go on
rd unless he feels like it.

he new rule may have high authority, but it
ertheless looks like a bad rule. If a member will
vote in his place in the house, what is he there

e might perhaps offer the excuse that he is not
ciently posted on the matter under discussion,
in most cases there will be a suspicion that what
ly ails him is a lack of moral courage to stand
nd declare himself.

he system of allowing members to be present
out voting grew up in the American congress,
a method of filibustering to prevent the trans-
on of business. Why should Canada imitate what
ad in the habits of our neighbors?

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1918

PREMIER OUTLINES
SCHEME TO PLACE
SOLDIERS ON LAND

Government Will Set Aside
Half Million Dollars for Pur-
chase of More Land; May
Be Leased or Granted.

(Special to The Sun)

VICTORIA, April 19.—Premier
Oliver, at this afternoon's sitting
of the legislature, outlined the govern-
ment's plans for placing returned sol-
diers on the land. He declared it was
the duty of the government to do all
within its power. Just as much as it
was a national duty for enlistment for
service, it was a national duty to look
after the men who returned.

The government had been in touch
with the soldiers' settlement board
and had made plain its desire to
co-operate in any manner possible. The
bill before the legislature, he explained,
was to give authority to reserve or
purchase lands to aid the federal
government with their plans. Out-
side of the Peace river district the
Dominion owns little land in British
Columbia, so the local government
will provide additional lands to what
it already owns, and for the purpose
of obtaining lands, which it is neces-
sary to purchase it will set aside half
a million dollars.

W. R. Ross (Fort George) agreed
with the principle, but criticized the
government for not having done
something before. He drew attention
to the scheme the old regime had.
Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands,
said there was no advantage for re-
turned soldiers under the old act for it
was necessary for soldiers who de-
sired to take up land under its provi-
sions to go far away from civilization.
Lands Should Be Exempt from Taxes.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite (Newcastle)
was opposed to this government turn-
ing land over to the federal govern-
ment, saying British Columbia should
have her own policy. He advocated
soldiers' lands be free of taxation,
which was endorsed by Hugh Stewart
(Comox). F. J. MacKenzie (Delta)
agreed with the principle of the mea-
sure, but maintained it was indefinite.
J. W. Jackson (Islands) and E. D.
Barrow (Chilliwack) supported the
government in brief speeches.

The government's bill to provide
lands for the benefit of the returned
soldiers sets out that lands may be
reserved from sale from time to time
or purchased as necessary, to be sub-
divided as deemed expedient. The
land may be leased or granted out-
right to any soldier or community of
soldiers, not exceeding 100 acres to
each soldier, except where such lands
are suitable only for pastoral pur-
poses. The government is also given
power under the bill to convey free of
cost to the Dominion for soldier set-
tlement purposes such crown lands as
may be found necessary.

BILL TO RATIFY
P. G. E. AGREEMENT
NOW BEFORE HOUSE

Provides for Transfer of
Shares to Government; Rail-
way Company May Continue
Construction and Operation.

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 19.—The bill to
ratify the P. G. E. agreement is now
before the legislature, having been
introduced by Premier Oliver, as min-
ister of railways, today. The bill de-
clares the agreement made by Hon.
John Oliver with the firm of Foley,
Welch & Stewart, to be binding and
effective. It provides for the transfer
of the shares in the P. G. E. Railway
company and P. G. E. Development
company to the minister of railways
for the province.

For administration of the affairs
of the railway it is provided the lieut-
enant-governor-in-council may ap-
point a board of directors for each
of the companies, which board shall
consist of three members, to hold of-
fice during the pleasure of the lieut-
enant-governor-in-council. Such di-
rectors, notwithstanding any statute
to the contrary, shall not of necessity
hold any shares, and the lieutenant-
governor-in-council may exercise all
the powers and perform the functions
of shareholders.

Nothing in the act is to be deemed
a statutory winding up of the com-
panies or constitute grounds, for an
application to the court for a wind-
ing up order.

The railway company is authorized
to take over from the development
and equipment companies all the roll-
ing stock, equipment and construction
plant, etc., now the property of
these companies. The railway com-
pany is further empowered to take
over all lands and right-of-way con-
tracted to be sold to the development
company, together with the lands at
Squamish, including the wharf, at
present used as terminals.

No guarantee of the province for
the payment of any obligation of
either the railway or development
companies are in any way affected by
the act, and the railway company may
continue construction and operation
of the undertaking and line of rail-
way. The rights of the railway com-
pany, as provided in the B. C. Loan
act, 1916, are not affected.

Privileges Reserved by Government.

The lieutenant-governor-in-council
is authorized to exercise, or refuse to
exercise, as may be deemed advisable,
the option set forth in the schedule,
this being that the province may at
any time during the continuance of
the war and two years thereafter, elect
to retain all the capital stock of the
development company and all its lands
and assets absolutely, and thereupon
the firm shall be released from a pay-
ment of \$350,000.

In case the province fails to exer-
cise this option the firm may, upon
payment of \$350,000 at the expira-
tion of the period named, without in-
terest, or at any time during a period
of three years thereafter, with interest
at 6 per cent., elect to take over from
the province all the shares in the cap-
ital stock of the development com-
pany, in which event possession of the
lands of the development company,
except the part absolutely vested in
the province, shall be relinquished.

BORROWING POWERS

VICTORIA, April 19.—When the
bill now before the legislature to give
the government the right to secure a
loan of \$4,000,000 is passed British
Columbia will possess borrowing
powers to the extent of \$11,370,000.
The new loan bill is stated to be to
provide money for general provincial
purposes.

PROVISIONS OF
MINIMUM WAGE LAW

Bill Now Waits Assent of Lieut-
enant-Governor; Aims at
Improving Working Condi-
tions for Women.

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 19.—All that now
remains to make Mrs. Ralph Smith's
"Minimum Wage Act" law is the as-
sent of the lieutenant-governor,
which may be expected tomorrow.
The legislature yesterday passed the
measure and upon the vote being uni-
form, roundly applauded. There
was never any opposition noticed
from the time the measure was
brought before the legislature, though
there was considerable debate on am-
endments which were suggested. Mrs.
Smith today has been receiving con-
gratulations on every hand.

By the provisions of the act it is to
be administered by a board of three
members, the chairman of whom shall
be the minister of labor and the other
two members shall be appointed and
hold office during the pleasure of the
lieutenant-governor in council.

No member of the board shall re-
ceive any salary as such. The board
may employ a secretary and such ex-
pert clerical and other assistance as
necessary, these employees also to
hold office at the pleasure of the au-
thorities.

Duties of the Board.

The duties of the board are set out
as being to ascertain the wages paid
to employees in the various occupa-
tions, trades and industries in which
women are engaged, and to fix the
minimum wage to be paid. The board
will have full power and authority,
either by any member of the board or
by any duly authorized representative,
to inspect and examine books, payrolls
and other records of employers who
are required to keep a register of the
names, ages and addresses of all em-
ployees.

From time to time the board is to
hold public meetings at which all per-
sons interested may be heard. For the
purpose of obtaining information, the
board has the power and authority
conferred by the Public Inquiries Act,
and witnesses called shall be paid fees
and mileage. After such investigations,
if the board finds wages paid to female
employees are inadequate, the board is
empowered to call a conference, com-
posed of an equal number of employees
and employers in the industry in ques-
tion, together with one or more dis-
interested persons representing the
public, and the board may, as the re-
sult of such conference, issue an ob-
ligatory order specifying the minimum
wage for women employees in the oc-
cupation affected.

Special Licenses.

After a minimum wage has been
fixed, the board may reopen the sub-
ject at its discretion. In the case of
women who may be physically defect-
ive and in the case of female appren-
tices the board may issue to these a
special license authorizing their em-
ployment at a minimum wage less than
the regular minimum fixed in that oc-
cupation. The number of employees
holding such special license in any
plant or establishment shall not ex-
ceed one-tenth of the whole number
of employees.

The board is given power also to in-
quire into wages and conditions of
girls under eighteen employed in any
occupation in the province and may
determine wages and conditions suit-
able for them.

Any employee who discharges or in
any manner discriminates against any
employee for testifying before the
board, is liable to a penalty of not less
than twenty-five nor more than one
hundred dollars.

The act does not apply to farm-lab-
orers, fruit-pickers, domestic servants
or their employers.

HOUSE
SESSION

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Old Age Pensions

Why should the Old Age Pension scheme be considered a matter for Dominion legislation, rather than provincial? So far as the law is concerned, there is nothing in the British North America Act to prevent such pensions being paid by the province or the Dominion, or both.

The only question at issue, then, is as to which jurisdiction should bear the expense. When looked at in this way, the argument in favor of having it handled by the Dominion becomes almost conclusive.

Taxation in British Columbia is already high and the revenue is not sufficient for the needs. This state of affairs seems likely to continue for a period of years.

If there are to be Old Age pensions, the Dominion is much better able to bear the financial burden than is the province.

**Iron Industry in B. C.
Need of Development**

VICTORIA, April 18.—With the iron and steel committee of British Columbia in Ottawa seeking to have the federal government aid in developing the iron and steel industry on this coast, the position of Hon. William Sloan, minister of mines, in backing up his bill for a provincial bonus of iron and steel production in British Columbia will be read with interest.

Hon. Mr. Sloan takes the position that with the requirement in the way of steel, the constantly increasing markets and the disadvantage of this coast by reason of having no plant or plants here, it is of the utmost importance that the government do everything within reason which will aid in the establishment of an industry of this nature.

Speaking on the subject of the iron bonus, Hon. Mr. Sloan says it has to do with the development of one of British Columbia's greatest natural resources. Mr. Sloan's bill proposes to extend encouragement to those who are willing to advance the capital necessary to bring about the economic development of this mineral within the boundaries of this province, and more especially for the benefit of the people here. The unexploited resources of iron ore, the minister declared, was unbounded.

Must Expand Industrially.

Speaking for myself, said Mr. Sloan, I may say that I have realized for a good many years that, if the province wished to progress, it would have to expand industrially, and particularly in regard to our mineral wealth. We have not gone ahead as we should have done. We, apparently, have been content to stand still and watch our neighbors work; to furnish them with what nature has been pleased to bestow on us in raw materials, while we remained content with the incidental commercial crumbs.

Dominion Should Aid.

I think that the Dominion government should shoulder some of the responsibility of seeing that our raw resources are utilized, but, as a member of this government, holding the office of minister of mines, I am not taking the position that we have no duty to perform.

I may say that in considering this question I have had prepared, for my information, a number of reports by various experts on our iron resources, and now I think is the proper time to refer to some of them. One engineer opens his statement thus:

"In attempting to give any description or idea of the iron ore deposits of the coast of British Columbia, one is immediately confronted with the fact that, almost without exception, none of the known deposits have been worked other than superficially, and few have received any further development than very shallow open-cuts, tunnels or shafts."

He then goes on to point out that it is estimated for Vancouver and Texada islands alone, the actual and probable ore totals over 5,000,000 tons, which would be sufficient, if we take the requirements of a blast furnace as being 200,000 tons of ore a year (equivalent to about 100,000 tons of pig iron), to supply the requirements necessary for 25 years.

Another engineer gives a rough estimate of the tonnage of magnetic iron ore on the southern coast, as far as he has examined, as follows:

- Actual ore, 630,000 tons.
- Probable ore, 6,050,000 tons.
- Possible ore, 10,500,000 tons.

Supply of Fuel.
Having dealt with the question of the ore available and its character, let us turn for a few moments to that of fuel.

We are comparatively a young prov-

ince, and yet the output of our coal mines has an established reputation, and is in demand throughout the Western United States, and Vancouver Island is one of the most important of the coaling stations for the mercantile traffic of the Pacific. In 1916, the value of the product of our collieries totalled \$8,900,675, and in 1917 \$8,518,784. In 1916 there were turned out 267,725 tons of coke, valued at \$1,606,350, and last year 159,554 tons of coke brought \$957,324. When it is remembered that, at present the manufacture of coke is but an incidental and that practically all that is made comes from the Crow's Nest Pass collieries for use at the Trail smelter, it will be recognized that this is an industry which is decidedly in its infancy. With the assurance of a demand for such fuel for smelting purposes we may be sure that it will be forthcoming.

Dominion Bounty.

As to the policy of offering a bounty on the production of iron ore, I may say that it is not an experiment.

In 1894 the Dominion government offered a bounty of \$2 a ton on pig iron and steel. This was raised in 1897 to \$3 a ton. In 1899, the bounty was graded down, and in 1903, a bounty of \$5 a ton was placed on wire rods; \$2 a ton on structural steel, and the same on rolled plates. These bounties were extended to 1907. Pig iron manufactured from Canadian ore from 1907 to 1910 was allowed a bounty of \$2.10 per ton in 1907 to 90 cents per ton in 1910. On pig iron manufactured from foreign ore during the period extending from 1907 to 1910 there was a bounty graded from \$1.10 per ton in 1907 to 40 cents per ton in 1910. On puddled iron bars it was placed at \$1.65 per ton in 1907 and graded down year by year until in 1910 it was 60 cents per ton. Bounties were also given on rolled round iron bars. The two companies which derived the greatest advantage from this Federal policy were the Nova Scotia Iron & Coal Co., and the Dominion Iron & Steel Co. The bounty, I may add, lasted from 1894 to 1910.

Effect of Policy.

The effect of this policy now is apparent. The two companies of Eastern Canada which this were extended a helping hand until able to take care of themselves, now form the backbone of Canada's industrial life. The Dominion Steel Corporation, with its 600,000,000 tons of ore blocked out and its annual refinement of 700,000 tons, has enough raw material ahead, at its present rate of use, to last 425 years, while its manufacturing plants have been of signal service to the Empire throughout the war. Of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co., much the same may be said.

Moral to B. C.

I am quoting these figures merely to show what remarkable progress has been made through the adoption of a policy of encouragement by legislation and also by the application to

the problem of the industry of intelligent, energetic, and courageous management. Government assistance will not make an iron and steel industry such as we want in British Columbia, and such as our resources entitle us to, without the other elements to which I have referred. But it is most important that, when capital is ready to take up the task and able men with a thorough knowledge of what they are undertaking are prepared to enter into it, the government adopt a policy that will guarantee reasonable aid and, perhaps even more important, will assure them of stable conditions, in so far as it is possible for a government to do so.

The story of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co., which may be selected by way of illustration, is one which points a moral to British Columbia. Sixty years ago it consisted of nothing more than a little forge-shop with a capital of \$4,000 and ten employees. Today it means dividends to shareholders the world over and directly maintains at least 40,000 people in the province of Nova Scotia.

Has the Ore.

To sum up I have tried to show that, while there has been little development, British Columbia has the iron ore; that it is of exceptionally good quality; that there not only is the market for steel that warrants a start being made in its manufacture in this province but that some such action is in the national interests as well as a provincial necessity, and that the government, under the circumstances, not only is justified in doing what it can to assist in the establishment of the industry, but is in duty bound to do what it can towards that end. I am convinced, therefore, that the bill which has been placed before this legislature will meet with the approval and the support of its members.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1918

TRIBUTE TO NURSES.

VICTORIA, April 18.—A tribute to the nursing profession was paid at the morning session of the legislature today by Dr. W. H. Sutherland, member for Revelstoke. He was supported by J. H. Hawthornthwaite (Newcastle). Dr. Sutherland was speaking on his Nurses' bill by which it is proposed to license trained nurses for the benefit of the general public, and to suitably recognize the profession by giving nurses the privilege of using the initials, "R.N."—registered nurse—after their names.

RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED

Resolution Urged by Veterans is Amended and Passed by House.

VICTORIA, April 19.—The legislature tonight, after further debate on the returned soldiers' resolution directed to the federal government asking for the conscription of alien enemies for work, adopted the resolution with a part eliminated. J. W. Jackson, member for the Islands, withdrew his amendment to the Ross resolution, which latter was a copy of the soldiers' resolution, in favor of an amendment by F. A. Pauline, member for Saanich, deleting that portion of the resolution expressing regret that the government at Ottawa had not approved the resolution when it was before it, and also eliminating the civil service clause which did not concern the Ottawa government, as it was directed to the local government. The opposition forced a division and voted against the Pauline amendment.

COMPENSATION ACT.

VICTORIA, April 18.—Amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act introduced today in the legislature provide that provincial employees may be brought under the operation of the act. Employees, as required, must maintain first aid appliances as directed by the board, the board is empowered to require installation of appliances necessary for the prevention of accidents or industrial diseases.

OLD AGE PENSION ACT.

VICTORIA, April 18.—The old age pension act proposed by J. W. Weart, member for South Vancouver, was explained by Mr. Weart in detail this afternoon, the legislature resolving itself into committee of the whole for the purpose of dealing with the Weart resolution, which was that the committee recommend the introduction of legislation this session or the 1919 session providing for old age pensions. An amendment by Premier Oliver, that the house endorse the principle, but that it was a subject for Dominion legislation, was carried.

PREMIER MAINTAINS

Leader of Government Intend to Engage in Regard Ve

VICTORIA,

Oliver, at this the legislature, tion with regard sented by retur self and other fin on the ste buildings, calli ernment to cons labor. The prei did not intend declared that in the people in C the nation at C made the subj should be given tance.

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The debate on siderable distanc elision and will row. M. B. Ja an amendment t tion as presente will give the s portunity to air same subject. ment is very sh but drops the l on the provinc immediately put into force."

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1918

PREMIER OLIVER MAINTAINS STAND

Leader of Government Makes It Plain That He Does Not Intend to Be Stampeded Regarding Veterans' Demands.

VICTORIA, April 18. — Premier Oliver, at this afternoon's sitting of the legislature, maintained his position with regard to the resolution presented by returned soldiers to himself and other members of the cabinet on the steps of the parliament buildings, calling on the federal government to conscript enemy aliens for labor. The premier made it plain he did not intend to be stampeded, and declared that in such times as these the people in charge of the affairs of the nation at Ottawa should not be made the subject of censure, but should be given sympathy and assistance.

The resolution, which was brought before the house by W. R. Ross (Fort George), was a matter for the federal government, and it had been presented to Ottawa. The premier considered the opposition to be using the resolution for political purposes and stated so emphatically.

In the somewhat heated debate on the resolution, Frank Mobley (Atlin), advocated caution in this or other matters which might have a tendency to interfere with the plans of Ottawa. Lieut. F. J. MacKenzie (Delta), criticized the government for not having brought the Civil Service Act into force.

Could Not Agree.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite (Newcastle) expressed his admiration for the premier as a man of honesty and uprightness, but could not agree with his attitude. He said there was still the same "graft, corruption and profiteering" at Ottawa as there had been before the Union government went into power. He believed that the government ought to be censured. It had done absolutely nothing for the returned soldiers but give him the worst of it at every turn. The leader of the opposition declared the premier had no reason to get excited and denied strenuously that the opposition was interested from political motives.

Mrs. Ralph Smith was free to recognize the failures of the federal government, and said it should take some definite action for the assistance of returned soldiers which the various provincial governments could follow. Blame for present conditions, she said, rested squarely on the shoulders of those at the head of affairs in Ottawa. She would like to see the B. C. government force the hands of the federal authorities. J. S. Cowper (Vancouver), added his voice to the sentiments which Mrs. Smith expressed.

Will Be Continued.

The debate on the subject is a considerable distance away from any decision and will be continued tomorrow. M. B. Jackson (Islands), has an amendment to the original resolution as presented by Mr. Ross, which will give the speakers another opportunity to air their opinions on the same subject. The Jackson amendment is very similar to the original, but drops the last paragraph calling on the provincial government "to immediately put the Civil Service Act into force."

MAKES PROVISION FOR S. VANCOUVER

Attorney-general Farris Introduces Amendment to Municipal Act for Purpose of Dealing With Situation.

VICTORIA, April 18. — Attorney-General Farris today submitted to the legislature an amendment to the municipal act for the purpose of dealing with the South Vancouver situation, the government having decided to take over administration of this municipality's affairs. Under the terms of the amendment the lieutenant-governor in council, in any case where it appears that the public interest so requires, may adopt such measures for the due and efficient administration of any municipality as may be thought necessary, and may for such purpose appoint any person and invest such person with such of the powers, authorities, and functions given to municipal councils by any statute as may be deemed advisable, and may provide for the suspension in whole or in part of the right of the municipal council to exercise such powers, authorities, and functions, and may make such regulations as may be necessary governing the manner in which such powers, authorities, and functions shall be exercised; and all acts and proceedings of such person, within the scope of his appointment and with respect to such municipality, shall have effect as if done by the council under the several statutes conferring powers upon councils or upon municipalities. The proviso contained in section 201, to the effect that the rate to be levied thereunder shall not exceed one and one-half cents on the dollar, shall not apply to any municipality in respect of which the lieutenant-governor in council exercises any of the powers conferred by this section."

SOLDIER AND WILLS ACT

Attorney-General Farris Offers An Important Amendment.

VICTORIA, April 18.—Under the new wills act an amendment bill by Attorney-General Farris, any member of the allied forces who dies during the continuation of the war or twelve months thereafter may dispose of his real or personal property by will in writing, signed by the testator or some other person in his presence, and by his direction, without the necessity for the presence, attestation or superscription of any witness. Before the will shall be admitted to probate the court or judge granting such probate shall be satisfied of the genuineness of the signature of the testator or that the will was signed by some other person in his presence and by his direction.

Another new measure which came from the attorney-general's department today was an act respecting the capacity of corporations. It is provided that every corporation created in the province shall have, and shall be deemed to have always had, capacity to effect outside the province its objects or purposes, and to accept powers and rights in respect thereof from any lawful authority outside the province, except where the operations of a corporation are confined to the province by some express provision in its charter or an act of the legislature.

AMENDMENTS TO TAXATION ACT

Brought Down Yesterday by Minister of Finance and Are Likely to Produce Lively Discussion.

VICTORIA, April 20.—While Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, in his Taxation Act amendments, submitted to legislature yesterday, contemplates several important changes from last year's taxation, which caused so much criticism, a hard fight is in sight for further concessions from the government. The amendments promise lively debate tomorrow. The position of the mining men will be explained at length by the minister in special districts who are the subject of the proposed amendments and their relation to the industry.

Mining men say the finance minister has given them no real relief, and that although he provides for development, development is nothing more than working expenses. This would be allowed for in any event. They further state that the minister of finance now intends to read into the act of 1917 something which is not at present there, namely, a tax upon the mine earnings of 1916, payable in June, 1917. They state that the late Hon. Mr. Brewster's intention when he formulated the 1917 tax act was not to tax metalliferous mines on their 1916 earnings any more than he intended to tax the coal mines which were not interfered with. The late premier intended that the metalliferous mines should first pay income taxes in June, 1916, based on their earnings of 1917, as their 1916 earnings was a closed book.

In the case of farmers it is provided in the amendments that they may have one exemption of improvements up to \$1500 which is in addition to the \$1000 exemption on personal property which they now have. The bill makes provision for a complete new assessment of all real property in unorganized territory.

WOMAN LEGISLATOR HOLDS HIGH PLACE

Mrs. Ralph Smith Wins Warm Spot in Hearts of Returned Soldiers as Well as Members of B. C. House.

(By Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, April 20.—Mrs. Ralph Smith, British Columbia's first and only lady legislator and the mother of two stalwart sons, is now the mother of a little "Bill" to look after the welfare of the women who toil. The bill, in fact, is safely past its third reading and only awaits the formal assent of the lieutenant-governor to become law. The man who fights and the woman who toils have found a champion in the person of Mrs. Ralph Smith.

"I've been sitting back quietly learning the ropes most of the time. Now that I've found my sea-feet I'm going to assert myself and make things interesting in the house," said the lady member on Thursday afternoon, with a good-humored nod at both the government and opposition benches, as she intervened in a debate on the returned soldier question.

"Has the experiment of a lady member turned out well?" asked a Sun correspondent of several members who were out strolling and resting in the corridor this afternoon, while a faithful quorum mounted guard in the house as some tedious committee work was put through. The answer in every case, from government and opposition alike, was flattering to the lady member, though qualified in most instances by the reservation that in Mrs. Smith the ladies had a representative who both by temperament and long training was unusually well fitted to stack up against the trying conditions of legislative life.

Always on the Job.

Although the house has been in session every day this week from 10:30 in the morning until after midnight—last night it did not rise till after 2 a.m., and then only to reassemble eight hours later—Mrs. Smith was on deck all the time and took a hand in several debates after piloting her own pet measure, the Minimum Wage for Women bill, safely through the house.

"Best speech I've heard this session. Not the most eloquent, not the most forceful, but the most convincing and sincere speech of the session," was the comment one prominent government member made on Mrs. Smith's contribution to the debate on the returned soldier question yesterday. There were some very nice corners in the discussion to be negotiated, and the lady member from Vancouver turned them very neatly. She came out flat-footed for the returned man, demanded that the government bring into operation the civil service bill with its preferential clauses for the returned men, and then adroitly turned her guns on the Ottawa government as the responsible parent government which had ignored its responsibilities and left the returned men to come to the doors of the provincial legislatures.

But curiously enough, Mrs. Smith's mark in the house, so to speak, was not made in the house itself. It was made in a crowded Victoria theatre last week while the house itself was any moment expecting a turbulent visit from the demonstration of returned men who earlier in the evening had given a parting volley of hoots and jeers at the premier. It was the sort of test of one's parliamentary skill and nerve that either breaks the

MOTHER OF SOLDIERS IS RETURNED MEN'S FRIEND



MRS. RALITH SMITH, M.L.A. for Vancouver and first woman member of the provincial house, who, though only in her first session, has become one of its strongest and most popular members.

aspiring parliamentarian, or places him in the successful graduate class. And in this case the lady member from Vancouver scored a bigger victory than any that offered in the exclusive region of the house itself.

Was It Bowser Play?

It really started with the demonstration of returned men on the steps of the parliament building. Some of the wise ones say that Mr. W. J. Bowser stage-managed the whole thing from behind. Others have the kinder opinion that he merely took advantage of the opportunity that Dame Fortune sent. At all events, no more impressive sight has been witnessed or one more calculated to let one's emotions get out of hand than the procession of maimed and broken men in khaki who paraded to the parliament building. There was a brass band at their head, lots of banners and a cheering crowd. "We have fought once; we can fight again," was the spirit of their approach. Their departure was even more hostile, as they proceeded uptown to a theatre to listen to some oratory before deciding on their next move. Some of the hot-heads had openly talked of returning en masse and hustling the members out of the sacred chamber, "just to show 'em what we could do if we care to," as one man put it.

Someone had sent Mrs. Smith a written invitation to attend and speak. On to the platform the lone lady member took her way. Speaker after speaker held forth and the meeting

grew more electric. It was a difficult enough position to have to speak, but when the call came a much more difficult situation arose. A "comrade" who had taken a leading part in arranging and leading the meeting rose as Mrs. Smith was announced and made a heated protest against allowing "any politician" to speak on their platform.

Politicians Were Unpopular.

Cheers and counter-cries arose. Politicians were distinctly unpopular at the meeting which cheered the soldier's sentiment. A few friends of Mrs. Smith cried, "Go on!" It was a tense moment as every pair of eyes in the great theatre were suddenly turned amid the uproar towards the sprightly and kind-faced lady who found herself the centre of debate. To have backed down under protest would have been a humiliation, though few would have cared to fight the nosy throng.

"No, I'm here by invitation, and I'll stay here. I'm not a politician. I'm a woman and a soldier's mother. I'm not afraid of man or devil. I'll stand here on my right, after you have invited me, that you give me a hearing," she cried with a note of defiance and an air of "no-surrender." It caught the fancy of the crowd, by its note of fairness and defiance. Men who had applauded their comrade's protest found themselves applauding the woman on the stage, who had captured them by her audacity and pluck.

"Go on; go on!" they shouted, after the lady member had told them of her own opinion that the Dominion government was to blame for not attending to Mr. Enemy Allen and looking after the needs of the returned men in a better fashion. It was a personal victory.

Then came the voice from the rear, like the chorus of a Greek play making clear the hidden meaning of things. "The reason we objected was because politicians are usually so crooked we took them all to be the same," said a soldier by way of public apology, and the crowd added another round of applause by way of amends. And next day members of the house who had been uneasy about the rumors that the soldiers intended to make a "raid" on the legislative chamber learned that it was one of their own number who had stood between the crowd and its fury. The lady member had scored her legislative mark and the returned men had found a mouthpiece in the house.

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1918

Should Education be Free?

It will be a great pity if the pressure of poverty drives the University of British Columbia to exact tuition fees from its students. Education ought to be free, and everybody ought to be compelled to take large doses.

Many young men and women have to earn for themselves the money to put them through college. There are many to whom the imposition of an annual fee might make all the difference between obtaining a college education and having to go without it.

The minister of education points out that many American state colleges give free education, while most Canadian institutions charge a fee.

The minister is right as to the facts. But what is the inference proper to be drawn therefrom? Doesn't it merely prove that in this respect Canada is not yet so democratic as its neighbor? Does British Columbia want to be reckoned among the lands where the poor man's son is handicapped?

NO BUSINESS TAX CAN BE ASSESSED SAY LEGISLATORS

Clause in Vancouver Charter Amendments Sought by City Council Is Deleted by Members in Victoria.

SESSION MAY NOT END FOR A FEW DAYS YET

Legislature Engaged on Clause Asking Power to Regulate Automobile Traffic When Adjournment Takes Place.

VICTORIA, April 21.—No business tax will be assessed in Vancouver, the legislature last night deleting this clause from the charter amendments being discussed in committee. The original charter clause prohibiting members of holy orders and ministers from election to the city council or mayoralty was removed, as was also a similar clause relating to hotel-keepers. As midnight and Sunday approached the clauses with relation to the city's powers for regulation of jitney transportation were under discussion.

VICTORIA, April 21.—Indications are that the legislative session will not come to an end till Tuesday at the outside. Some 25 new bills have been brought down in the past four days, and more are to come. The legislature has hung up a new record in production, a total of 108 bills to date, said to be the largest number ever tabled in any session.

Will Consume Time.
A number of the bills still left to consider are quite contentious, and will consume time. The Vancouver charter amendments are expected to be passed on Monday, with a few alterations. The business tax clause, under which the city sought power to levy a tax based on rental values, has already been eliminated.

Another contentious clause, that under which the city seeks power to regulate automobile transportation, has been argued to some extent. The bill in committee had reached this clause when the house adjourned at midnight on Saturday.

Workmen's Compensation.
A new bill expected on Monday according to report is to give the government powers over the workmen's compensation board, which at present is responsible to only the legislature.

At the close of the session on Saturday afternoon the government caucus again considered the amendments to the taxation act, a number of the members not being satisfied with the proposed changes relating to the mining industry. This subject promises a lengthy debate and attempts in committee to obtain concessions for the mining interests.

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Amendments to permits settlement

DEVELOPI B.C. IRO

Minister Decl: Bill to Be Before the Session.

(By Staff C

VICTORIA, A Sloan, speaking o of the Iron Boun lative session th the bill to be th fore the house t ed to the demand and steel and a duty in this prov dustry which wo successful prosec minister assured ernment was full sity of developi which was the f dustry. "Success ed in this provinc standpoint, unles were developed.

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The leader of t with Hon. Mr. f the hope that f justify the optim Mr. Bowser, how of the minister and refining leg session had not t feet. He charac legislation last s policy." He expr would not have t of the Iron Boun

Legislature Places On Statutes Many Important Measures

(By Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, April 22.—One of the last acts of the legislature will be the passage of the Vancouver charter amendments, over which there has been considerable contention, the business tax proposal which was knocked out and the automobile transportation competition furnishing the subject of hectic debate. This came before the house at a late hour tonight and a final decision is expected before the house rises for breakfast, in the event of the premier not relenting from his decision to "drive her through."

The early hours of this evening were devoted to the taxation amendments under which the farmers are to be given relief in the way of \$1,500 exemption and the mining interests are given due regard for the alterations they desired, to relieve what they said was an unfair burden last year. Among the legislation enacted was the amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act, bringing government employees under its protection. A report that the government would seek to control the board which now is accountable only to the legislature was given no effect, as no such amendment to the act was presented.

South Vancouver's affairs as the result of legislation will shortly be administered by the government on account of the municipality's financial tangle.

An eight-hour day in metalliferous mines "bank to bank" has been enacted.

By legislation adopted, the government of this province will co-operate to the fullest degree with the Federal authorities' plans for settling upon the land returned soldiers who desire to enter agricultural pursuits.

Amendments to the Land Act also permits settlement in "community

areas" which is conducive to closer settlement and will assist materially in production when the programme now under the most serious consideration of the land department has been worked out.

Water Act amendments passed during the session will aid irrigation.

A bounty on iron and steel has been authorized on the representations of the department of mines to aid in the development of the vast iron resources.

Provision for the government ownership of the Pacific Great Eastern railway has been made, and according to plans following the legislature's ratification of the agreement with the private owners the line is to be continued to Fort George as rapidly as possible.

Another important piece of legislation which will be of value in assisting Canada's share in the war is that which has placed spruce lands at the disposal of the government, whether privately owned or not, thus placing the vast spruce resources of British Columbia in reach of the Allies.

The Seed Grain Act will aid farmers in production.

A large number of bills of more or less importance have also been enacted into law already.

LEGISLATURE WILL PROROGUE TODAY

Members in an All Night Sitting Cleaned Up the Last Business of a Very Busy Session.

(By Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, April 22.—According to plans of Premier Oliver and if nothing unlooked for happens, the fourteenth B. C. parliament will prorogue about noon tomorrow. Both Lieutenant-governor Barnard and the premier plan to take the two o'clock boat for the mainland, the latter to start on his trip to Ottawa, where he is to attend a meeting of the committee which is dealing with the Canadian Northern railway situation, at which he will explain the agreement with his province.

The session has been a memorable one not only in the number of things which were dealt with and the bills enacted into law, but in point of hard work.

Mass of business presented itself during the dying days, coming on top of the business which had been prepared for and which was delayed first by the mission of the late premier to Ottawa to consult with Federal authorities over the war situation, and then by the lamented death of Hon. Mr. Brewster at Calgary on his way home. Never in the history of the parliament of B. C., old timers declare, have the actual working hours been so many in the same space of time. There have been sessions which spread over more weeks, the last session of the old regime making the record, but in point of hours worked, Hon. John Oliver's farm training stood him in good stead for when the session began to grow long he first worked the members two shifts a day, which during last week and this week he increased to three shifts a day. The past few days have been grueling in the extreme, but perhaps none stood the trial so well as the premier himself, who has always been an indefatigable worker, rising with cock's crow, but not going to bed by any means when the rooster turned in.

Hon. Mr. Oliver, when his attention tonight was drawn to the fact that there was a considerable amount of business yet undone, indicating that it might be necessary to prolong the session beyond tomorrow noon, declared it was a long way to morning, by which remark it is taken he has in mind driving the house through till daylight, if necessary, to make it possible for prorogation by noon or shortly thereafter tomorrow.

Under the act the land settlement board would be permitted to purchase land desirable for communal settlement and it was Mr. Manson's opinion this would result in more rapid settlement of the northern part of the province, which comprises much land of agricultural value. In the matter of agricultural settlement the Omineca member said the province had a real opportunity.

Would Meet Situation.

Hon. T. Duff Pattullo, minister of lands, said the legislation was comprehensive and would meet the situation. He expressed the view it would call attention all over the world to British Columbia, for it was an important departure.

What struck J. W. Hawthorn-thwaite (Newcastle) most forcibly in connection with the bill, he said, was that if the act was not properly administered it gave opportunity for mean and contemptible grafting. An important bill of such nature ought to have been brought down earlier, he said.

DEPENDENTS OF LATE PREMIERS GIVEN GRANTS

(By Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, April 22.—In recognition of the work which was done for British Columbia by the late Sir Richard McBride and the late Premier Brewster the legislature this afternoon voted unanimously in favor of Premier Oliver's bill that \$5,000 be given to Lady McBride and a similar amount to the infant children of the late premier.

DEVELOPMENT OF B. C. IRON INDUSTRY

Minister Declares Iron Bounty Bill to Be Most Important Before the House at This Session.

(By Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, April 22.—Hon. Wm. Sloan, speaking on the second reading of the Iron Bounty bill at the legislative session this morning, declared the bill to be the most important before the house this session. He alluded to the demands of the war on iron and steel and said it was a patriotic duty in this province to foster an industry which would produce for the successful prosecution of the war. The minister assured the house the government was fully alive to the necessity of developing the iron industry, which was the foundation of all industry. Success could not be achieved in this province, from an industrial standpoint, unless the iron resources were developed.

A mass of facts and figures relating to the iron resources of British Columbia and the demands for iron all over the world were given by the minister in the course of an eloquent appeal for support of his measure.

Rapped by Bowser.

The leader of the opposition agreed with Hon. Mr. Sloan and expressed the hope that future history would justify the optimism of the minister. Mr. Bowser, however, took a fall out of the minister because the smelter and refining legislation of the last session had not been brought into effect. He characterized the mining legislation last session as a "paper policy." He expressed the hope he would not have to say the same thing of the Iron Bounty Act next session.

MINERS RELIEVED FROM DOUBLE TAX

1917 Act Is Altered by Government; Were Taxed Two Per Cent. on Output and 10 Per Cent. on Income.

(By Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, April 22.—The taxation act was in committee stage about ten o'clock tonight, the most important clauses being those referring to the taxation of canneries, farms and mines. There was considerable discussion on these subjects, the bill finally being recommended for third reading without amendment. Immediately afterward it was read for the third time. The farm improvements were exempted from taxation up to an amount of \$1500, while the 1917 act affecting mining taxation was altered to a great degree. The 1917 act taxed mining companies two per cent. of the output of their ore and, in addition, ten per cent. on the income. No allowance was made for development or depreciation of smelters or mining plant.

Are Given Relief.

The act brought down this year relieves mining companies from the payment of the double tax and makes them pay two per cent. on the output of the ore or ten per cent. on the income, whichever is the greater. It also allows depreciation on plant up to 15 per cent. and what is of more consequence to the mining industry, is a liberal allowance for development expenditure. The just mentioned subject was the cause of considerable discussion and it was only after the present session had commenced that the government undertook to make an allowance, chiefly on the representation of J. Edward Sears of Vancouver. The development clause now permits of the deduction of mining companies from their taxable income of the total development costs incurred by them in producing ore.

FORM COMMUNITY AREAS FOR SOLDIERS

Legislature Proposes Comprehensive Scheme to Encourage Returned Men Going on to the Land.

(By Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, April 22.—The land settlement policy of the government was recounted at this morning's session of the legislature by Alex. Manson, member for Omineca.

The first thing that had been done, he said, was an investigation during which it was found the best lands of the province had been alienated to a large extent to people who had never seen them. It was found that the settlement was very sparse. On this account there was a maximum cost of public works with a minimum benefit. As a result of the old land policy, development and production had been retarded.

Comfortable Settlement for Soldiers.

Returned soldiers, as every settler, should be put on land where they could live comfortably, instead of on lands under the scheme of the old government, which would have necessitated settlement on tracts far away from civilization.

The new bill contemplated a sane policy of colonization and settlement. The principle of "community areas" was modern and now generally adopted, meaning that those who settled under such conditions could have advantages of schools, transportation facilities, hospitals, churches, etc. Its advantages were obvious.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1918.

tal Europe now in arms against us. I want to make this point clear, that it is to be assumed that in each of these instances certificates would have had to be granted under the terms of the bill which the member for Newcastle is fathering.

"This bill pretends to put up one bar—that against Oriental employment—but I would point out that in so doing it opens wide the gates to a motley flow of alien labor of questionable origin and would withdraw the protection now given the miner, namely, the safeguard that the applicant for a certificate shall have a knowledge of the English language. Thus enemy aliens and men of Central European nationality would be admitted freely into our industrial plants if the ideas of the member for Newcastle were to prevail and applicants were permitted to pass the examining boards in a test of their own language.

WHERE PLOTS COME FROM.

"The member for Newcastle would have the test administered 'in all the languages of Europe.' Yet some of the most deadly enemies of the Empire who have been plotting bomb outrages and plying their nefarious and secret programme of propaganda would be permitted in the mines and plants by his bill. Let me say this: 'Hands off the Coal Mines Regulation Act. Let the miners pass their qualifying examinations in our own language.'

"In this way the miners have loyally done their full duty. They object to filling their places with aliens, and the miners are not alone in voicing this complaint.

"As to the employment underground of the particular class referred to by the member for Newcastle, I have just this to say. There are now fifty-one fewer Orientals employed underground than in 1916. I may say that I have this matter well thought out, and will apply the remedy in due and proper course. If he remains long a member of this House he will have an opportunity of supporting legislation which will meet conditions, and in a perfectly constitutional and satisfactory way to all concerned.

"In conclusion I may say that the member for Newcastle sat in this House for fourteen years when there was a Tory Government in power. He is now here with a radical government in control of the Legislature. Let me point out to my friend that while this is a radical government, and will undoubtedly give effect to advanced legislation in the interests of the masses, at the same time such legislation will be based on sound and sane principles. It is fully alive to its responsibilities and duties to the people of the province. It will at all times assist in preserving the integrity of the Dominion, especially in respect to foreign relations. It will be prepared to support loyally the international policies of the Empire. Therefore, we consider that this bill is not in accord with the well-known policy of the British Government. The view taken by the government of the province is that this is dangerous and mischievous legislation, and tends to the encouragement of the well-known methods of German propaganda."

Gets Higher Salary.

Victoria, March 29.—The salary of Comptroller-General Mount is to be increased from \$4300 per year to \$5000. Provision for the increase was made in a special bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday. It is said that when the comptroller-general was appointed last year he was promised this increase. The bill also gives the deputy minister of finance authority to sign cheques.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1918.

CHANGE IN POLICY MAY BRING ORDERS

Government Now Has No Objection to Private Ship Contracts Here.

Victoria, April 3.—Although the Federal Government's shipbuilding programme does not contemplate further construction of wooden ships, the administration now has no objection to the building of these ships by accredited private interests for British, Allied or neutral registry, says a message received today by Hon. John Oliver from Hon. C. C. Ballantyne.

The Ottawa minister notes that permission has been given to the British-American Shipbuilding & Engineering Company to construct twenty such ships for Norwegian registry. This is the company now negotiating with the Vancouver Harbor Board for a lease of part of Kitsilano Reserve. All persons enquiring about shipbuilding have been informed that the government will not place any obstacles in their way. Hon. Mr. Ballantyne states that from enquiries which have been received he considers much wooden shipbuilding is in prospect on the Pacific Coast.

CALLS FOR A NEW MEASURE

Member for South Okanagan Said Fruit Growers Were Disappointed.

More Than Sixteen Millions Invested in Okanagan Orchards.

Victoria, April 3.—Mr. J. W. Jones of South Okanagan made a plea in the House yesterday that the Provincial Government purchase the Indian reserves in the dry belt of the province from Ottawa and place them under irrigation in order to affect a partial settlement of the returned soldier problem. The Okanagan representative claimed that in so far as soldiers' lands were concerned the up-country valley would be an ideal spot and would be favored by the returning veterans.

He addressed the Legislature for an hour and a half on the new bill amending the Water Act. The proposed legislation did not meet with the approval of Mr. Jones largely because it failed to provide to a sufficient extent for government ownership of storage reservoirs and the principal works of irrigation systems. He went into the irrigation system in detail, first taking the members with him on a trip around the world in thirty minutes, discussing irrigation as carried on in Mexico, the Antipodes, India and the valley of the Nile. Then he delved into history tracing the growth and development of this important phase of agriculture. By gradual stages he reached the bill which is now before the Legislature.

GREAT INVESTMENTS.

Mr. Jones described the evolution of the Okanagan Valley as a result of the establishment there of large irrigation systems. The lands under these systems produced the finest apples and some of the best grain on the continent, he declared. More than sixteen millions had already been invested in orchard lands in that area and with the future success of the water systems the Okanagan would have the most densely populated district of the province. The jeopardy into which the water systems had been thrown, he said, was a result of war conditions, many of the companies having lost their sinking funds in financial crashes which followed the war outbreak. The water-users' position became precarious because they not only had to make deferred land payments but they were also required to pay heavy government and water taxes. Former Premier Brewster, in an election visit to the valley, had said that the Liberals if returned to power would carry into effect their policy of government ownership. This had not been done, however, and the fruit-growers had found that they need not look to the land department for much sympathy in their plight. Hon. Mr. Pattullo, minister of lands, had indeed paid a visit to the Okanagan, but he had put off those who wanted a definite understanding upon the subject.

OVERLOADED WITH DETAILS.

Mr. Jones appealed to the members of the House to visit the Okanagan and investigate the situation for themselves. He charged that the Water Act, with the many amendments which had been introduced by the new Liberal minister of lands was overloaded with details and he knew how to follow out its provisions. The legislation had not been properly digested before being introduced as was evidenced by the fact that this bill now before the House was accompanied by a long list of order-paper amendments brought to the Legislature before the measure had gone through second reading. As a matter of fact the government should bring an entirely new act, he contended.

The speaker read a number of letters from up-country water users complaining of the proposals contained in the bill. He took the view that the minister should have submitted a draft of his legislation to the interested parties before submitting it to the House.

He strongly opposed the provisions in the bill providing for the elimination of bondholders of water systems. Such a course would discourage the investment of foreign capital after the war in the reconstruction period. After making a strong argument for government ownership he pointed out that the present policy of forcing the systems of defaulting companies onto the hands of the water users who were not prepared to carry them could not have anything but a bad effect all around. The water users would never be able to pay 7 1/2 or 8 per cent. on loans from the government as well as provide sinking funds. He prophesied that this bill would mean that the water rates for irrigation would go up to eight to twelve dollars an acre and experience had shown that anything above eight dollars was more than the industry could afford. The

water companies in Kaledon, Peaceland and Naramata had virtually thrown up their hands, said Mr. Jones, and the water users did not want to take them over on account of the financial burden involved in reconstruction. What would the government do about it, seeing that irrigation and fruit production were matters of province-wide concern? Mr. P. W. Anderson of Kamloops adjourned the debate.

ASK OTTAWA TO WITHHOLD THE AWARD

Legislature Wants C. N. Branches Built First in This Province.

Attorney-general Describes Mackenzie & Mann as Exploiters of People.

Former Premier Wishes to Avoid Embarrassment of Ottawa.

Several Liberal Members Vote With Opposition on Division.

Victoria, April 3.—On a formal division the Legislature yesterday adopted the H. C. Hall motion asking Ottawa not to pay any arbitration award to the Mackenzie & Mann interests until the C. N. P. Railway obligations in British Columbia were lived up to. The Anderson amendment, which merely asked the Federal Government to have the railway obligations completed at the earliest possible moment, was defeated. The Opposition members voted for the amendment of the Kamloops Liberal member, Mr. J. E. W. Thompson, Grand Forks, also supported it. Messrs. J. H. Hetherington and J. W. Weart voted for the amendment and upon its defeat voted for the original motion.

The principal speech in the closing of the debate was given by Attorney-General Farris. He said that Mackenzie & Mann were railway exploiters rather than railway builders because they used the railways which they constructed at no expense to themselves for the purpose of exploiting the country. After taking the cream of the profits they left the railway lines for the country to take over. Hon. Mr. Farris pointed out that the Province of British Columbia had given forty-five millions in railway guarantees for the C. N. P. in addition to a Dominion subsidy of twelve thousand a mile and an additional Dominion aid amounting to twenty millions for the line in this province. The grand total worked out at about \$97,000 per mile in British Columbia. Even taking the figures of the member for Kamloops that the C. N. P. in British Columbia cost \$88,000 per mile, there was still a difference of \$9000 per mile unaccounted for.

BRANCH LINES NEEDED.

Hon. Mr. Farris maintained that the main line of the railway should have been constructed from the credit of the Dominion, instead of from that of the province, so that the latter could provide for the colonizing branch lines. As the situation now stood, despite the promises of the old government that the provincial credit would amply cover both main and branch lines, while the main line had been built through the aid of the province in 1904, as the Dominion, the funds were used up and no branch lines whatever had been constructed.

"Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann have run their train and now they propose to cut the melon, keeping the money for themselves and giving the obligations to the government," he commented.

Mr. Farris remarked that Mr. Bowser appeared to act as the representative of the commission at Ottawa, so anxious was he not to wound their tender susceptibilities by sending such a resolution as Mr. Hall proposed to Ottawa. The attorney-general considered that if this resolution would bring home to the commission the fact that Mackenzie & Mann were trying to get cash without meeting their debts, a good end would be served.

Mr. Farris mildly scored the Anderson amendment whereupon the Liberal whip suggested that the attorney-general should make an endeavor to gather the import of the amendment before making misstatements about it.

WAR-TIME PROPER TIME.

The attorney-general defended the resolution against its critics, who had said that it was undignified and contained too many harsh references such as "outrage," etc. He said he believed also that war-time was the proper time to prevent Mackenzie & Mann from "getting away with" any money on their shares of C. N. R. stock, particularly when it was remembered that they had not put a dollar into the stock and any value it had was placed there through the assistance of the public. He suggested that after the adoption of the Hall resolution, the Anderson amendment might be accepted as a new motion. Mr. Anderson did not take the hint, however, and displayed no intention whatever of withdrawing his amendment.

The opposition was just as anxious as the government to see the branch lines in British Columbia finished, said Mr. W. J. Bowser. The chief object of the people of the province just now, however, should be to avoid embarrassing the Ottawa administration with demands for big expenditure at a time when the federal administration was straining every effort to win the war. Through shortage of steel and labor it would be impossible for Ottawa to finish the lines of the C. N. P. in British Columbia at present. In any event the obligations of the company were being taken over by the Dominion, and the commission was merely sitting to value C. N. R. assets. The speaker reminded the House that the province had not been called upon to pay a dollar on the construction of the system in British Columbia, and with the Dominion behind the line, would never have to put up any money under its bond guarantee. He announced that the opposition would support the Anderson amendment because its language was temperate and it expressed the desire of the province to have the C. N. P. branch lines finished in British Columbia as soon as possible, which was about as far as the House should go. He described the Hall resolution as an undignified message for the House to send to Ottawa. When the proper time came he would be only too glad to assist in bringing pressure to bear upon the federal government, he concluded.

LEUT. MACKENZIE PRESENT.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite expressed the idea that both the resolution and the amendment covered almost exactly the same ground and should be combined. Mr. Hall, mover of the resolution, concluded the debate with observations to the effect that in addition to any award which the commission might give them on the value of their C. N. R. stock they would also be found to be creditors of the road through their interest in the Northern Construction Company. It was likely also that they owned most of the rolling-stock on the line. He did not consider that either the commission or the Union government would be embarrassed by such a resolution as he had offered. There was no reason why the Dominion should go to the trouble of financing for the purpose of paying off Mackenzie and Mann, when that same financing could be used for the purpose of completing the C. N. P. branch project in British Columbia.

Mr. Anderson, mover of the amendment, desired to add something to the debate, but was ruled out of order by Mr. Speaker Keen. The vote was then taken.

Leut. Frank Mackenzie of Delta did not vote, prompting Premier Oliver to demand that he record his opinion on the subject. "The reason I did not vote was because I have not yet been sworn in for the session," said the officer who had just arrived from overseas. "If the Premier desires I will retire from the House."

Hon. Mr. Oliver showed no inclination to ask for the retirement of the Delta member, who remained for the rest of the sitting.

CENSOR'S RESIGNATION

Questions Asked Eoc Regarding Appointment of Walter Hepburn.

Victoria, April 3.—Some light on the causes which led to the resignation of C. L. Gordon as censor of moving pictures in Vancouver, and the appointment of Walter Hepburn as his successor is sought by W. J. Bowser in order paper questions filed in the House yesterday. Mr. Bowser is anxious to know what age Mr. Hepburn was when appointed, why a returned soldier was not chosen and "what experience or peculiar abilities did said Hepburn have to be appointed to this position."

Similar questions are asked with respect to the appointment of A. B. McNell of Victoria as auditor of revenue, Frank Sehl of Victoria as assistant provincial assessor, A. C. Campbell, Vancouver, as treasury department cashier, and T. H. Harrison, F. H. Leeming and Angus Galbraith of Victoria as clerks.

Mr. Jones of South Okanagan wants to know what the attorney-general did with the Victoria applications for his

flat for Lord's Day Act prosecutions. Mr. McKenzie of Similkameen has followed up his queries on the amount of money spent for new autos and in fitting up ministers' apartments by asking what expense the government was under in renovating the total sum given for fitting out the offices of the lands department included a considerable sum for installing water in the minister's private office. Enquiries as well what the ten-dollar lounge covers and \$17.50 lounge rug in the ministers' room are used for.

Mr. Wallis of Alberni seeks information on the number of civil servants' surety bonds placed with the Victoria firm of Gillespie, Hart & Todd and asks if the minister of finance is a member of the firm.

ASKS ABOUT TAXES.

Victoria, April 3.—A long series of questions dealing with the taxes collected during the fiscal year ending March 31 last has been filed in the House by the opposition leader. In each case Mr. Bowser wishes to know what was the estimated revenue for the year and what amount was actually collected in the period. He covers personal property tax, income tax, poll-tax, timber royalty, amusement tax, game license, land taxes, mineral tax, stampage and timber licenses.

FOR COMPENSATION.

Victoria, April 3.—Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite has introduced a bill in the Legislature amending the Workmen's Compensation Act by including in the list of casualties upon which compensation may be given, industrial diseases such as miners' consumption and "acquired berri."

NOT REAL SCHEME TO DEVELOP LANDS

This Is Opinion of W. R. Ross, Who Calls Bill 'Truck-garden' Policy.

Victoria, April 3.—In his criticism of the new land act amendments, Mr. W. R. Ross of Port George, former minister of lands, yesterday urged upon the government the value of bringing in a grazing policy in order to encourage sheep and beef-cattle production in the province. He declared that millions of acres of summer grazing land could be provided in the province for sheep and even if the department of lands allowed free use of it to sheep-raisers British Columbia would be the gainer through the increased production of mutton and wool at a time when both were urgently needed.

Mr. Ross took up a number of the salient points of the land act amendment bill. He said that the legislation was brought in because the minister was actuated by a desire to present something to the House, no matter how poor it might be. The bill was actually a move against the public interest, he asserted, and it secured more of a truck-garden policy than a real scheme for the development of provincial lands. He pointed out that while the Liberals had severely attacked the old land policy because it contained the staking-by-agent provision, yet this feature had never been altered not even in the new bill, and it was still possible for the evils formerly complained of to be continued.

"But there is a different administration now," put in Premier Oliver.

"It may be all right for my friend to take to himself all this virtue, but the fact remains that the legislation was brought in because the minister was not sincere when they scored the old land sales system."

The minister of lands had announced that because the bill was framed to stop pre-empting except on surveyed lands it would therefore prevent scattered settlement. Mr. Ross argued that to withdraw from free settlement all of the great unsurveyed areas of the province would retard development because British Columbia was a pioneer country settled by men who in most instances had taken up their land long before any surveying was done in the districts where they pre-empted. He gave an instance of this in the Peace River, claiming that if the bill had been in effect a year or so ago there would not now be any settlers at Finlay Forks, which gives promise of being a growing settlement. Until the government decided to carry out a general survey or to provide for the surveying of specific sections as soon as a movement of settlers took place development would be retarded, claimed the speaker. The minister of lands had said that under the old system the settlers lived on the road money, but this and the new ministry would find itself forced to keep up the roads and preferably by settlers' labor.

Mr. Mansen of Omineca moved the adjournment of the debate.

To Assist Royal City.

Victoria, April 4.—Attorney-General Farris has given notice of a New Westminster bill which he will introduce on Friday. It gives the city power to renew its treasury certificates and to put up bonds as collateral. Another bill which the attorney-general will bring in tomorrow is one giving the lieutenant-governor-in-council authority to re-define municipal boundaries in cases of dispute.

"Closed Towns."

Victoria, April 4.—Dr. W. O. Rose of Nelson is asking the government if it has made any demand under section 83 of the Land Act on the companies owning Anyox, Britannia and Ocean Falls to have the townsites subdivided so that the crown may obtain its reversionary quarter interest and so that the towns may be thrown open. If this action has not been taken, why? he asked. And when does the government propose to do away with closed towns according to its promise?

ASK SMELTER ENQUIRY

Royal Commission Is Suggested on Charges at Trail.

Victoria, April 4.—Mr. C. F. Nelson of Slokan desires an investigation by the House committee on mining into the up-country allegations that the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of Trail, through a new and higher schedule of rates, is stifling the lead and zinc mining industry of the interior.

Speaking to his resolution on the subject in the House yesterday, the Slokan member said that the committee had already received representations upon the subject, but could not deal with it unless vested with specific authority from the House. If the rates set by the Trail company continued the small ore shippers would be shut out, he declared, adding that he had been informed that the new schedule was an attempt on the part of the smelter people to shut out the independent operators. The smelter management had expressed a willingness to submit to an investigation of its charges on a friendly basis, but that would not get far, maintained Mr. Nelson, and the enquiry would not be sufficiently searching. The smelter was willing for an investigation by a House committee, but not by a royal commission. Mr. Nelson considered that the Legislature was not only interested in the development of the Upper Country, but should also be interested in the operation of the smelter because it was largely a public utility.

That the investigation should be by royal commission was the view advanced by Mr. Hawthornthwaite of New-Castle. Great unrest and dissatisfaction had been aroused over the action of the Trail smelter, he said, and the view seemed general that this concern had obtained a grasp over the mining district to the extent that it had the lives of the small miners in its hands. There was a suspicion that the various smelters were desirous of getting the producing mines into their own hands. Some of them were said to operate their own low-grade properties at the expense of the high-grade customs properties. Mr. Hawthornthwaite strongly urged a royal commission of investigation having as its membership a government representative, one from the smelters and one from the mineowners. The independent mineowners would be certain to show dissatisfaction with any enquiry by a House committee, he thought.

Premier Oliver adjourned the debate.

BETTER PAY FOR POLICE

Hon. Mr. Farris' Promise in Combining with Game Wardens.

Victoria, April 4.—Hon. J. W. deB. Farris spoke briefly yesterday in the House upon his new Game Act amendment, by which it is proposed to abolish the game department as a separate institution and merge its work into the provincial police department. One ground for the change as advanced by the minister is that economy will be obtained. The employment of forty game wardens in the province, when the work could be handled by the provincial police quite as well, was a big item of expense, he said. It was doubtful if the service was worth the expenditure, particularly in view of the great duplication of work which occurred, he said. The attorney-general took the view that game wardens were really doing a good deal of police work in seeing that the game regulations were carried out. He agreed that game proved a great asset to the province and should be preserved. The new plan, however, of making game wardens out of the police would give adequate protection, he maintained, and as a matter of fact would provide better protection than so far afforded. He remarked that the provincial police had been inadequately paid, a condition which he promised would be remedied. He referred to the fact that during a great part of the year both game wardens and police had very little to do. The combination of offices would remedy this situation, he thought.

MINING AFFECTS CONDITION

Production is Retarded Circumstances

Nevertheless Retained Arrangements Satisfactory

Island Collieries New Record Production

Metalliferous Fully Viewed Encouraging

Victoria, April 3 this afternoon, Farris of his interesting fact on the mineral output for the year 1917 \$37,182,570.

This total showing over 1916 with 1916. The mineral production including 1917 \$49,742,255.

It must not be reported, that there in the mining explanation for the several adverse industry as a whole. These are in head of industrial metal prices in a year, less demand for industrial conditions which the mining for said:

METALLIFEROUS

"The value of Metalliferous Mining in 1917 \$27,663,788. In 1916 \$2,063,514, a decrease of 92.5 per cent. At this point it is the most serious production of gold, the cause, in a found under one's feet enumerated.

"Gold which is set back mainly in the Rossland provides one-half of the province with no corresponding value of the metal.

"Copper, which values over \$1,091,457; and comparison with provides one-half of the industrial trouble \$1,416,617 pound totals than show except 1916, satisfactory un- It is specially conditions are returns indicate in the value of and lead, amount

PROMISING

"That this untoward circumstances promising and the present v. industry, a contemplated, from permanent. "The production about 159,554 tons a year, or a decrease of the former \$ Coal Company, 110,960 tons of Having met early fortunes early condition which shortages of its colliers were in output and, as the large smelt without the usual supplies the chief explanation although by a Columbia's Met to reach that of

MINING OUTPUT AFFECTED BY CONDITIONS

Production in B. C. for 1917
Retarded by Adverse
Circumstances.

Nevertheless, the Results At-
tained Are Considered
Satisfactory.

Island Collieries Created a
New Record in Amount
Produced.

Metalliferous Figures, Care-
fully Viewed, Are Quite
Encouraging.

Victoria, April 4.—In the legislature this afternoon, Hon. John Hart, in the course of his budget speech, related interesting facts and figures bearing on the approximate value of the mineral output in British Columbia for the year 1917, which he placed at \$37,182,570.

This total shows a decrease of something over \$5,000,000, in comparison with 1916. The total value of the mineral production of the Province including 1917 is in rough figures, \$595,742,285.

It must not be assumed, says the report, that there has been any decline in the mining industry itself. The explanation for the 1917 deficit is to be found in the cumulative effect of several adverse influences on the industry as a whole.

These are summarised under the head of industrial troubles, reduced metal prices in the last quarter of the year, less demand for lead and zinc for industrial purposes, and economic conditions which severely handicapped the mining for gold. Hon. Mr. Hart said:

METALLIFEROUS OUTPUT

"The value of the output of the Metalliferous Mines of British Columbia during 1917 is estimated as being \$27,863,786. In the year previous it was \$2,063,514, a decline of \$4,899,728. On this point it is interesting to note that the most serious decreases were in the production of gold, copper and zinc, and the cause, in each instance is to be found under one of the four headings just enumerated.

"Gold, which fell off \$2,173,334, was set back mainly because of the decline in the Rossland output, which usually provides one-half of the yearly output of the province; and also because of the increased cost of labor and supplies, with no corresponding increase in the value of the metal produced.

"Copper, which shows a decrease in values over the previous year of \$1,091,457; and zinc, which suffers by comparison with 1916 to the extent of providing one-half of the yearly output \$1,493,872 were directly affected by industrial trouble. The production of 67,416,617 pounds of copper and of 33,776,335 pounds of zinc, both greater totals than shown by any previous year except 1916, must be considered very satisfactory under the circumstances. It is especially gratifying, when the conditions are borne in mind, that the returns indicate an increase over 1916 in the value of the production of silver and lead, amounting to \$369,435.

PROMISING OUTLOOK

"That this should be so, despite the untoward circumstances outlined, is a promising and pleasing commentary on the present vitality of the Mining Industry, a condition which may be expected, from all indications, to be permanent.

"The production of coke in 1917 was about 159,554 tons (2240 lb.), which is 108,171 tons less than the preceding year, or a decrease of 40.5 per cent. Of the former figure about 123,155 tons was produced by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, being a decline of 110,960 tons over the previous year. Having met with a series of misfortunes early in the year, a condition which was aggravated by shortage of labor, this company's colliers were unable to maintain their output and, as a direct consequence, the large smelters of obtaining the usual supplies of fuel. This is one of the chief explanations of the failure, although by a very small margin, of the value of the output of British Columbia's Metalliferous Mines in 1917 to reach that of 1916.

PRODUCTION GREATER

"It is estimated that the coal production for 1917 was some 76,324 tons (2240 lb.) greater than it was in 1916 and again nearly approaches the pre-war rate of production. But for the unfortunate occurrences in the Crow's Nest Field, already referred to, a much more material increase would have been shown, as the Vancouver Island Collieries made a gross output of 1,698,235 tons or about 205,474 tons more than in the preceding year. It is interesting to note that the 1917 production of the Island Collieries created a new record for Vancouver Island coal output, the total being 1,698,235 tons as compared to 1,492,761 in 1916, and an increase over the previous record year of 1910 of 72,305.

"The production of the British Columbia Collieries in value for 1917 is about \$8,518,784, a decrease, as compared to 1916, of \$381,391. As the value of the coal output shows an increase of \$267,145, it will be seen that the falling-off is represented by the decline of coke production amounting, as against that of 1916, to \$849,026 in value. The cause again is to be found in the three month cessation of operation of the Crow's Nest Pass Collieries. Estimating conservatively, the produce of these collieries for that period, despite the labor shortage, would have been roughly \$712,000. This would have made the total value of the Provincial Collieries' production \$9,230,784, or an increase over 1916 of \$330,095.

LESS ORE MINED

"The total tonnage of ore mined in British Columbia in 1917 approximates 2,597,725. In 1916 it was about 2,200,000 tons and in 1915, 2,700,000 tons.

"Although the figures quoted, in so far as they deal with Metalliferous mining, are not so good as the conditions at this time last year led us to expect, they are far from being discouraging; in fact they are, viewed in their true perspective, very encouraging. In comparing the estimate value of the 1917 production with any previous year excepting 1916, it is seen that the 1917 output exceeds any other; for instance, it is nearly \$5,000,000 greater than the former record year of 1912. It may be added that, but for the handicapping circumstances given, the hope expressed at the commencement of the year that the output for the Province for 1917 would reach the \$50,000,000 mark, probably would have been realized.

NEW ACT BENEFICIAL

"It is proper that I should refer briefly, while dealing with the mining industry, to the effect of the application during 1917 of the "Mineral Survey & Development Act". In accordance with its provisions the Province has been divided into six mineral survey districts and highly qualified mining engineers placed in charge of each. On their recommendations the expenditure of the sum of about \$127,827.54 has been authorized for aid to roads and trails to mines. Prospectors, operators and generally all engaged in mining have welcomed this measure as one calculated to stimulate production. With the steps that are to be taken under this Act by diamond drilling to establish as nearly as possible, the available tonnage of Iron Ore, of economic value, in British Columbia and the expert investigation underway of the best means of encouraging the establishment of the necessary modern plant for the refining of this mineral, it does not seem too much to say that the Province is about to derive the benefit in industrial expansion and substantially increased revenues of the development of these admittedly large mineral deposits."

WILLING TO PAY BUT NOT TO BE HELD UP

Heads of Mine Companies
Confer With Government
on Taxation.

J. W. Weart Proposed that
Charges Be Only on
Net Profits.

Government Asked to Name
Committee to Enquire
Along This Line.

Two per Cent. Royalty Tax
on Ore Will Probably Gov-
ern This Year.

Victoria, April 4.—Representatives of the larger mining companies met the select mining committee of the House this morning, following a conference of last evening, with the result that a resolution was passed asking the government to appoint a special committee of the House to cooperate with a committee of mining men in an endeavor to bring in a solution of the mining taxation difficulty along the lines of a tax upon net profits as outlined by Mr. J. W. Weart. It is the intention to have the proposition as presented printed and circulated throughout the mining districts of the province in order that it may be fully considered by session. In the meantime, for this year it was agreed that a substitution would be put into effect whereby the two per cent. royalty tax on ore would be retained, and to it would be added a special tax not exceeding two per cent. additional on all properties where the output exceeded \$50,000 per year, according to smelter returns.

CONSIDERED BY MINISTER

The resolution was presented to Hon. John Hart today, and is receiving his consideration. It will be noted that the committee recommendation does away with the 10 per cent. income tax to which the mineowners had taken great exception. The committee asked this morning, if the government decided not to accept its suggestion for the retention of the two per cent. tax, with a two per cent. surtax, that consideration be given to the proposals advanced by Mr. J. E. Sears last evening for further exemptions from the 10 per cent. income tax so as to make it virtually a net profits tax, and to set it as alternative to the two per cent. royalty, levying whichever was the greater.

LAST NIGHT'S CONFERENCE

Representatives of four big mining companies which have invested between thirty and thirty-five million dollars in British Columbia, met the House mining committee last evening. At this conference, Mr. J. Edward Sears, who appeared for the mining interests, proposed that in addition to the concessions already suggested by the government, it allow interest on capital borrowed outside of the province in the list of deductions from the income tax, that the proposed deduction allowance for depreciation cover repairs and run as high as 15 per cent., that a deduction allowance be made for work done in development of mining properties and that provision also be made to allow for mine exhaustion. Mr. Sears' suggestion in this connection was that the mine exhaustion allowance be set at 7 per cent. of the paid-up capital used in the actual mining or reduction of ores.

Mr. J. W. Weart proposed that all mining taxation be based upon the actual net profits of the mines, so that if they were not making money they would not have to pay any taxation. This view found several supporters, but others leaned to the suggestion of Mr. J. J. Warren, managing director of the Trail Consolidated Company, who suggested that the tax remain on the ore royalty basis with such temporary surtaxes as the government might require. He pleaded in favor of having mining companies treated upon a basis entirely separate from any other industry. All of the mining men forecast paralysis of the industry under the government taxation sought to be collected last year.

MINING MEN PRESENT

Among those who spoke for the industry were Messrs. J. Edward Sears, G. W. Wooster of Granby, J. J. Warren, Oscar Lachmund of the Canada Copper Corporation, D. G. Marshall, K. C., of the Britannia Mining Company, and Col. Bruce of Windermere district.

Manager Oscar Lachmund of the Canada Copper Corporation provided the committee with some information with respect to the situation of his company. He said its smelter at Greenwood would be on its last legs unless custom business was developed. In so far as the company's own mine was concerned the Greenwood smelter would be dead within a year. The company started with a capital of five millions, practically all of which was paid up. It had declared \$500,000 in dividends during its history. It would not be producing at Copper Mountain for at least two years, and in addition to spending \$1,500,000 in exploration and development work it would have to expend an additional \$2,500,000 before it could expect any returns. At Copper Mountain the concern had blocked out ten million tons of positive ore and five million tons of probable ore and there was a good chance of doubling up this quantity. The ore yielded only 1.3-4 per cent. copper. For its operations the company had borrowed \$2,500,000. Mr. Lachmund told the committee that it was intended to carry on development work at Copper Mountain together with production in order to keep the mine prepared for the future, a provision which 90 per cent. of the mines of the province failed to make. In the light of the history and work of his company it would be unfair, he considered, for the government to impose a heavy burden of taxation and thus shut out an important, but so far comparatively unremunerative project.

NOT MAKING MONEY

Col. Bruce of Windermere detailed the history of the Paradise mine, in which more than a quarter of a million

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1918.

had been spent without any appreciable return. This mine, after years of idleness because of the expense of ore shipments, was reopened in 1916 and had since shipped 4000 tons of ore. He maintained that even the 2 per cent. ore royalty tax was a hardship on the mine which was not making money. He was strongly in favor of a net profits tax, an attitude which apparently also had the support of Mr. Nelson, member for Slokan, who pointed out that to raise the 2 per cent. would make the situation very difficult for the small mineowner.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite told the committee that it should not do anything to discourage the investment of capital because after the war British Columbia would need capital as the province had never needed money before. He remarked that he thought the talk about the overwhelming debt of the province and the necessity of very high taxation was greatly exaggerated. He considered that the taxation levy of the government did not give much encouragement to the mining industry, which could not flourish without the investment of foreign capital.

"We are not trying to evade taxation," said Mr. Warren of the Trail Consolidated. "We realize that we must bear our share and we are willing to have our taxes increased. But we do not want you to do anything which would paralyze the industry and keep capital out of the province."

OPPOSES RETROACTIVE CLAUSE.

Mr. Warren objected to having the proposed 1918 tax made retroactive. He called it a jug-handled arrangement, framed apparently in the idea that British Columbia was full of rich mines. If it went into effect, the Consolidated, for instance, would lose money on its Rossland properties, where it only made a small return at present. He pointed out that so far Grandy had received less than 5 per cent on its capital during its existence, while Trail Consolidated had obtained about 5 per cent.

"Do not put into effect a policy which means taking us by the neck, turning us upside down and shaking the money out of our pockets," he urged. "If you need the money, as you do, add a supertax of one or two per cent to your two per cent. ore royalty. Let it be known that this is a wartime tax and merely temporary. Then you will obtain the revenue you need from the industry, but will not frighten away the investor. The two per cent. idea is wrong in principle, and I agree that the net profits tax as suggested is right in theory, but at all events the two per cent. royalty is a direct tax, and is simple in operation. It would be for the time being. It has the great advantage of charging the mine only on its actual commercial production, and does not, like the 10 per cent. tax, charge upon all money spent in interest on borrowed capital, upon reserves for exhaustion, depreciation, repairs, development, and so forth. Under that 10 per cent. tax no one would think of opening up new mines because if he made any money the government would take it all."

Mr. D. G. Marshall spoke for the Tonopah-Belmont interests at Surf Inlet, drawing the committee's attention to the necessity of making special allowances for gold-mining companies in view of the fact that their costs of operation were rising, but the value of the gold dollar, insofar as its purchasing power was concerned, was dropping.

EQUAL PENSIONS FOR OFFICERS AND MEN

Present System in Canada Was Founded on the British Plan.

Victoria, April 4.—By unanimous vote the Legislature yesterday gave its approval to a resolution by J. S. Cowper of Vancouver and seconded by Mrs. Smith, favoring equal pensions for officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Canadian forces.

Mr. Cowper announced that he had been asked by the Great War Veterans to offer the resolution and similar motions had also been brought up in other Legislatures. The pensions system as already adopted in Canada had been founded upon the British system which, of course, recognized distinctions between officers and men. The influence which the Old Country situation had upon Canadian regulations was recently shown, said the speaker, in the probating of wills of private soldiers. It had been somewhat difficult to have their wills probated because in Great Britain the laws had never contemplated a condition where a private soldier would be the owner of land.

It had been the boast of Canada, however, that all classes rushed to the colors as soon as war broke out and many men in the ranks were as well educated as those holding commissions. On the broader democratic basis of equal treatment for all, however, both men and officers should get the same pensions, he maintained. For instance, assuming that the officers

were principally men who prior to the war had earned their living from brain work and the private had lived by manual endeavor, the common soldier wounded at the front would suffer the greatest damage to his future prospects in life.

To establish a graded pensions system, except insofar as extent of injury was concerned, would tend to destroy democratic ideals in Canada, declared the speaker. It would set up some such situation as prevailed on a recent troop ship bringing back wounded men from the front where 529 soldiers had one-third of the deck space and twelve officers occupied the remaining two-thirds.

The House adopted the resolution without debate.

FOR INSPECTION OF ALL CASES OF "T. B."

Many Suggestions by Members in Discussion of Dr. McLean's Bill.

Victoria, April 4.—Compulsory legislation providing for inspection of all cases of "white plague" would be the only solution of the tuberculosis situation, claimed W. A. McKenzie, Similkameen member, in a House discussion yesterday upon the Hospital Act amendment. This bill is framed to encourage hospitals to take tuberculosis cases and allows them an extra 50 cents per day government grant for that purpose. It also provides for provincial trips of a medical health officer who shall have power to inspect the cases in hospitals.

The particular clause with regard to the inspection of patients aroused a good deal of comment during the discussion, several members, including Dr. Sutherland and Revelstoke and G. G. McGeer of Richmond, maintaining that little advantage would be gained from an inspection of the patient and in any event it could not properly be carried out to any great extent without the permission of the patient. Other members urged that this was absolutely necessary. Although Provincial Secretary MacLean was asked to stick to his guns he announced that he would have the clause stood over for the purpose of modification so that the proposed inspection would merely be of the conditions surrounding the patient in the hospital.

Mr. McKenzie argued that while inspection of advanced hospital cases was all right in its way, more effective ground would be covered in an inspection of all incipient cases for the protection of the public against a disease which had been treated all too lightly. He considered that every possible step should be taken to safeguard interior towns in favorable climate from being exposed to new-comers who enter them for the purpose of regaining health and who freely mingled with the population.

Dr. Sutherland advocated the selection by the government of the Tranquille location for the proposed new joint government white plague hospital for returned soldiers.

Mr. Bell of Victoria told of an instance where a small municipality had been forced to expend \$2000 for the treatment of a tubercular patient coming destitute from Alberta. Municipalities should not be made to suffer merely because they were climatically suited for the cure of consumption, he thought. He proposed an inter-provincial arrangement to cover such cases.

Fred Anderson of Kamloops was strongly in favor of hospital inspection by a provincial officer of tubercular patients. He went on to outline a scheme for the division of the province into hospital districts and the assignment to a specified hospital of all advanced cases in that district. Special wings or wards would be necessary, but a concentration of advanced patients would be advantageous.

Dr. MacLean pointed out that the government already had provision under the Health Act for reports on consumption cases and steps in this direction were being provided for. This statement was made in reply to the suggestion from the Similkameen member, Mr. Hawthorthwaite of New-Castle emphasized the necessity of sterner measures in the fight against the white plague, referring to the hotbeds of disease created by Chinatowns, and also urging the government to strike at the root of the trouble which lay in poor working and living conditions in the cities.

Mr. F. A. Pauline of Saanich and Mr. M. B. Jackson were other contributors to the debate.

P. G. E. and Other Interest Charges Form Deficit.

Thus Hon. John Hart Thinks Govt. Doing Very Well.

Justification of Taxes Is Urged in Speech.

VICTORIA, April 4.—Hon. John Hart delivered his first budget speech in the Legislature today. Though he has been head of the department of finance for comparatively a short time, he showed a creditable grasp of affairs and made an excellent impression in the delivery of his address, which was before a large audience in the gallery.

In opening, Hon. Mr. Hart referred in appropriate terms to the death of Hon. H. C. Brewster, who delivered his first and only budget speech a year ago. After congratulating Mr. Speaker Keen and Mrs. Ralph Smith on their honorable positions in the House, the minister referred in general terms to the financial situation, which he said was "serious, demanding careful study and not a little sacrifice on the part of all, but it is not incapable of satisfactory solution. It will have to be realized by everyone, however, that the province has now to pay the price of extravagance and living beyond its means for some years past. I can hold out no hope of immediate relief from increased taxation; all that the people have any right to expect from a government under the circumstances is that it shall make economy its slogan and shall so adjust the burden that all shall share equitably in meeting the greater demand which must be made upon their pockets in order that as a province they shall pay their way and maintain their credit."

POINTS TO FORMER GOVERNMENT

Incidentally, Hon. Mr. Hart then paid his respects to the former government which he said had in 1911 accumulated surpluses, which, however, "melted away like snow before a Chinook." The result of careless management during the final years of Conservative regime was, he said, to "enormously increase the proportion of the revenue which has to be paid out for purposes over which the government has no control, a proportion closely approximating 50 per cent. for the fiscal year we have just entered upon. In 1913-14 interest and sinking fund charges on account of the public debt required the appropriation of \$18,798,600 out of a net revenue of \$10,479,000—a little less than 5 per cent. For 1918-19 we have to ask the House to vote four times more than was needed five years earlier, no less than \$2,111,968, which makes big inroads on the amount which I estimate as the revenue for the twelve months. In little more than two years our predecessors increased the debt from \$12,251,646 to \$23,153,146."

REVISION FOR FARMS AND MINES.

Hon. Mr. Hart then recalled the appointment of the Taxation Commission and foreshadowed changes in the incidence of taxation this session, especially regarding mines and industrial plants and added: "It is the policy of the administration to foster production in all lines and to encourage capital to come in and assist us in the development of the province's great natural resources. Improvements will be effected in the taxation laws as these affect the farming community. In the system of assessment of real property there are glaring inequalities and injustices, instances of which come to my attention almost daily, and the farmer undoubtedly has a very real grievance there. Most, if not all, the complaint about increased taxation is due to this conviction that his farm is assessed at an unjust and in many cases an absurdly inflated figure. We plan to have a complete new assessment of all real property coming under provincial taxation made during the next few months, on which the 1919 rolls will be based. This work will be done by men competent and experienced in each district and an amount has been placed in the estimates to meet the cost."

INCREASES FOR BANKS.

On the question of taxation against banks, the minister said: "As was stated by the Premier last year, a surtax doubling the amount payable by banks was imposed for 1917, but no change was made in the rate of taxation for this year, the banks offering to submit proposals which would, it was claimed, bring in the same amount of revenue from this source as the government planned to obtain but would levy it more fairly upon the various banking institutions.

However, the banks tend to introduce a well place the rate \$3000 for one off bank and \$500 each branches in the pr

TAX SALE THIS

Hon. Mr. Hart policy of appointment for the purpose of amount of arrears exchequer, and also tax in the cities, itself by results of work. It is our close collection of collectors have been in arrears of this sorting to the 1 provided by the Tax found necessary. tion during the p tax sale, it being since one was a action of arrears, all that is colle million dollars so

SUMMARY OF

"From a state surveyor of taxes arrears of general outstanding on amounted to \$4, to which the ar outstanding and Returns from as more remote dist 1917 there were the large sum sum represented from 1887 onwards arrears of school collectors did r collected on acc so that complet I am confident prosecution of and the stimulu be able to sho session.

WANTING ALL

consideration I thi rent taxes was 1917. Especially word as to the farmers of the the increased d spite of the a friends opposite they were being spite of the \$3 extravagantly high cases men had a tion to their ju are bearing their tion without gr where the blame which the peopl have to carry, that the govern promise to equa load. With a ment on farm la of improvement will have to est source will not this year, so fa ers of 1918 are satisfied, Mr. I expect such an rural population finance will no any shortage of

HOW PROVINC

"Coming to th the fiscal year for which were government, we net revenue \$ against an esti \$44,015.13. On tual net expend as compared wit \$31,374.86. The was a deficit of up the grand which the late lated in five ye The net debt March 31, 191 Current assets in the hands c and collectors, amounts arrears counts receivab and equipment, on trust account \$8,047,264. Curr to \$9,475,000. Bal ance of \$1,428,1 drafts at the C merce of \$594,1 count, and \$1,0 draft.

STANDING AS

Hon. Mr. Har apparently no balance the per general ledger s He adds: "Passing now penditure for th Sunday, March 3 the net revenue ending with Dec \$6,794,671.30, ag net expenditure of \$5,544,899.02. Ever, obligation ministrations is count for a fur \$25,576.13. Thi \$10 applied to 1 1887 loan, \$1,26 loan to and int of the Pacific G \$45.56 paid out. this we have r Land Settlement the sum of \$74. "These latter tated the \$1,000,000 which \$1,000,000 special overdra Bank of Compt treasury bill is Act, 1916, and

However, the banks have not been able to implement this promise, and we intend to introduce an amendment which will place the rate of bank taxation at \$500 for one office or branch of a bank and \$500 each for any other branches in the provinces.

TAX SALE THIS YEAR.

Hon. Mr. Hart continued: "The policy of appointing special collectors for the purpose of getting in the large amount of arrears owing to the public exchequer, and also collecting the poll-tax in the cities, has fully justified itself by results. These will be kept at work. It is our intention to make a close collection of the income-tax and collectors have been instructed to get in arrears of this tax still owing, reported to the legal machinery provided by the Taxation Act, if this is found necessary. It is also our intention during the present year to hold a tax sale, it being several years since one was held. Special attention will continue to be paid to the collection of arrears until we have got in all that is collectible of nearly five million dollars so outstanding.

SUMMARY OF ARREARS.

"From a statement prepared by the surveyor of taxes it appears that the arrears of general taxes which were outstanding on December 31 last amounted to \$4,776,408.12, in addition to which the arrears of school taxes outstanding amounted to \$168,402.99. Returns from assessors in all but the more remote districts show that during 1917 there were collected arrears to the large sum of \$55,511.85. The sum represents arrears for every year from 1897 onwards and includes some arrears of school taxes. Some of the collectors did not give the amount collected on account of the latter tax, so that complete returns would increase the total which I have given. I am confident that between vigorous prosecution of the work of collection and the stimulus of a tax sale we shall be able to show much larger returns in the next session.

ENDING ALL CIRCUMSTANCES INTO CONSIDERATION I think the payment of current taxes was fairly satisfactory in 1917. Especially do I wish to say a word as to the manner in which the farmers of the province are meeting the increased demands upon them. In spite of the attempts made by our friends opposite to convince them that they were being badly used, and in spite of the fact that owing to extravagantly high assessments in many cases men had to pay out of proportion to their just share, the farmers are bearing their burden of extra taxation without grumbling. They realize where the blame lies, for the load which the people of British Columbia have to carry, and they realize, too, that the government is sincere in its promise to equalize the weight of that load. With a revision of the assessment on farm lands, and the exemption of improvements the amount which we will have to estimate in 1918 from this source will not be as large as it is this year, so far as the farm taxpayers of 1918 are concerned, but I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that we can expect some increase in agricultural population that the minister of finance will not have to provide for any shortage of revenue.

HOW PROVINCE STANDS.

"Coming to the public accounts for the fiscal year 1916-17, the estimates for which were prepared by the late government, we find that the actual net revenue was \$6,906,785.63, as against an estimated revenue of \$5,944,015.13. On the other hand the actual net expenditure was \$9,079,317.70, as compared with the estimate of \$11,301,374.86. The net result of the year was a deficit of \$2,172,532, which rolls up the grand total of the deficits which the late government accumulated in five years to \$12,458,751.

The net debt of the province at March 31, 1917, was \$20,946,949.98. Current assets include cash balances in the hands of government agents and collectors, advances to departments and rural school trustees, accounts receivable, live stock, stores and equipment, and special deposits on trust accounts, the whole amounting to \$3,047,284. Current liabilities amount to \$3,475,846, showing an adverse balance of \$428,562. There are overdrafts at the Canadian Bank of Commerce of \$59,639.17 on current account, and \$1,000,000 special overdraft.

STANDING AS TO LOANS.

Hon. Mr. Hart went on to say that apparently no attempt was made to balance the personal ledgers with the general ledger accounts prior to 1913. He adds:

"Passing now to the revenue and expenditure for the year which closed on Sunday, March 31, it will be found that the net revenue for the nine months ending with December 31 amounted to \$6,794,871.30, against which we have a net expenditure chargeable to income of \$5,544,889.03. Unfortunately, however, obligations for which this administration is not responsible account for a further expenditure of \$2,068,876.12. This is made up of \$703,472.84 invested in sinking funds, \$381,210 applied to the redemption of the 1887 loan, \$1,261,847.92 on account of loan to and interest paid on account of the Pacific Great Eastern, and \$24,945.56 paid out in interest on behalf of the Nakusp and Slocan. In addition to this we have made advances to the Land Settlement Board amounting to the sum of \$74,994.09.

These latter items have necessitated the borrowing of \$2,850,000, of which \$1,000,000 was in the form of a special overdraft at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, \$800,000 in a treasury bill issued under the Loan Act, 1916, and under the Loan Act,

1917, \$800,000 in a debenture issue and \$250,000 in a treasury bill. It will thus be seen that in spite of the net expenditure chargeable to income being kept within the net revenue the very heavy capital expenditures and the sinking fund investments which we have had to provide have compelled us to resort to further borrowings which will in turn further reduce the revenue at our disposal for future years unless steps are taken to correspondingly increase the revenue.

"Without the complete figures for the year it is not possible to say accurately how these will compare with the estimates presented a year ago, but the indications are that the revenue will on the whole be well up to the amount which was then expected and that the expenditure will be considerably under the estimated sum which was appropriated by the Legislature. The receipts from the new taxes have been coming in very fully and in some cases somewhat better than might have been anticipated. Despite the antagonism to the increased tax on real property which was sought to be aroused by opponents of the government, the people liable for this tax have shown their appreciation of the financial needs of the province and their confidence in the pledges this administration has given of economical conduct of public affairs by a response which is most gratifying.

Ten months ago, when Hon. Mr. Hart took office, the best rate at which money was obtainable was 7 1/2 per cent. But the government awaited a more favorable market and saved approximately \$200,000 thereby. The federal authorities loaned them \$2,000,000 at 3 1/2 per cent and a further \$500,000 was secured at 3-4, a showing for which he thought the government was justified in feeling proud. Mr. Hart thinks "that the credit of the province in the money markets is improving as a result of the businesslike and economical administration which is now in force, and this is a direct answer to the statement of the leader of the opposition that he did not consider the bonds of this province good security."

IN IMPROVED FORM.

In presenting the estimates, the finance minister prefaced his remarks with the following:

"It will be found by honorable gentlemen that the document now placed before them, the improved form of which will have appealed to them at first sight, presents the estimates of the coming year on a classified and standardized basis, clearly setting forth the expenditures which will require to be made in each of the several departments and their branches. In the past this has not been done, nor has it been possible for anyone unacquainted with the system prevailing to ascertain from either the estimates or the public accounts the exact expenditure of any particular office or department.

"Detailed estimates prepared in the form presented, together with the public accounts submitted on a similar basis, will afford more direct control over the expenditure of public money, will enable members more intelligently to discuss the government's budget, and tend to more efficient and economical administration. It will also be observed that the capital expenditures have been segregated from those chargeable to income, which has never been done before in the body of the estimates."

AN "APPARENT" DEFICIT.

Hon. Mr. Hart continued: "The requirements of the public service for the year which are chargeable to income amount to \$9,858,854.08, and I estimate that our revenue will be \$9,900,055.13. There would thus be a surplus of \$41,801.05 over the expenditure which is chargeable to current account, but as there are in addition expenditures on capital account amounting to \$1,953,440, the net result is that there will be an apparent deficit of \$1,711,638.95 on the financial operations of the year.

"It is worth noting, however, Mr. Speaker, that three of the items of capital outlay which we have to provide for—sinking fund, Pacific Great Eastern interest and interest on mortgage on British Columbia House—practically balance this deficit, so that we are able to present to the House and the country a budget in which our expenditure on current account and that chargeable to capital account is not a direct outcome of the mismanagement of our predecessors brought within our income. It has been a long time since such an achievement was known in this province.

I have already dealt with the tremendous increase in the amount which has to be provided out of current account to take care of the interest on our public debt. For this year the sum required for this purpose is \$1,469,878.08. The other heads of expenditure chargeable to revenue are these:

Legislation	100,000
Premier's office	12,750
Agriculture	218,584
Attorney-general	909,776
Education	1,777,290
Finance department	632,604
Fisheries	17,175
Labor department	16,170
Lands department	697,608
Mines department	325,504
Provincial secretary	1,633,345
Public works	1,794,840
Railway department	41,730

The expenditures which will have to be made on capital account are the following:

Sinking funds	\$718,940
Nakusp & Slocan (int. on bonds)	11,500
P. G. E. Ry. interest	907,200
Wallington Colliery Co.	15,000
B. C. House mortgage	9,750
Songhees Reserve works	50,000
Escondale Hospital	10,700

Colony Farm	4,000
Roads, streets, bridges, wharves	208,650
Ferries	17,700

"The whole sum which we ask the House to vote supply for the new fiscal year is thus \$11,611,694.08. In framing these estimates I do not think I need assure the House, the members of the administration have been animated by the desire to cut out all unnecessary expenditures and reduce our outlays to the lowest point consistent with efficient service and the maintenance of all useful operations. I have no doubt that our opponents, who never allowed considerations of revenue or the means of the taxpayers to foot the bills to interfere with their extravagance, will criticize us for paring all expenditure to the bone, but I have just as little doubt, Mr. Speaker, that we will receive the commendation of the people at large for doing what I will admit required some courage.

"We recognize that the people of this country, in common with their kin throughout the Empire, have a heavy strain put upon their resources to meet their share of the cost of the war, and we do not feel that we would be justified in making any further demands upon them in the way of taxation, so long as we can, by wise economies, keep our expenditures as close to our revenue as is possible. With the early peace which we hope for a decisive victory for the Allied arms, and with the return of prosperity generally, we look to a larger revenue from present sources and consequent ability to devote more wherever the requirements of the Province call for it. Nevertheless, I would reiterate that at no point have we starved any branch of governmental activity, and that there will be no impairment of service because the departments are being compelled to conduct business along ordinary business lines and at a minimum of expense."

WHERE REVENUE COMES FROM.

"The total revenue which we look for through the lands department is \$2,203,050. From timber licenses we estimate we will get \$1,500,000, from timber leases \$74,000, from timber royalties \$560,000 and from timber sales \$128,000. In view of the steadily falling receipts from land sales we do not think it wise to put this source down for more than \$50,000, but on the other hand the legislation which my honorable friend the minister of lands has brought down this session justifies us in looking for some what larger income from water rentals.

"This brings me to the treasury department, through which it is estimated that \$6,700,000 will be collected during the next year. The principal item here is that of income tax, from which source we expect \$2,315,000. This is double what we estimated as the revenue from that tax in the year just closed, the reason being that we will this year be collecting from mines on their income for last year as well as the present. We propose that mines shall be taxed at one per cent on the assessed value of ore removed, as in the past, or on income, whichever is the larger. There is no doubt that in the greater number of cases the amount payable on income will exceed what would be collectible as mineral tax, and therefore we are certain of a considerable revenue there. On the other hand the sum likely to come in mineral tax will be much less than hitherto, and we place the estimate at \$85,000. For the past couple of years this tax has yielded about \$285,000 annually. With closer collection of income tax generally I think the figure at which we have placed our estimate is a safe one.

"Basing our estimate upon the manner in which the taxes came in up to the end of December I consider that we can quite reasonably expect for the coming year to derive \$1,000,000 from the real property tax, \$600,000 from the personal property tax and \$700,000 from the tax on wild coal and timber lands. The poll tax ought to bring in \$300,000, as the activity in industrial enterprises will attract many workers from outside, who will become liable for the tax as soon as they have been one month in the province. The tax on patrons of places of amusement is working very smoothly and is expected to produce \$220,000. The amount received from this source so far shows the accuracy of the estimate of last session, which was based on the probability of the tax being in force for five months of the fiscal year. From succession duties we may look for \$300,000 and several smaller items of revenue make up the total which is set out under the head of the treasury department.

FARMS AND FISHERY.

Reviewing agricultural development, Hon. Mr. Hart said that the production from farms and orchards last season shows an estimated increase of \$1,750,000 over 1916. A splendid and patriotic work was done by women in helping our fruit and vegetable growers to successfully harvest their crops.

The fishery products of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1917, totalled \$15,311,954, a gain over the previous year of \$773,634.

The total value of the fishery products of the entire Dominion of Canada for the fiscal year totalled \$39,208,378, a gain of \$3,347,870 over former year.

Of the total fishery products of the Dominion, British Columbia produced 33.30 per cent. The province again, as in recent years, leads all the provinces of the Dominion in the value of her fishery products. The output of British Columbia exceeded that of Nova

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1918.

Scotia, the second on the list of provinces of the Dominion, by \$5,213,042. And the value of British Columbia fishery products exceeded the total of all the other provinces combined by \$1,508,432.

The salmon pack for the calendar year 1917 totalled 1,557,455 cases, the largest in the history of the canning industry, notwithstanding that the sockeye did not run to the Fraser River in comparable numbers with former big years.

LUMBER AND PULP.

The total value of production in the forest industries of this province last year was \$48,913,115, compared with \$35,528,000 in 1916, an increase of \$13,385,115, or about 38 per cent.

The most remarkable increase is in the production of pulp, which in 1917 was valued at \$7,447,680, as against \$3,520,000 for the year before.

Seventy-nine thousand, eight hundred and three tons of paper were manufactured, as against 65,229 tons in 1916, an increase of 22 1/2 per cent., and in addition 26,595 tons of pulp were produced, compared with 14,389 tons in 1916, an increase of 85 per cent.

Twenty-three hundred million shingles were manufactured, as against 1900 million in 1916, an increase of 21 per cent.

Eleven hundred and twenty-nine million feet of lumber was cut, compared with 920 million feet in 1916, an increase of 22 1/2 per cent.

The activity in the lumbering business during the past year is shown by the increase in logs scaled throughout the province, the total having risen from 1250 million feet in 1916 to 1847 million in 1917, an increase of 38 1/2 per cent.

The forest revenue of the province has reflected this striking improvement by increasing 18 per cent. to a total of \$2,162,170. Included in this is the sum of \$809,000 paid as royalty on cut logs, a figure which breaks all previous records and which exceeds last year's collection by no less than 60 per cent.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1918.

MINIMUM WAGE BILL SOON TO BE LAW

No Opposition to Measure Developed in Legislature Thursday.

Credit Is Given Mrs. Ralph Smith for Grappling With Social Problems.

Probably Not More Than Two Seed Grain Districts This Year.

Leader of Opposition Will Speak on Game Act This Afternoon.

Victoria, April 5.—Mrs. Ralph Smith's Minimum Wage Bill got safely through second reading yesterday and, judging from the temper of the House, will have no trouble in the remainder of its legislative journey.

Mr. Alex. Fisher of Fernie, Mr. J. H. Hawthorthwaite of Newcastle and Mr. M. A. Macdonald of Vancouver discussed the bill yesterday. The references of the first two speakers soon got away entirely from the measure and they drifted into a general sociological discussion, in which, of course, Mr. Hawthorthwaite was thoroughly in his element. He entertained the House with a lengthy dissertation on living conditions of the workers and although met with a number of interruptions from Mr. McGee of Richmond and Mr. Fisher, who had preceded him, managed to find his way through the complicated argument.

Mr. Fisher, as is his custom, drew the discussion into the "simultaneous development of correlated industries," his favorite topic. He declared that the question of a minimum wage was linked up with living costs and told the House of what was being done in the Crow's Nest coal mine district, where a commission sat regularly to base wages upon the changed living conditions. He pointed out that Mrs. Smith's bill, which provides for a minimum wage commission for women and girls, was not an absolute wage arrangement, but was merely relative. He said under the law of supply and demand women were not getting a decent living wage, the government was

justified in assisting them by legislation, he considered. The state should go further, however, he thought, and see that the cost of living was cut down. This was the main factor in the adjustment of wages.

DISCUSSION OF EFFORTS.

Mr. Fisher described the advantages which would come with the establishment of public cold storage facilities in order that provision prices could be kept from soaring. But a minimum wage law would not bring much use, he said, if sugar and coal prices went up regularly. There would naturally be a tendency on the part of employers, he believed, to increase the price of their products the moment such a bill as this forced up the wages of women workers. However, although the bill had merely an ameliorative effect, rather than curative properties, it was worthy of support, he considered.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite considered that the law of supply and demand did not apply to the wage situation, the wages of the worker the world over being based upon his production. The Newcastle member remarked that Mr. Weart's effort to present minimum wage legislation would have gone along for several years without success, but it remained for a woman to force the government to adopt such a bill. Exclusive credit for this legislation should go to Mrs. Smith, he said.

MORE COMPLAINTS.

Mr. M. A. Macdonald remarked on the fact that, with the exception of Mr. Hawthorthwaite, no opposition members had discussed the measure. He prophesied, however, that the opposition, despite its apparent reluctance to accept any bill favoring of social reform, would not have the hardihood to vote against this legislation. He was glad to see provision made for the creation of a board which would ensure decent living wages for the women workers who were not in a position to help themselves. Establishments which paid good wages would have nothing to fear from the bill; it was aimed only to cure the evils created by those employers who exploited labor. While it was true that the bill interfered with the freedom of contract and to some extent with the law of supply and demand as related to the price paid for labor, at the same time, said Mr. Macdonald, the government was justified in accepting it. Exclusive credit for the bill belonged to Mrs. Smith, the speaker pointed out, mentioning also that he was glad to see the nomination of a member who would give first attention to social problems.

SEED GRAIN GOES THROUGH.

With the acceptance by the government of a suggestion made a day or two ago by Mr. Hawthorthwaite, the bill for the protection of seed grain went through committee yesterday and is now reported for third reading. The amendment briefly provides that the lieutenant-governor-in-council may establish and define one or more seed-grain areas within which the registration is to apply. This will save other districts of the province from the operation of the proposed act, which provides that all seed-growers must obtain license from the department of agriculture, whether their seed is for commercial purposes or not. This had been the chief complaint against the bill, and is removed by the new amendment which Premier Oliver submitted yesterday.

Mr. Bowser asked how many seed-grain districts would be created, and was informed by the Premier that there would probably not be more than two this year. Mr. McKenzie of Simlismen was anxious to know where they would be located.

"There will be no seed-grain area except in a locality where seed is to be grown for distribution," explained the Premier. "It is quite possible that this year the seed growers' operations may be confined to the production of tubers and roots for the seed crop of next year. In this event it may not be necessary to set apart any particular areas this season."

FOR TUBERCULAR PATIENTS.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite yesterday presented for second reading his bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act in order to have miners' consumption and hernia included in compensation casualty list, which at present covers only accidents, industrial diseases being omitted. Attorney-General Farris adjourned the debate.

The Hospital Act amendment, which gives hospitals an extra 50 cents per day for each tubercular patient cared for, went through committee stage.

The only amendment made was one proposed by Dr. Sutherland of Revelstoke to modify the clause dealing with the compulsory inspection of tubercular patients in hospitals by a provincial medical health officer. Dr. Sutherland's change called for "supervision" instead of "inspection," his intention being that the work of the provincial officer will not comprise personal inspection of the patient, possibly against the patient's will, but instead will consist of a survey of the conditions under which the victim of white plague is cared for at the hospital.

The Settled Estates Act amendment was given third reading, the Infants' Act amendment and Ditches and Watercourses Act amendment going through the same process. The Statutes and Journals Act amendment was committed, with also the amendment to the Administration Act and that to the Burnaby-New Westminster Sewer Act. All three went through committee without debate, and the Burnaby-New Westminster Act amendment was given third reading.

ON THE GAME ACT.

Mr. Bowser was to have spoken on the Game Act amendment which puts the game department under the provincial police, but it was five-thirty when the bill was reached on the order paper and the opposition leader promptly pleaded a headache and suggested that the debate be delayed until Friday. In view of Attorney-General Farris' frequent references to the habit of the opposition leader of speaking on Friday in order to get reports into the Saturday papers, Mr. Bowser's jocular appeal to the government not to force him to go on with his speech at 5:30 yesterday created a general smile. Hon. Mr. Oliver said that in view of the modesty of the opposition leader the request would be granted. Mr. Bowser will therefore deal with the Game Act amendment today.

Last night's order paper carries a series of questions from Mr. Schofield of Trail, asking if the arena rink in Vancouver is a place of amusement under the Amusement Tax Act and if so what amount of tax has been paid by the management to the government.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1918.

PROPOSES BANK FOR THE WEST

Mr. J. W. Weart Outlines a Scheme for \$20,000,000 Institution.

Banking System of Canada Is Scored by South Vancouver Member.

Victoria, April 6.—The creation of an inter-provincial bank for the four western provinces was proposed in the Legislature yesterday by Mr. J. W. Weart, member for South Vancouver. In an hour's speech on the Budget, Mr. Weart took up the banking system of Canada, opposed the tendency towards amalgamation and in an exhaustive review outlined the disabilities which he claimed the public labored under as a result of the present system. He considered that a new bank, or the re-creation of the Union Bank of Canada as a western institution for the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, with a joint capital of twenty millions would meet the needs of western people.

Discussing the Canadian banking situation and recent amalgamations, Mr. Weart said that the question which might be raised at this time was whether it was in the interests of the nation to continue the present system, leading to the reduction of competitive banking institutions, placing the whole fabric of finance under the domination of the few whom, he said, control the monetary and commercial interests of the Dominion or the establishment of a national institution or a reserve bank which would be the only institution having the power to take deposits and having the power also to issue paper money.

He went on to say: "Combination means, if it means anything, restraint of trade in various ways. It means playing into the hands of those who are now the controlling power, and it works to the detriment of the small trader."

OBTAINED GREAT POWER.

"By the power of issuing paper money, by the power of money deposited in savings account by the people, the banks are enabled to pay large dividends to their shareholders and to build up out of surplus profits a fund called a rest account in excess of their total capital and to invest millions in banking premises."

"How can this state of affairs be remedied, so that some of this excess profit would revert to the benefit of the people? My answer is unmistakably that the Parliament of Canada should establish a national institution in control of the powers now delegated to the banks, that institution to be the only one having power to issue paper money, the only institution with power to receive deposits, the only institution dealing with exchange, which step would be the means of closing a proportion of the 3100 branches of the chartered banks now in existence, many of which were established and are kept up primarily for the purpose of receiving deposits. All those branches that will be closed, or a number of them, could be replaced by the national institution."

"The national institution would make a profit of 4 1/2 per cent, which, taken on the capital and reserve of the banks in 1917, would mean 4 1/2 per cent. on two hundred and twenty-five millions of money or practically ten millions in the year. The national institution would act as a reserve bank or a re-discount bank. It would make a profit in loaning to the Dominion, which is always a borrower. It would make a profit in loaning to the provinces and municipalities and to the many domestic banks which would come into existence, which would have the same powers that the chartered banks would enjoy. It would also have the privilege of making whatever profit it could make, over the interest paid to

the depositors in liquidation of the depositors but at 1 1/2 per cent. lions would give a millions or a total of millions in the year

A BANK FOR THE WEST.

Mr. Weart's combability of a western bank were: "The Union Bank years ago, moved Quebec to Winnipeg bank that could be respect a western house returns for the whole of Canada trade was \$12,552 amount almost on million dollars was from provinces.

"Would it not of the west; would interests of the people time, instead of d number of competitive that number by the Inces joining han Bank of Canada, incorporating an inter-province subscri millions of capita capital \$20,000,000 tion would enjoy the present insti at once have the paper money. It greater than any It would be back than all the bank would be in contri ness of the four ing to the provi ties, schools and bodies."

PRESENT T IRRITAT

Vancouver Government Expe

Victoria, April the province obt practical taxati advise as to w be made in prov in what direct might properly expenses, were vncial executiv cover delegati Rounsefell, W. Kidd.

Mr. Rounsef spokesman, exp come to Victoria plan before the rather for the the taxation sit and to ascertain its views were. ed to act co-op not with any ing the govern emphasized the want a commi would greatly He pointed was growing t levy from the municipalities despite the fac terial increase province. It that a good of the present Pro forced to impo ditions existi ministratio w

Mr. Rounsef inary report w prepared in w figures designi taxes in Brit tively out of tion when con inces. He m to the increa during the pa specially in th British Colum ince which hi impose an inc fell. He thot in administr obtained if or ed all the fa for the local municipalities proposal that an expert to taxation situ the governm of administr tion which h to the burde to and the province wer thought that in the adm affairs was

Mr. Kidd tures in oth governments tion here prompt mea deplying, deputation to work the so possible to d time to pre mental however, en line. He re ary expense in the insu

the depositors in loaning a fair proportion of the depositors' money, which, if put at 1 1/2 per cent., eight hundred millions would give a profit of twelve millions or a total of some twenty-five millions in the year.

A BANK FOR THE WEST.

Mr. Weart's comment on the possibility of a western interprovincial bank were: "The Union Bank of Canada, a few years ago, moved its head office from Quebec to Winnipeg. It is the only bank that could be considered in any respect a western bank. The clearing house returns for 1917 show that for the whole of Canada the volume of trade was \$12,552,000,000; of that amount almost one-third or four billion dollars was from the four western provinces.

"Would it not be in the interests of the west; would it not be in the interests of the people of Canada at this time, instead of diminishing the number of competitive banks, to increase that number by the four western provinces joining hands with the Union Bank of Canada or New Bank, incorporating an interprovincial bank, each province subscribing for at least five millions of capital, making the joint capital \$20,000,000? Such an institution would enjoy the privileges that the present institutions have. It would at once have the privilege of issuing paper money. It would have a capital greater than any two combined banks. It would be backed by the four provinces; would be a stronger institution than all the banks today in existence; would be in control of all of the business of the four provinces; the municipalities, schools and other similar public bodies."

PRESENT TAXATION IRRITATING BURDEN

Vancouver Delegation Asks Government to Cut Down Expenditures.

Victoria, April 6.—Suggestions that the province obtain the services of a practical taxation expert who would advise as to where reductions could be made in provincial expenditure and in what direction the government might properly obtain funds to meet expenses, were advanced to the provincial executive yesterday by a Vancouver delegation, comprising E. W. Rounsefell, W. H. Malkin and George Kidd.

Mr. Rounsefell, who acted as spokesman, explained that they had come to Victoria not to lay a definite plan before the administration, but rather for the purpose of going into the taxation situation in a general way and to ascertain from the cabinet what its views were. The delegation desired to act co-operatively, he said, and not with any intention of embarrassing the government. The delegation emphasized the fact that they did not want a commission, but were of the opinion that an individual expert who could investigate matters without prejudice from a political standpoint would greatly assist the government. He pointed out that the tax burden was growing exceedingly heavy, the levy from the Dominion province and municipalities mounting year by year despite the fact that there was no material increase in the population of the province. It was realized, he said, that a good deal of the taxes which the present Provincial Government was forced to impose were created by conditions existing when the previous administration was in power.

Mr. Rounsefell read from a preliminary report which this committee had prepared in which were quoted many figures designed to show that the taxes in British Columbia were entirely out of proportion to the population when compared with other provinces. He made particular reference to the increase in administration cost during the past five or six years, especially in the list of civil servants. British Columbia was the only province which had found it necessary to impose an income-tax, said Mr. Rounsefell. He thought that a great saving in administration expenses might be obtained if one set of officials collected all the taxes in the province, both for the local government, the various municipalities and cities and the federal authorities. He also advanced the proposal that the government bring in an expert to investigate the general taxation situation here and to advise the government upon reorganization of administration expenditures and tax levies. He emphasized the irritation which he said existed with regard to the burden which the general public and the business interests of the province were called upon to bear and thought that the strictest economy in the administration of governmental affairs was now necessary.

Mr. Kidd referred to the expenditures in other provinces by the local governments and declared that the situation here warranted close study and prompt measures.

Replying, Premier Oliver told the deputation that owing to pressure of work the government had found it impossible to devote any great amount of time at present to the question of departmental reorganization, but had, however, endeavored to work along that line. He referred to the saving in salaried expense which had been achieved in the insurance department, in the

railway department, the work in the Songhees Reserve and in the merging of the game warden's department with that of the provincial police.

"Owing to abnormal conditions and the new demands which the government could not absolutely ignore, expenses could not be reduced as we would like," he added. "However, we are cutting down as fast as possible. Commissions of enquiry have not proven very fruitful in the past and it seems to me that it is not so essential to get expert advice as to apply the knowledge of conditions which we already have."

The Board of Trade deputation, which was accompanied by Ald. Kirk of Vancouver, proposes to go into the situation at greater length and will make a report to the board within a short time.

HE TELLS MINING MEN

Hon. John Oliver Defines Position of Government on Taxes.

Victoria, April 6.—Premier Oliver held out little hope to the mining men yesterday of any material reductions in the mining taxation, apart from the concessions which Hon. John Hart has already provided for. Last year the government charged the mining interests a two per cent. royalty, such as had been in existence for several years, but in addition levied a 10 per cent. income tax and a supertax. This year it is proposed to charge an alternative tax of the larger of the two.

The minister of finance proposes, however, to provide more exemptions to the income tax, such as depreciation on plant, salaries of resident directors, etc. This week the mining interests met the House mining committee, and as a result of the conference the committee recommend the abolition of the income tax on mines, and its replacement by an increase of the two per cent. royalty. Failing that, the committee considered that further additions should be made to the income tax exemption list, in order to include mine exhaustion, mine development, and interest on capital borrowed outside of the province.

The representatives of the mining interests meeting the government yesterday included Mr. J. J. Warren, Oscar Lachmund, G. W. Wooster, J. E. Sears and A. B. Clabon. They made out a strong case for special treatment for the mines on the claim that heavy taxation at present would prevent further expansion of the industry, and indeed might stop production in many of the low-grade propositions.

Premier Oliver pointed out to the deputation that the province had certain obligations to meet, otherwise it would be a defaulter. The only question to be considered was equality of distribution of the tax burden. If the mining men thought that the mining taxes would close down the industry then the situation would only bring provincial bankruptcy that much nearer.

It is understood that the government expressed a willingness to add development expenses to the list of income tax exemptions, but would go no further from the concessions already made by Hon. Mr. Hart. These concessions will be made retroactive to cover last year, it is said, and the major supertax will not apply.

PLANS TO MOVE MINE EXHIBIT TO FRONT

J. W. Weart's Speech Contains Many Suggestions for Government.

Complains at the Inaccurate Way Farm Statistics Are Obtained.

Would Deposit Municipal Sinking Funds With the Finance Minister.

Eighty Million Dollars on Deposit in British Columbia Banks.

Victoria, April 6.—A change in the system of taxing mines, the removal of the printing plant of the government from its present quarters in order to provide space for a fine mineral exhibit, and the deposit of municipal sinking funds with the minister of finance, were proposals by Mr. J. W. Weart in a speech on the budget in the Legislature yesterday.

Referring to the mining taxation situation, Mr. Weart thought the two

per cent. ore royalty tax basis unfair and inequitable. Instead he advocated a fair allowance for exhaustion, depreciation, interest, on borrowed capital and for development; also that after paying a profit of 7 per cent. all surplus profits should be divided between the crown and the owners on fair rates, 25 to 50 per cent. going to the crown.

BANK DEPOSITS HERE.

After paying a compliment to the minister of finance for his able presentation of the general taxation situation, Mr. Weart turned to that portion referring to revenues from banks. Cash received from this source during the last fiscal year, he said, was \$118,500. These sources of revenue were sixteen head offices and 167 branches of banks, which have now been reduced, with indications of further reductions. This tax revenue received was based upon the old tax plus the surtax, and will equal the present proposed tax providing for \$3000 tax levy on main offices and \$500 for bank branches. Mr. Hart in his budget speech had referred to the alternate statement to be made by the banks last year. Most of the banks, it was said, prefer a tax levied upon deposits, but this will fail to satisfy the larger banks, and the tax as levied bore more heavily on the smaller banks upon the volume of business done. Mr. Weart pointed out that one-quarter of one per cent. of the bank deposits of British Columbia would net \$200,000 or more, as there are more than \$30,000,000 on deposit in this province.

AGGREGATE TAXATION.

The speaker said he was glad to note Hon. Mr. Hart's statement that a revision of land taxes is proposed by the government. The total of real property taxable by the province is \$131,694,000, and of this \$25,600,000 is classed as "wild" property, he said. Quoting further, Mr. Weart said that the total (districts) Municipal Tax on the returns of 1916 was \$130,694,000, while the total (city) Municipal Tax was \$25,848,000, or double the amount of the provincial tax—then it is apparent that the total realty of this province has a value of over \$529,000,000, he said. An astounding condition of affairs has existed for a number of years most owing to the large number of small parcels of land assessed by the crown. In this province, said the South Vancouver member, there are 10,841 parcels paying 25 cents per annum, 6368 paying from 25 to 50 cents, 9419 paying from 50 to 75 cents and 13,765 paying from 75 cents to \$1 per annum. He ventured to state that it cost more money to collect from the 16,700 parcels in the first two classifications than the actual tax revenue amounts to. Surely, he said, section 52 of the Assessment Act should be amended, making a minimum of \$1 per annum on any and all parcels of land.

Discussing the advisability of moving the King's printer from his present palatial building to less valuable quarters and utilizing the present printing premises for the department of mines, Mr. Weart advocated the commonsense underlying such a move. The new estimates show, he said, that the cost of the printing department for the fiscal year will be \$153,000. He was not in a position to analyze this amount, but concluded that under the efficient management of the King's printer and the able supervision of the provincial secretary, that economy will be practiced. He raised the question then of removing the printing plant from its quarters in the handsome front wing of the Parliament buildings. This printing department, he said, is housed in the most expensive printing office premises in the world—while one of the best mineral exhibits in the world is lying unknown and rarely visited in inadequate premises upon a back street. Either this exhibit should be closed up or should be given equal prominence with the provincial museum, he said, advising Hon. William Sloan, minister of mines, that he take whatever steps are necessary in conjunction with the provincial secretary toward having the exchange made.

UNRELIABLE FIGURES.

Referring to the agricultural situation, Mr. Weart made it evident that he does not hold a very high opinion of some of the methods by which the department secures its statistical information.

He found in Bulletin No. 16, issued for 1917, that there are supposed to be in this province 27,950 swine as against 730,000 in Alberta; 43,800 sheep as against 276,900 in Alberta; 49,000 dairy cows as against 325,000 in Alberta—or in other words, the amount of cattle within this province, including dairy cows, calves, steers, bulls, etc., are given as 246,000, as against 1,535,000 in Alberta. But, said the speaker after looking over these returns and interviewing the statistician of the agricultural department, in order to learn the basis of this figuring—he received the most amateurish answer imaginable. He was told that more than 19,000 inquiries were sent out to British Columbia farmers asking them to report, and reports were made in 46 per cent. of the cases. Then, the totals of cattle, sheep and swine reported was divided by 46 and multiplied by 100—by which process the statistician derived the figures quoted in the bulletin. Deprecating this method of calculation, Mr. Weart said in the first place there is no such number as 19,000 farmers in this province, and it is a safe assumption that the larger farmers would make the requested return to the government. It is safe to say that 50 per cent. of the number who reported would more than equal the

gross number of swine, sheep and cattle owned by the remaining 54 per cent, who did not make the requested return. Upon this basis, which he thought reasonable or at least not so amateurish, said Mr. Weart, the cattle sheep and swine of British Columbia would not exceed 140,000 head, or 10 per cent of the figures of Alberta.

ON MUNICIPAL DEBTS.

On the question of municipal sinking funds, the speaker said that of 28 district municipalities within the province, nine have no debt, ten have no deficit in sinking fund, while nine have a deficit aggregating \$272,000. Of the city municipalities four have no debt, two are not known, thirteen have no deficit and sixteen have a deficit aggregating \$1,300,000. Combined, this municipal sinking fund deficit is \$1,569,000. On December 31, 1916, there was \$4,220,000 to the credit of city municipalities and \$241,000 to the credit of district municipalities, making a total sinking fund account of that date of \$6,131,000. In this connection Mr. Weart urged that section 191 of the Municipal Act be amended by making it compulsory for each municipality to deposit sinking funds with the minister of finance who could allow 5 per cent on them, giving the municipalities an increased profit over savings interest of over \$90,000 a year. The province also would save the difference between 5 and 6 1/2 per cent of over \$90,000, thus effecting a direct saving of more than \$180,000 a year.

CULTIVATION OF INDIAN RESERVES

F. W. Anderson Scores Commission for Expensive and Inadequate Report.

Victoria, April 6.—Co-operation between the Provincial and Federal governments in order to bring under cultivation the Indian reserves of the province, particularly those lying along the railway lines, was advocated by Mr. F. W. Anderson of Kamloops in a discussion on second reading of the Water Act amendments yesterday. Incidentally the member severely scored the Indian commission for having failed to bring in an adequate report. Said Mr. Anderson: "We were to have a solution of this problem given us through the now infamous Indian commission, which completed its labors with the fall of the Bowers Government. Where, oh where, is the infamous report now? I remember last year it was placed on our desks and just as suddenly removed therefrom. I presume that the removal was due to the fear that the shock of this \$350,000 report would be too much for the then many new and inexperienced members of this Legislature. I will be personally interested in considering the result of the work of the Indian commission in an endeavor to learn if it is possible, if there is any practical result of the work of the notorious and rapacious members of that commission commensurate with the expenditure of so much money. I am safe, I think, in presuming that we will hear on the floor of this House that the poor old war is to be blamed for the shattered hopes of this sometime grotesque body."

The Kamloops man got a good deal of enjoyment yesterday in joking fun at Mr. Jones of South Okanagan for his criticism of the water amendment. In more serious vein he replied to the attack which the Okanagan representative had made on the message and claimed for it practically all the virtues which Mr. Jones had considered it lacked. He suggested that if Mr. Jones believed that Okanagan road expenditures would be useless unless the irrigation companies were given government assistance, the minister of works might perhaps give the road money to the companies, in which event the South Okanagan representative would last with his constituents about as long as a snowball in the hot sun.

Mr. Anderson was inclined to think that the 1914 Water Act of Mr. Ross was a creditable measure. He denied that the new amendments would raise the irrigation costs to twelve dollars an acre as suggested by Mr. Jones, contending that if the charge went above five dollars, then the tap should be turned off.

Dealing with the proposal from Mr. Jones that the government protect the bond holders of irrigation companies, he continued:

"The argument advanced that the bond holders are not being sufficiently protected was not well considered by the honorable member for South Okanagan. People who have invested in irrigation corporations have done so with their eyes open and the fundamental principle prompting this government is that their duty first and foremost is to protect the tiller of the soil. The present unfortunate war is worked in and blamed by my honorable friend in his twilight understanding for the financial condition of the irrigation corporations in the interior of British Columbia. Let me point out to him one or two cases, ex-

amples of where this argument can not be sustained. In connection with the organization of the Kelowna Irrigation Company, the manager of the now defunct Dominion Trust took a considerable interest and as a result of the failure of the Dominion Trust Company a large sum representing the sinking fund for bonds floated by the Kelowna Irrigation Company was wiped out and has gone forever. The same may be said in regard to the Columbia Valley Orchard Company, which was also a baby of the Dominion Trust Company. The member for Columbia can probably give this House a better picture of the desolation caused when this orchard company went to the wall."

POWERS WILL BE BROADENED

Commissioner Findlay to Administer Act Under Attorney-general.

Request of Prohibition Delegation Refused Suggested Amendment.

Victoria, April 8.—Prohibition movement representatives were successful today in their attempts to induce the government to pass legislation forbidding the sale outside of the province of liquor brewed or distilled within British Columbia.

Under the existing Prohibition Act a brewery or distillery is able to sell liquor to points outside of British Columbia from which British Columbians may purchase, the liquor never actually leaving the province but upon order of the outside firm, being delivered direct from the brewery to the home of the consumer.

The deputation which discussed the question with Attorney-General Farris, assumed this was virtually an evasion of the act, and should be eliminated by amendment to the prohibition legislation. They also sought to have the right taken away from British Columbia agent of outside firms to take orders for liquor.

The attorney-general pointed out that the Dominion order-in-council did away with both conditions complained of and while it was true that the order-in-council was only to extend one year after the war, the prohibitionists would be free to bring the situation before the government at another session.

He intimated that the only amendments to the act this year would be those related to administration and that it was not intended to alter the principle of the act this session.

SOME AMENDMENTS.

Among the amendments to be introduced within the next week will be one covering the curious situation raised by a recent judgment in which Commissioner Findlay was declared not to have any legal status.

He will now be given express authority to administer the act under the attorney-general. Provision is to be made that manufacturing establishments and captains of vessels may keep a small amount of liquor on hand for emergency purposes, such as accidents.

Manufacturers of extracts and perfumes will be given wider latitude to have alcohol on their premises necessary for operation. A clause is to be inserted to the effect that a report from a provincial analyst shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of the strength of any liquor shown as exhibits in court proceedings.

MAY HAVE LIQUOR.

Formerly permission given to apartment house tenants to have liquor, applied only to apartment blocks in cities. It is planned now, however, to allow this privilege to all apartment blocks within the meaning of the act, whether within cities, towns or municipalities and they will be known hereafter as apartment houses.

Power will be given the police authorities to confiscate any liquor illegally kept. Under the present act confiscation could only take place if the liquor was illegally for sale. In future it need not be necessarily for sale to render it liable for confiscation.

This morning's deputation comprised Messrs. John Nelson, Rev. J. S. Henderson and Cecil Kilham. It was introduced by Gerald G. McGeer, M. P. P.

DELTA DISTRICT IS BELGIUM OF B. C.

Soldier Member of Legislature Describes How Roads Are Abused.

Solemn Warning to Premier of How Public Will Judge the Liberals.

"Slimy Monster of Patronage" Is Led Out for Afternoon Airing.

Member Suggests Mrs. Ralph Smith Should Be Taken Into Cabinet.

Victoria, April 9.—Lieut. Frank J. Mackenzie is willing to admit that Hon. John Oliver is about the best man among the Liberals for the job of premier, but he is far from agreeing that the administration is all that it ought to be. The returned soldier member, back from service overseas, spoke to the House yesterday in the budget debate. He issued a solemn warning to Premier Oliver that after all of the stories which the Liberals had told about the Conservatives and had beguiled the people into believing, the public was now keeping close track of the administration and was in a critical mood. The people would put the Premier to the acid test, said the Delta khaki-clad representative.

Meantime Mr. Mackenzie promised that he would support every government bill which appeared to him to be in the general public interest. He offered his congratulations to Hon. Mr. Oliver and said that his elevation was merited on account of his ability as a leader and his long service to the party. He praised Mr. Weart of South Vancouver for his budget speech, which Mr. Mackenzie characterized as showing close study of the banking and financial situation and given by a man of political independence who had his ear to the ground. Proceeding, the member urged that ample provision be made by the Legislature for Sir Richard McBride's family in view of the great service which the late Premier had given to the province.

MRS. SMITH IN CABINET.

He deprecated the fact that John Oliver, a farmer himself, had seen fit to place a heavy burden of taxation upon the farming industry, appearing to regard the farmer as the milch cow. He advocated that the women of the province receive representation in the cabinet, suggesting Mrs. Ralph Smith for such a position, and asked for changes in several acts, particularly to relieve soldiers and sailors from prohibitive fees, letters of administration, court fees, etc. The member also proposed that protection be given the game of the province by the retention of the game wardens, pointing out that the game of British Columbia was a wonderful asset to the province.

He considered that either Fred Anderson of Kamloops or E. D. Barrow of Chilliwack would make a good minister of agriculture.

Lieut. Mackenzie characterized the Seed Grain Bill as a species of frightfulness imposed by one farmer upon another. It forced the grower of the province to go hat in hand to the minister of agriculture in order to obtain permission to grow seeds and if the farmer lost favor at court he "lost out."

"HEADS DROPPING."

The "slimy monster of patronage" crept into the House yesterday, Lieut. Mackenzie, with bold demeanor, led him in, but hardly had he exhibited the creature in its fearful aspect when he whisked it suddenly out of sight. He observed that the time should soon come when railways would stop the practice of giving campaign funds to both parties. All that Premier Oliver would say was "That's rich."

Mr. Mackenzie declared that the "slimy monster" was still abroad in the land and "heads are dropping into the basket as fast as the government can cut them off." Then the speaker turned to the public works estimates for the year, pointing out that whereas in other years the government had followed the practice of showing the district appropriations in the estimates, this time the new administration lumped the total together at \$1,477,040 for the maintenance and repair of roads, wharves and bridges without showing what would be spent in any district.

DISTRICT ARE

"I may get it more likely I forty dollars." "But why this to know what I other districts to me like a blister of public stance if I am for the needs know that the with his taking across the river from five or 1 of it unless our in the estimate. He suggested appropriations year in view of toria, the one of agriculture action of a nation."

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DISTRICT APPROPRIATIONS.

"I may get the million in Delta, but more likely I will receive the odd forty dollars," the speaker observed. "But why this gag? Am I not entitled to know what I am to receive or what other districts will get? This looks to me like a big jack-pot for the minister of public works to handle. For instance if I am awarded forty thousand for the needs of Delta, how am I to know that the member for Richmond, with his taking ways, will not come across the river and separate Delta from five or ten or twenty thousand of it unless our appropriation is shown in the estimates?"

He suggested that perhaps the road appropriations were being lumped this year in view of the by-election in Victoria, the one for the new minister of agriculture and the prospective election of a new minister of colonization.

Turning to the individual needs of Delta, Lieut. Mackenzie advocated the expenditure year by year of a specific sum for the laying of a permanent highway such as of concrete, north and south through the riding. He called Delta the Belgium of British Columbia because it was the victim of a tremendous north and south traffic which destroyed its roads, particularly during the wet winter season when there was little or no frost in the ground. Delta should get better terms from the government, he claimed.

CALLS IT SPASM OF ECONOMY

W. J. Bowser Criticizes Mr. Farris' Policy Regarding Province's Game.

Produces Figures to Show Department Operated at Profit.

Victoria, April 9.—That the proposed changes by which the game department is to be merged with the police force of the province will bring about the deterioration and perhaps the elimination of the game of the province was charged by Mr. W. J. Bowser in discussing the Game Act amendments on second reading yesterday. The opposition leader reviewed the history of game conservation in British Columbia under the administration of the old government and compared this with what he termed the penurious and penny-wise pound-foolish policy of the new attorney-general.

Had the game wardens been amalgamated with the fire wardens, whose duty takes them into the woods of the country he would not have been surprised, he said, but to merge the department with the provincial police, whose duties were of an entirely distinct and separate character, appeared to be foolish. Mr. Bowser commented on the fact that the government was apparently still wrestling with the great question of whether the police were to be uniformed or not.

PROFIT ON OPERATION.

Mr. Bowser considered that the provincial police would have enough work with the duties of their own department without attempting to look after the game of the province. In the past they had always been told to look after the game, but this was never to the exclusion of their own duty as policemen, as it might be in the near future. The speaker alluded to the importance of the game of the province as a great natural asset. He detailed the history of the department from its commencement thirteen years ago, up to 1915, when more than forty wardens were employed. He produced figures to show the amount of revenue received after the license system came into effect in 1913. In the four years from 1913 to 1917 the revenue totalled \$355,000, and the expenditures \$255,000, showing a profit of over \$100,000 for the period. During the past fiscal year the surplus was at least \$12,000. Mr. Bowser praised Mr. Bryan Williams, former game warden, as an efficient officer. He charged that the policy of the attorney-general in doing away with a revenue-bearing department was foolish.

SPOILING THE FUTURE.

He gave an account of what had been done in the past in bringing the pheasants, red deer and elk, and then pointed out that the attorney-general, in order to save a winter's hay, had decided to give the elk to the Dominion Government for shipment to Alberta, despite the fact that the old government had procured them at great expense and trouble from Wyoming. This "spasm of economy" threatened to be direful for the big game idea, but fortunately several persons in Vancouver, who were interested in game, put up a sum out of their own pockets and sent the elk to the Lillooet game reserve, although the animals were being turned out late in the fall at the wrong time of the year and at least a year too soon.

Mr. Bowser read an editorial from the Vancouver Sun in which the attorney-general was scored on account of his policy in this connection. The speaker freely charged that Hon. Mr. Farris was threatening the future of the big game of the province by his failure to appreciate the possibilities of the situation and expending a few dollars in the present to bring back many more in the future. The merging of the game wardens with the police, who would have little time or inclination for game protection, would mean the ruin of the province as a great game country, claimed Mr. Bowser.

NO MORE WOODEN BOATS FROM B. C.

Admiralty Finds Vessels Too Slow and Will Not Convey Them in Sub Zone.

Victoria, April 9.—J. C. McIntosh, M. P., today wired from Ottawa to Hon. John Oliver that the Imperial naval authorities have advised the Canadian Government that the admiralty refuses further to convey wooden ships through the submarine zone because they are too slow.

Mr. McIntosh therefore advises Premier Oliver that construction of further wooden vessels in British Columbia will be stopped. It is understood that the Imperial Munition Board's yard at Ogden Point will be turned into a steel shipyard, for contracts for three vessels such as the *Congulians* are building in Vancouver are available for Victoria, it is understood.

EVERYBODY DID IT, SAYS 'M. A.' IN DEFENCE

Various Campaign Contributions Received Were of Common Knowledge.

Declares Cowper and Dr. McIntosh Knew of B. C. Electric's \$5000.

Vehemently Denies \$15,000 Was Other Than Personal Gift of Rod Mackenzie.

Speaker Assails Opposition Leader in Connection With P. G. E.

Victoria, April 9.—M. A. Macdonald, storm centre of a score of bitter legislative and platform attacks, and a man who his Liberal friends in the House are confidently expecting will "come back" in the political life of the province, made a statement in the House this afternoon upon the question of campaign funds. His speech particularly with reference to the \$15,000 contribution from R. J. Mackenzie, received through Dr. Mackenzie, and customarily referred to as the "C.N.R. \$15,000."

Attended by the close interest of the House, the senior member for Vancouver fully and freely described the situation leading up to his acceptance on behalf of the Liberal party of a sum of money, which he claimed was well understood at the time to be a private campaign gift from a well-known Liberal, and an election present to Liberalism, which had no strings upon it. During the course of his explanation, Mr. Macdonald made bitter references to Mr. J. S. Cowper, fifth member for Vancouver. He also assailed W. J. Bowser, opposition leader, and more mildly rapped Dr. McIntosh, third Vancouver member, in introducing the subject, he said:

"The leader of the opposition in the P.G.E. debate, in warring off attacks on himself for his connection with half a million dollars which was boldly set aside to procure the charter for that railway, and to take care of the Conservative party—twitted this side of the House, and myself in particular, with having received for the Liberal party a contribution of \$15,000 from the C.N.R. I interjected at the time to say that it was not Canadian Northern Railway money, to which he replied that the public understood where that money came from.

FROM NO RAILWAY.

"Let me say here, Mr. Speaker, what I have said before, that although with the burden chiefly on my shoulders of financing the Liberal party for the past number of years, contributing large sums of money for that purpose for legitimate work and today still responsible for large sums, I have never sought nor obtained a contribution from any railway corporation, not even the British Columbia Electric Railway.

"When the leader of the opposition says that \$15,000 came from the C. N. R., I tell him that Dr. Mackenzie swore in the most categorical and detailed manner that he did not handle one cent of railway money, but only a personal contribution from R. J. Mackenzie. Does my honorable friend suggest that Dr. Mackenzie perjured himself? He did not perjure himself—he told the truth because it was understood perfectly that I would not accept a contribution from the C. N. R. I did not seek that contribution—it was accepted not because it was, but because it was not Canadian Northern money.

A ROVING COMMISSION.

"I stated specifically at the time that if R. J. Mackenzie, as a Liberal, was willing to make a contribution of his own money, not railway money, with no conditions attached, I would accept it for the Liberal party just as other contributions were accepted; otherwise I would not. Dr. Mackenzie's sworn evidence was proof of that. If that statement is not true, and it was railway money, then Dr. Mackenzie is a perjurer. I am sure he did not perjure himself. I repeat he told the truth when he declared that not one cent of it was railway money, if it was I would not have accepted it for the Liberal party. Let that particular point, therefore, be settled once and for all.

"We had an investigating commission presided over by Mr. Justice Gregory, and the whole scope of the commission was to see if a contribution was obtained from the Canadian Northern Railway. For reasons best known to himself he saw fit to go outside the scope of that enquiry in breach of the terms of the commission. If he felt he had a roving commission, it should be a general investigation all along the line. If it was an offence to accept this contribution under the conditions it was accepted, who among us in this Legislature, or in any other Legislature in Canada, or the Dominion Parliament itself, are not offenders?"

"I am quite sure of this, Mr. Speaker, that the honorable the Premier will bear me out when I say that while I was a member of the council, in no manner, shape or form, did I ever show favoritism to the C. N. R., although questions arose where their interests were concerned.

WHAT 'AROUSSED HIS IRE.'

"Now, with your indulgence, let me refer to another phase. It has been stated many times, either directly or inferentially, that I was criticized for receiving a contribution for the Liberal party from R. J. Mackenzie, but because it was said I denied receiving it in the House, and thus my veracity has been assailed. Those who say so do not know the facts nor circumstances, and although I have never particularly spoken of it before, I propose to do so now. I was not in the House when a certain member, actuated, as you know, by the 'highest and purest' motives, brought this matter up. I only learned from the present Premier in a hurried conversation what he was supposed to have said. Now listen to this: The then minister of railways told me that the charge was made that I received \$25,000 from the C. N. R. at a certain time and place, and that I never accounted for it, in other words put it in my own pocket. That was what he honestly enough told me was charged on that occasion. Do you wonder that I should indignantly deny it? There was not one element of truth in it, in either word, line or syllable, and the base suggestion that I, who far from profiting, spent my own money freely in organization work, diverted campaign funds to my own use, naturally aroused my ire.

OTHERS LIKE IT.

"I was not called upon to go on and give a statement of the campaign contributions the Liberal party did receive through me or anyone else. Had I done so and given a full statement, I can only say that if there was anything wrong with that contribution there were others just as wrong for which I was not responsible. Because, sir, I yield to no one in the Liberal party with whom I have associated, a higher standard of ethics in this regard than I held myself, and anyone who says differently, knowing the facts as I know the facts, is guilty of brazen hypocrisy and Uriah Heep duplicity. And, yet, although Mr. Speaker, I entered a denial of a statement false in every particular and containing a vile insinuation, I have been repeatedly attacked on this point.

"Mr. Speaker, that whole investigation, designed to effect a sinister purpose, with all its pretence to be in the name of virtue, was an attempt so transparent to secure, not public, but personal ends, that it has deceived no one. Speaking for myself, I would rather by far have a reputation for playing the game decently like a Britisher than enjoy the emoluments and honor of the best position in the gift of the crown. Do you think for a moment that it was any honest desire to suppress or expose questionable

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campaign contributions that led this particular individual to make his charge? Not at all, and I will tell you why. Information later developed of a \$5000 contribution from the B. C. Electric, a corporation that always has business with this government and which last session had most important legislation affecting its interests before the House. That information did not come through me—I would scorn to defend myself by a tuteque agreement at the expense of those with whom I fought side by side.

REFERS TO DR. MCINTOSH.

"But, now that it is known, let me tell you that the fifth member for Vancouver, as well as every other Liberal candidate in Vancouver, had full knowledge of that contribution. Why did he not expose that if he was actuated by an honest desire to suppress questionable campaign contributions? That contribution was obtained by a member of the so-called Furry Squad in the city of Vancouver. The professional purist is usually garbed in the mantle of hypocrisy. Did the fifth member for Vancouver, who knew of that contribution from the B. C. Electric, before the election, or since, raise his breath against it? Not at all. Why, if this \$15,000 contribution from R. J. Mackenzie had been dangled twenty feet above his head, he would show his usual agility and reach it by a leap in the air. Even if it were a straight gift from the Canadian Northern Railway, he would never turn it down. Because, sir, if he would sanction, as he sanctioned by knowing of it and not objecting, a contribution from the B. C. Electric, a corporation which in all my years of looking after the finances of the Liberal party for the province I never approached directly or indirectly for a contribution, would he not take it straight from the C. N. R.? Why, sir, would you believe it, another man who was quite satisfied over the receipt of that \$5000 from the B. C. Electric was the third member for Vancouver (Dr. McIntosh), who publicly pretended to be particularly virtuous in that regard. He was like the fifth member for Vancouver, the very quintessence of fine virtue so far as the public is concerned. You say I mention this fact in his absence, well, I hope he will soon be back as I wish him well and it can keep if he wants to deny it; but he can't deny it. If there was any doubt about the truth of it I would never mention it. I have never found that he or others had much regard for me, and I do not propose any more to be so solicitous for others as I have been. Their charges were made behind my back, without any notice to me and I know of no reason why I should be particularly solicitous about them. The fifth member for Vancouver had knowledge of parliamentary practice or the decency to follow it, he would have given me notice of his intended attacks last session, so that I might be present and know exactly what he said and not be led into a false position.

ORGANIZED, HE SAYS.

"I listened with amusement, not unmixed with contempt, to a dialogue between the fifth member for Vancouver and the member for Newcastle some days ago. When the member for Newcastle stated that campaign funds have been received from corporations in the past and will be in the future, the fifth member for Vancouver, with that unctious air which Uriah Heep could assume, and with that finely trained modulated voice where inflection is of more importance than substance, said 'even though that may have been done in the past, that does not say that it was not wrong.' The assumption was that no matter what others might do, he at all events stood apart as one pure and undefiled, who would sooner lose the modulation of his voice than ever sanction a contribution from a railway corporation. Yet, I have told you of his knowledge and sanction of the B. C. Electric contribution, and far from condemning the man who got that contribution, he was his warm friend and supporter—they were companions in the purity brigade. And the man who got it did not consult me before doing so. If he had, I would have advised him to do as I did for years past when looking after provincial finances—never ask them for assistance.

"I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, that no one surveying that whole situation will come to any other conclusion than that the whole thing was a travesty on justice and an affront to every principle of decency. Cool, calculating chicanery was behind every move made by a few false friends, and I know them very well—the member from Vancouver was only their servant—having one object in view, and that not the good either of the Liberal party nor the public interest. I know I may have made mistakes; I may not have said the right thing, nor adopted the right course in every instance. At all events, there was no treachery nor cut-throat methods behind any errors in judgment I may have made.

REFERS TO F. G. E.

"I was consistently and persistently hounded for over a year for political purposes, everyone who was willing to barter his sworn evidence being scrupulous opposition. It might well not do or say the most politic thing in all circumstances when attacked from every quarter that foul ingenuity could suggest.

"Now, Mr. Speaker, what have you to say of the leader of the opposition, who has the hardihood to taunt me of the Liberal party on the question of campaign funds? Why, sir, he owes it to the generosity of the members on this side of the floor that he was not haled before the bar of the house last session like a common culprit to either give particulars of a campaign contribution given in connection with obtaining a charter for a railroad, in connection with the most nefarious railway deal that was ever foisted on the people of this province, or be committed to the lower!

"The evidence given showed a prima facie case, not of a voluntary contribution from an individual, but of a criminal act, because it is within the code. Individuals whether they are directors of a railroad, or a bank, or a joint-stock company, have a perfect right to contribute their own money, but they have no right to give, nor has anyone to take, contributions in consideration of public benefits to be received. What a fortunate man the honorable gentleman is! If such a prima facie case was made out against me, there would have been an investigation ordered before sunset. The Liberal party are scriptural—they love their enemies and chastise their friends.

WHAT OF UNION GOVERNMENT?

"I quite admit that it is well to avoid even the appearance of evil, and if both parties are bound by the same rules, it can be done and thus prevent contributions from any one connected, however remotely with railway enterprises. One of my first acts as attorney-general was to prepare under my supervision legislation to cover this very situation, and although for reasons not necessary now to state, it has not yet been introduced, I believe it will be at a later date and before the next election. The point of importance is that the preparation of that legislation was my act.

"The hon. member from Newcastle made some sensible remarks free from all cant on this subject. The question is as old as party government. Does anyone imagine that the Union government at Ottawa carried on the last election without large contributions from wealthy individuals? The member for Newcastle referred to a famous Liberal statesman in England who received \$50,000 from Cecil Rhodes and that at a time when he had gold concessions in South Africa. He did not mention the name, though he might have done so—Mr. Gladstone. You will know that he was probably quite as good a Christian as a certain preacher in Vancouver, whose Toryism so outran all other considerations, that in the exercise of Christian charity he made me the subject of one of his sermons. He did not hurt me—character, if one has any, can not be hurt. I make no further comment on that. Unjust attack, always carries its own reputation."

NATIONAL BANK IDEA.

Referring to other subjects of public importance, Mr. Macdonald gave his approval to Mr. J. W. Weart's suggestion for the establishment of a national bank. Mr. Macdonald was not willing to have a western provincial bank, but he considered that the national bank idea, which had been promulgated many years ago, was an excellent one. He pointed out that although the capital of all the banks in Canada stood at about \$112,000,000 the clearing house returns annually ran to the trillions. He considered that a national bank would furnish a way for the Dominion to raise revenue for meeting war obligations. Under a national bank board of governors deposits and savings of each province could be used at home. Under the present system all questions of investment of deposit funds were decided in the east and the directors resolved whether to invest in Eastern or Western Canada, or in New York call loans. Mr. Macdonald said that the credit of the country should not be loaned to the individual for private profit.

He spoke also with respect to taxation, pointing out that the wealth of the province lay in its forests, fisheries, mines and agriculture, from which it should be possible to raise sufficient revenue under a proper system of taxation. The old system meant inequality of taxation, he claimed, and the new taxes were merely a doubling up of the old. He claimed that it was not sound to impair capital by placing a ten per cent income tax upon the mining industry particularly when this tax was virtually upon gross profits. Such taxation should be on net profits, he said.

NOT SO SERIOUS.

The financial situation of the province was not actually so serious, stated the speaker, as many persons supposed. Its debt was only about \$23,000,000. This was a burden, of course, upon a scanty population and the position of the government was one meriting careful attention. That position was the very reason why every possible step should be taken for promoting industrial enterprise such as shipbuilding, together with stockraising and other forms of agriculture. He pointed out that in Alberta the government lent out money for the promotion of the breeding of pure stock.

He alluded to the public accounts and estimates of the province and told

the House that the accounts and estimates as presented to the legislature set out the current assets and liabilities, as distinct from those of capital nature, in a clear and distinct way. There was no miscellaneous account totalling three or four millions as shown in the public accounts and estimates of other years. Every expenditure was charged to a department and the miscellaneous account amounted only to about forty or fifty thousand.

GIVE HONEST ANSWER

Suggestion of Member for Comox on the Road Question.

Victoria, April 9.—Commenting upon the fact that he saw no mention of any road appropriation to permit of the tapping of the large agricultural area in the Comox riding, Mr. Hugh Stewart, member for Comox, suggested to the government in a budget speech at last night's session that the settlers in that section should be told that additional transportation facilities are not possible at this time.

Such an intimation, coupled with a gentle hint to those most concerned to get out, would be at least an honest thing, he said—better than to allow them to continue buoyed up by the vain hope that the long-expected facilities would be forthcoming.

That the farmer could be relieved of his taxation liabilities on farm improvements as announced in the budget speech was good news to the member for Comox who urged that similar action with regard to the personal tax be taken. A system of local improvement tax upon lands adjoining roads was advocated by Mr. Stewart, who pointed to the fact that with the advent of the road tax many acquiring, now valueless, would be given a value and would be in a position to bear such a tax. The advisability of appointing a returned soldier to the land settlement board or at least naming a specially appointed representative of the returned men to act in conjunction with the board was urged. Mr. Stewart stated that such a step was desirable because despite assertions to the contrary many returned men would undoubtedly decide to follow agricultural pursuits. He also advocated an increased motor tax to provide a larger revenue for road purposes. He blamed the motorists for a great deal of the damage done to highways, thus increasing the cost of maintenance and upkeep of roads built essentially for development purposes.

He urged the proper classification of agricultural and timber lands and invited the attention of the minister of finance to the fact that the government agency at Alberni was costing \$6297 per year as against \$4265 for the Cumberland agency.

At the latter place the turnover was about three times the volume of business at the former. He believed either the one was alarmingly overworked or the other agent was having a good time.

KNITS SOCKS WHILE THE MEMBERS TALK

VICTORIA, April 9.—The Legislature experienced two innovations yesterday. It went into night sessions last night and Mrs. Ralph Smith started on a pair of socks for soldiers. She is now well advanced on one sock and makes good progress during the oratorical debates of the men members.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1918

ARE BELOW ESTIMATES

Tax Collections Did Not Come Up to Expectations.

VICTORIA, April 10.—Tax collections during the fiscal year ending March 31 last apparently did not come up to the expectation of the government, according to returns which Hon. John Hart filed in the House yesterday in reply to opposition questions. The minister gave information with respect to timber licenses, poll-tax, game licenses, amusement tax, land taxes, mineral taxes, stampage, royalty and personal property tax. Most of the returns were only for the eleven months ending February 28, and in almost every case the collections were substantially below the estimates. The poll-tax, however, was double the amount expected. The figures are:

	Estimated.	Collected.
Timber licen.	\$1,168,000	\$1,062,510.92
Poll tax	150,000	300,590.00
Game licenses	55,000	65,217.50
Amusement tax	100,000	104,302.99
Land taxes	815,000	665,549.32
Mineral tax	300,000	235,230.94
Stump royalty	154,000	134,232.98
Personal property tax	700,000	509,054.40

The estimate of amusement tax quoted above was for five months and the collections for eleven months.

VICTORIA, April 10.—F. A. Macdonald of Victoria, barrister, has drawn \$1250, at the rate of \$500 a month, from the attorney-general's department for drafting legislation, said Attorney-General Farris in answer to questions by the leader of the opposition.

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READ SPEECHES OF PREMIER BREWSTER

W. R. Ross Recalls Promises
on Subject of No
Patronage.

Complains Government Has
Done Nothing to Aid Steel
Shipbuilding.

M. A. Macdonald Believes
Civil Salaries Can Be
Greatly Cut.

VICTORIA, April 10.—At the rate of speed made in the Legislature yesterday, the session will not be over much before the end of the month. After several days of hard committee work the members yesterday afternoon sat back in their easy chairs and listened to two long budget speeches, one by Mr. M. A. Macdonald of Vancouver and the other by Mr. W. R. Ross of Fort George. The two of them occupied all of the time from 2:45 to 5:45 p.m.

The major portion of Mr. Macdonald's speech was given in the Province yesterday. His comments upon the question of campaign funds and his discussion of the banking system, future industrial development and the elimination of the British Columbia building in London did not constitute his entire address, for he found time to start a drive against what remains of the old government. Mr. Macdonald declared that no government with a more limited sense of responsibility than the former administration ever sat anywhere. Its career marked an era of frenzied finance and buccannery, an orgy of expenditure, he said. He contended that the former government was responsible for the increased taxation and he compared its deficits, totalling eighteen million in five years, with the even balance sheets of other provinces in the Dominion. He considered that the civil salaries could be cut by \$300,000 per year and added the comment that the great majority of the civil servants had considered their chief duty to be upholding the old government in office.

WHAT OF DRY-FARMING?

Mr. Ross dealt more or less genially with the government yesterday. True, he had one or two sharp passages with Premier Oliver, but on the whole he seemed somewhat well disposed to the members on the treasury benches, although he did not forget to criticize them where he saw a chance to score a point.

Mr. Ross was very anxious to know what the government intended to do about the dry-farming experiments in the province, but failed to elicit any information from the Premier. He dilated upon the value of this trial at Quilchena and other districts and took the administration to task for neglecting to follow the matter up and use lands adjacent to the farm where the experiments were conducted. These lands to be thrown open to dry farmers, particularly for seed-grain production.

He complained about the lumping together in the estimates of the public works expenditures, pointing out that he had never been asked for any advice in the expenditures for his riding nor was he able to find out what they would be.

Insofar as the criticism of J. S. Cowper, as voiced by Mr. Macdonald was concerned, the Fort George member naively remarked that he was quite willing to let the two Vancouver members fight it out between themselves and to "stew in their own juice."

There had been hopes at one time that the Cowper wing would become opposition, he remarked, but it was evidently now independent. The speaker twitted Mrs. Smith for having showed signs of coming out openly as Liberal.

MR. BREWSTER'S PROGRAMME.

Turning to the patronage question, he rebuked the government for failing to carry out pre-election promises. He read lengthy extracts from speeches of the late Premier Brewster on this subject, much to the discomfort of the government members who have already heard the same extracts two or three times. Going from one to another of the government members, Mr. Ross challenged them to show in any particular where they had kept the Brewster promise of no-patronage.

Mr. Bell of Victoria promptly remarked that that very afternoon he himself had been thanked by an old-line Conservative for whom he had obtained a situation.

"Let me have his name and photo," said Mr. Ross. "He is a rare specimen."

The member pointed out that the government had not yet put into effect the much-vaunted Civil Service Act of last session, nor had it apparently any intention of bringing into force the promised Election Act Amendments, outlined by the late Premier. It seemed apparent, he declared, that the government dropped all of these things with the death of Hon. Mr. Brewster.

He reminded the government that the \$18,000 Price-Waterhouse audit report had failed to discover scandal against the old government, but had merely criticized the arrangement of funds in the lands department which arrangement he noted was still in effect.

SHIPBUILDING PLANS.

He declared that the lands department had failed to grasp the opportunity to attempt to expand the lumber industry such as had been done when the old government brought in its shipbuilding legislation. Nor had the new government done anything to get steel ships built here.

Alluding again to the matter of patronage, he tried vainly to get the Premier to make a statement upon the subject, but Hon. Mr. Oliver declined to give him any satisfaction as to what course the administration would pursue.

"You'll stick to your fifty-fifty basis," interpolated Mr. Bowser to the Premier.

Nor would the Premier make any statement as to whether the Civil Service Act would be put into force.

Mr. Ross outlined the possibilities of his riding and urged the completion of the P. G. E. to Prince George, and on to the Peace River.

He strongly condemned the Land Settlement Board, stating that it should be eliminated. In this connection he read a resolution from the Smithers Liberal Association regretting the failure of the government to take prompt and effective steps to settle the land problem, noting that politics instead of ability entered into the choice of board members, and urging the northern members of the House to protest against the situation. Mr. Ross told the Legislature of one instance in which the Land Settlement Board had loaned a Victoria lawyer \$2700 to assist in the cultivation of a subdivision near the city, on which there was not even a dwelling-house. The expenditure of this amount of money had brought under cultivation the large area of two acres.

MANY MORE SPEECHES.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo adjourned the debate, and will speak this afternoon. Mr. Richard Wallis of Alberni will probably also speak this afternoon, with Mr. J. E. Cowper and F. W. Anderson of Kamloops tonight. Mr. Cowper is expected to deal this evening with the references which Mr. Macdonald made to him yesterday. The latter will not be present to hear the other Vancouver member, as he left last night for Vernon to attend the bedside of a brother who has double pneumonia. Mr. Macdonald expects to be absent about a week.

The government has hopes that the close of the budget debate will come on Thursday, when it expects Mr. Bowser, and probably the Premier to speak. Other opinion is, however, that the opposition may prolong the debate into next week, with each of its members taking a part. Present indications are that the earliest adjournment date possible is April 25. Last night's votes and proceedings noted an extension of the time for reporting private bills to the House from April 9 to April 16. It is possible that the City of Vancouver Charter Bill will be reported to the House on Friday.

Mr. Yorston Endorses It.

Victoria, April 10.—The belief that the bill before the House to amend the Land Act would result in closer settlement and eliminate speculation, was expressed by Mr. J. Yorston, Liberal member for Cariboo, who on Monday continued the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Act to Amend the Land Act, the chief features of which are the withdrawal from pre-emption of unsurveyed lands of the province, the granting of small leaseholds to men employed along the coast in the fishing industry, and a change in the duties required from a pre-emptor, by raising the amount of improvement work to be done, while lessening the duration of the residence term.

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SNOW FALLS IN JULY THERE

F. W. Anderson Advises
Against Hope-Princeton
Line for Motor Route.

Member Makes Spirited Attack
Against "Shylocks
of Society."

VICTORIA, April 11.—Snowfalls in July form an insurmountable obstacle to the Hope-Princeton transprovincial highway, in the opinion of Mr. F. W.

Anderson of Kamloops, who, as might be expected from a member representing that constituency, advocated the choice of a route up the Fraser River to Kamloops and then up the North Thompson and into Alberta by way of Yellowhead Pass. The advocates of the southern route, via Hope and Princeton, propose to reach Alberta by way of Pentiction, Grand Forks, Rossland, Nelson and the Crows Nest with an alternative route from the Kootenay via Windermere to Banff. They argue that this route gives access to good scenic territory, rich mining districts and the agricultural sections of the Okanagan and Boundary. In addition such a road would provide side access to Kamloops by way of Princeton and Merritt.

Last night in the budget debate Mr. Anderson took the other side of the case. He claimed that while \$200,000 had already been spent on the section between Silver Creek and Hope with an estimate for \$600,000 to obtain completion to Princeton, it was likely that the total cost of finishing the road between Hope and Princeton would run over a million. He said the road would climb an altitude of five thousand feet where snowfalls would be found in July and where winter traffic was impossible. The Fraser and Thompson river route would not be expensive, would give a longer transportation season, would serve the agricultural districts of Yale-Kamloops and Omicenia and Fort George through connecting roads.

"We can not build a highway of any kind for joy-riding alone," he declared, in referring to the scenic advantages claimed for the southern route.

Mr. Anderson had valuable advice for the House with regard to the financial references in the West bank speech. He said that Mr. West might well have gone further in order to include a criticism of the money-lenders. He gave an instance of "notwithstanding where the borrower got only \$800 on a loan of \$1000 for three months. The interest worked out at 60 per cent. These money-lenders, whom he called the Shylocks of society, should be licensed and also prohibited from charging more than a reasonable rate of interest. Mr. Anderson said he was against the practice of banks in levying compound interest, a course which he claimed was illegal.

He advocated the adoption of a superannuation scheme for civil servants. He thought that the laws relating to the incorporation of companies and the administration of companies should be uniform throughout the whole of the Dominion. Although this plan might not have the approval of lawyers it would benefit the public.

WILL FEEL FAMINE HERE

Advice Given Socialist Leader by Business Men.

VICTORIA, April 11.—In moving second reading of the bill conferring upon municipal councils the power to make available for food production purposes any unused arable lands lying within municipal boundaries, Premier Oliver explained he had brought the measure down to aid greater food production made necessary by the war.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite said prominent business men had impressed upon him the fact that it would not be long till famine would be felt in this province. He pointed to food regulations already in this province and said it would not be surprising if by next July no more wheat would be permitted to be milled in Canada. He advocated, however, that more than the stipulated five days' notice be given before lands were taken possession of. A considerable number of land and lot owners, he said, were soldiers. Mr. Hawthornthwaite urged that enemy aliens should be made to work on the land, instead of in the mines under conditions as they now enjoy.

A few observations were offered by the attorney-general, who said the remarks of the member for Newcastle were out of place with the general proposition that the government had not gone far enough and then pointing out it was going too far.

DICTAPHONES AT VICTORIA NOW

At Least They Figured in
Acrimonious Debate Wednesday Afternoon.

VICTORIA, April 11.—W. J. Bowser took strong objection in the House yesterday to the proposal by C. F. Nelson of Slokan for a smelter schedule investigation by a parliamentary committee. The opposition leader favored the Hawthornthwaite amendment for an enquiry by royal commission, charging that the select mining committee of the Legislature comprised members all of the same political faith, who jumped at the call of the Premier. The resolution asked for investigation of the new schedule of smelter rates put into effect by the Trail Consolidated Company.

During the discussion of the motion there was a warm exchange between Premier Oliver and Mr. Bowser. The

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Premier in replying to the statement of the opposition leader with regard to the mining committee which Mr. Bowser had called a "partisan committee controlled by the government," advised him to have his "dictaphones" rearranged.

"The only one I know of is the one put in my department after I left the government—I suppose for you to spy upon your own colleagues," replied Mr. Bowser.

The dictaphone in the attorney-general's department is merely the commercial talking-machine used for the dictation of letters.

The debate arose when the Premier stated that the Federal Government in response to allied boards of trade of Nelson and other mining districts contemplates the facilitating of an enquiry upon the subject of Trail smelter charges. He therefore thought in the meantime that the select mining committee could investigate and report to the House. As to the amendment of Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite demanding a royal commission investigation, the Premier thought the committee might investigate first, and if a case containing sufficient evidence to warrant a commission of enquiry was made out, then the government would have no hesitation in ordering it.

To this Mr. Bowser objected most strongly, declaring the desire of the government to fool the miners of the Slocan into the belief that they will get an investigation. He pointed out that the Legislature is in its dying days, and will probably prorogue shortly and the House would be dismissed before it were possible to even subpoena witnesses. The company's books must be overhauled by experts, witnesses must be summoned, if a real investigation is contemplated, he said, and he foresaw in the government's attitude a desire to "sidestep" the issue.

For the somewhat strong line of argument used, Mr. Bowser was called to order by the Premier, who charged him with provoking acrimonious personal debate in attributing improper motives to Mr. Charles Nelson, mover of the original resolution. Mr. Bowser said he understood the matter had already been caucused, but the Liberal benches speedily refuted this statement.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite, who inserted the amendment for a royal commission enquiry, said he thought the opposition side of the House would be justified in taking Premier Oliver's assurance that the matter would be taken up by the parliamentary committee at once, and brought before the House again in report form before the House prorogues.

Hon. William Sloan, minister of mines, adjourned the debate.

GRIZZLIES ARE GREAT LURE TO ROCKIES

Perpetuate These Great, Inoffensive Beasts, Advises Mr. Buckham.

Legislators Shoulder Rifles and Enjoy a Big-game Hunt.

Opposition Is Wounded Even If No Pelts Are Hung Up.

Question of Whether Police Can Be Satisfactory Game Wardens.

VICTORIA, April 11.—Before the opposition would allow the Game Act amendments to go through second reading yesterday they forced the government to a division on the bill. Mr. Hawthornthwaite of Newcastle voted for the government. Mr. Speaker Keen was uncertain as to how Mrs. Ralph Smith had voted, but she rose in her place to announce to the House that she believed the measure should reach the stage of committee consideration in view of its importance. The opposition, of course, was greatly outnumbered.

Representatives of the big game districts spoke on the bill yesterday. Messrs. Frank Mobley of Atlin and J. Buckham of Columbia both discussed the measure and gave it their approval. Mr. Wallis of Alberni spoke briefly as did also Mr. Hawthornthwaite.

Mr. Mobley praised the provincial police force, which he said the government would lift from its underpaid condition. He believed the police

force, with additions where necessary, could readily handle the duties of game wardens in the place of the wardens who were losing their status in the service. He did not consider whether the police wore uniforms or not need excite the leader of the opposition, as the constables would be quite as efficient with or without uniforms and if necessary when circumstances warranted they could remove the official garb. The changes proposed in the bill would bring efficiency, he said.

BLAMED OLD GOVERNMENT.

The member deprecated the slaughter and extermination of game in the southern parts of the province, a condition which was also extending to the north. This had taken place during the old administration. With the dwindling of the game the department revenue fell also and it was a wonder it had been able to withstand the ravages of the old government.

The Indian was a source of game extermination, said the speaker, and although the regulations required it, the Aborigines never took out permits. They habitually slaughtered female and young deer for commercial purposes. More than half of the licensed guides were Indians unlicensed, although that was a requirement also of the regulations. Mr. Mobley told of a case where a foreign big game hog with an Indian guide killed no fewer than twenty-three bull caribou head before he found a particular set of horns he wanted. Such a practice should be stopped. He proposed that the administration of the Game Act be taken completely out of politics, that the regulations be enforced strictly, and that game be given as careful attention by the government as the farmer extended to his stock.

AGAINST PIT-LAMPING.

Mr. Wallis considered the present Game Act fairly satisfactory. He urged strong measures against pit-lamping, so common on his district. He also asked for the protection of pigeons. Mr. Wallis was not inclined to agree with the proposed abolition of game wardens.

"Thou shalt not sell" could be the only game law, thought Mr. Hawthornthwaite. If the sale of game meat was absolutely prohibited much of the trouble over the observance of game regulations would be eliminated. He suggested in connection with the present bill that heavy license fees be imposed upon the non-resident big-game hunter. He also advocated bringing sheep, goat and mule deer from the Mainland to Vancouver Island. Although willing to support the bill, the member expressed grave doubts as to the success of any system whereby police were expected to do game wardens' work unless there was a considerable increase in the provincial force.

JUSTICE FOR THE GRIZZLY.

Mr. Buckham of Columbia, sponsor of an amendment to repeal the \$100 non-resident big game hunting license and supplant it with a sliding scale of taxation for each head of big game killed, delivered a speech upon the game situation, demonstrating the fact that he came from a happy hunting ground district and was himself an "out-of-doors" sportsman of the first water. Around the grizzly bear of the Rockies he pictured a romance appealing to the sportsman's instincts, pleading that the grizzly be removed from the unprotected list.

"Every grizzly at large is a valuable asset to this province, both as a lure and as a trophy, hence it is short-sighted folly for British Columbia to permit the poisoning, baiting, trapping and shooting of these animals in unlimited numbers," he said. "This animal is treated as though it were the most destructive of beasts, when as a matter of fact it is not only inoffensive to human being but harmless to livestock. Just so long as British Columbia has grizzlies to make awesome tracks in soft ground or snow, to dig out gophers and rip up great rocks on mountain sides to the danger of all below—just so long will keep sportsmen in all parts of the earth cast their eyes and thoughts toward the Canadian Rockies for a charming web of romance and adventure surrounds the grizzly."

DENIES MONEY DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS

Cowper Claims Difference Between B. C. Electric and Mackenzie Contributions.

Former Went Into Liberal Funds, Whereas C.N.R. Director's Money Did Not.

Fifth Member for Vancouver Describes "M. A." as 12 Months Too Late.

Reply in Legislature Today to Macdonald Speech of Tuesday.

Victoria, April 11.—J. S. Cowper this afternoon delivered his reply to the attack and explanation given to the Legislature on Tuesday by M. A. Macdonald on the circumstances of the C. N. R. director's contribution of \$15,000.

Mr. Cowper denied that the former attorney-general had been taken by surprise over the C. N. R. charge, alleged that Mr. Macdonald had himself forced the enquiry, and drawn up the scope of the commission, which had resulted in his resigning office. He declared that the former attorney-general had been hoist with his own petard, and had merely revived the matter in an effort to sully the memory of Hon. H. C. Brewster by making an issue of the B. C. Electric contribution, which had been accepted with the late Premier's consent.

Vancouver's fifth member today alleged that there was a substantial difference between the two contributions—that the B. C. E. R. money found its way into the funds of the Liberal party, whereas the contribution made by this director of the C. N. R. did not.

ISSUES A CHALLENGE.

The speaker challenged any member of the House outside possibly Mr. Manson of Omineca, to say that he shared in this money, which it had been stated had been distributed amongst the members. Mr. Cowper spoke as follows:

"I must admit that in one sense the attack delivered on Tuesday by M. A. Macdonald was not unexpected. My honorable friend some time ago, I am informed, approached members of what he calls 'The Purity Squad' suggesting that they should attack other members of the government beside himself. He specially singled out the name of the late Premier in connection with the contribution which the British Columbia Electric Railway is alleged to have made to the Vancouver and Victoria campaign funds. While my friend's speech was ostensibly an attack upon myself and upon my soldier colleague, Dr. McIntosh, I quite recognize that it was in essence an attack upon members of the government—and a very effective attack, too. With the government's side of the case it would be presumption on my part to deal. Doubtless the government is as well able to take care of itself as I am of myself and of my friend Dr. McIntosh."

"OLD STUFF" HE ALLEGES.

"I am not speaking in any sense of bitterness or hard feeling. It is true I have not, and I trust I may never have, a reputation for piety such as my honorable friend has. But I am anxious to accord him his due. I did not interrupt him, not even when he transgressed the rules of the House—not to mention the boundaries of knowledge—to picture me as a Uriah Heep, who would leap twenty feet in the air to seize \$15,000 as a gift from the C.N.R. My friend was not even original in picturing me as Uriah Heep. Another political K. C., Mr. George H. Cowan of Vancouver, with whose emoluments and profits from the wreckage of the Dominion Trust Co. I have had several occasions to interfere, had so named me in public court without protest from the presiding judge some weeks ago. If my friend can find any comfort in calling me names, he might claim that name for me as a judgment of the Supreme Court. What I might do under the stress of temptation neither my friend nor even myself can say in advance. But I will say this, that as far as the C. N. R. was concerned my friend carefully removed all temptation from my path. So far, I am thankful to say, neither money nor office has proven any lure to me. So I will not stoop to follow my friend into the realm of personalities and abuse. I will merely remark of him in the words of Mr. Justice Gregory, 'He is a young man, and he has lots to learn in his career as a politician.'"

OLIVER ABSENTED HIMSELF.

"And now to deal as briefly and with as great courtesy as possible with the complaint of my honorable friend against the treatment he received by this House and by the commission appointed by this government. My honorable friend's major claim is that he was taken by surprise and was led into making a denial of the charge through a misleading version of the charge given to him by the present Premier. With the Premier's side of the case I am not concerned. I think it may be significant that after being informed of the statement which the former attorney-general proposed to make to the House the Premier absented himself from the chamber while the honorable gentleman made his statement.

"I say that the honorable gentleman in twelve months too late, and a great number of years too soon, in making the discovery that he was taken by surprise in making his denial. Honorable gentlemen in this House will recall that the words I used in making

the charge were House, taken do the honorable g make a careful nial, in the prec informed, which used in denying

IRRESPECTIVE!

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CRITICISM

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the charge were, on motion of this House, taken down in writing, and that the honorable gentleman had time to make a carefully-prepared written denial, in the precise words, I have been informed, which Sir John A. Macdonald used in denying the Pacific scandal.

IRRESPECTIVE OF AMOUNT.

"The words I used were reported in the press, were printed on the records of this House, were themselves the subject of a debate two days later when I discovered that in the excitement of the occasion I had used the figure 25 instead of 15. Members of this House will recall that in that debate, in which I explained my error, the honorable gentleman rose in his place in this House and repeated his former denial, adding that his former denial stood good irrespective of the amount, whether \$25,000 or \$15,000, or one dollar. And if the statements of several of the honorable members now sitting in this House are correct, the honorable gentleman followed up this denial in the House by discussing the matter at a government caucus in which I am informed the honorable gentleman delivered an address of a semi-religious character, repeated the denial calling the Almighty to bear him witness and likening himself to the Psalmist of Israel whose prayer had been answered and whose enemy had been delivered into his hands.

"And if a further opportunity were needed, my friend had it at the opening of the enquiry at Victoria, where in the presence of several members of this House, my counsel recited the set of facts we proposed to prove, and which were proved. My friend sat in court beside his counsel. Did he then admit that he had been misled? No, his counsel rose on his behalf and speaking with the responsibility of counsel stated: 'It is absolutely untrue.'

WHO ASKED FOR ENQUIRY?

"There is a second ground of complaint, and one which attacks the honor of this House and government as well as the honor of the Supreme Court of this province. I refer to the complaint of my friend the former attorney-general that he had been tricked into an investigation which he describes as 'a travesty of justice,' an affront to every principle of decency, and designed to effect a sinister purpose.

"Well, I ask: 'Who ordered and arranged the investigation?' I certainly did not. It was my honorable friend himself who pressed and asked for the investigation. As head of the department of justice, it was he I presume who drew up the order-in-council defining the narrow scope of the commission, selected the commissioner, and saw to it that no crown counsel was appointed to prosecute the case against himself.

"My friend had the benefit of two of the ablest counsel at the bar, knit closely to him by the ties of personal friendship and admiration. His leading counsel, Mr. S. S. Taylor, K. C., declined a paid retainer to appear on my behalf in order that he might place his services and abilities free of cost at the service of his friend the attorney-general. In a very peculiar sense it was his own enquiry, and if he has suffered at the hands of the commission he has been merely hoist with his own petard and I fall to discern in the honorable gentleman's complaint that spirit of British decency which he so warmly praised in himself.

ALWAYS THE DIRECTORS.

"And then my friend takes comfort in the evidence of Dr. Robert Mackenzie that the \$15,000 contributed by R. J. Mackenzie was not C. N. R. money. How Dr. Mackenzie knew that it was not C. N. R. money is not at all clear. On every other matter connected with the company Dr. Mackenzie professed a blank ignorance. He claimed he was not an officer, and was not connected with the company. He did not even know what for years Rod Mackenzie had been a director of the C. N. R. and the C. N. P. roads.

"But it is well known that railroad directors of the predatory type are at heart highly philanthropic and public-spirited gentlemen. They never give away company money; they always insist on giving away their own private funds. Save the British Columbia Electric Ry. I have never heard of a railway corporation in Canada which ever gave away a cent of its own monies to political parties. It is always the directors who give away their private funds.

"We had a most illustrious example in the case of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. It is on oath in the highest of this province by Mr. D'Arcy Tate himself, that the \$600,000 he handled for political purposes was not the money of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, but was his own personal money, that he gave away. And who would dare to suggest that the philanthropic Mr. Tate had perjured himself? Not my colleague, the former attorney-general. Oh no! My colleague has a peculiar streak of similitude in his mental make-up. In the words of his learned and admiring counsel at the close of the Gregory enquiry, 'He is a young man, and he has lots to learn in his political career.'

CRITICISM OF TRIBUNAL.

"The former attorney-general has one more grievance. He denounces the learned judge who acted as his commissioner, complaining that the commissioner allowed the enquiry to travel outside the strict working of

the order-in-council he had so carefully prepared. A member of the Supreme Court at some time ago told me that he had just given a judgment in which he felt that he must have done justice, because both parties were dissatisfied with it. And if it may comfort my friend and prove the even-handed manner in which the commissioner conducted the enquiry, I shall say that I had also felt aggrieved for precisely the opposite reason—perhaps an ignorant layman—felt that the commissioner had interpreted too strictly the letter of his instructions, so that highly important revelations, which were never made public.

"May it interest members to know that my friend's counsel objected to the question asked of Dr. Mackenzie, 'Who is R. J. Mackenzie?' and was upheld by the court. Counsel even objected to the question, 'Did you draw the cheque?' and to the question 'Did you hand the \$15,000 to Mr. Macdonald?'

"My friend's counsel capped his objections by inviting the commissioner to fine my own counsel for asking questions. The commissioner, after calling that we were bound by Dr. Mackenzie's answers and could not call evidence to contradict any part of his story, announced to the witness that he need not answer any question at all, and would not be punished for any contempt in refusing to testify. The recital of Dr. Mackenzie's evasions and of the hums of argumentations and of the hums of argumentations on technical objections to prevent the witness from being questioned would amaze this House. And yet my friend now attacks the commissioner for, I suppose, allowing the witness to be asked as to whether the proceeds of this \$15,000 cheque were handed over to him as alleged.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS.

"And now, in conclusion, I propose to face the issue which I take it was the real motive of my friend's speech, namely, to emphasize the acceptance by certain members of the Liberal party in Vancouver and Victoria of a contribution of \$5000 from the B. C. Electric. My friend's contention is that if we waive the question as to whether he has done and bring the facts before the attention of this House and call for an investigation.

"This is an aspect of the question that I have avoided, but not for the reasons which my friend attributes. I believe it is true that a contribution of \$5000 was made to the Vancouver and Victoria campaign fund through a gentleman who enjoys public esteem in Vancouver and with the consent of the late Premier. I accept my friend's statement that he did not learn of the contribution till long after the campaign was ended and the money spent. I was in a similar predicament.

"My friend demands to know why it is I have not drawn the same attention to the contribution made by the B. C. Electric to the campaign fund as I did to the \$15,000 he received from the director of the Canadian Northern Railway. I will tell him. It is because the contribution of the B. C. Electric found its way into the funds of the Liberal party, whereas the contribution made by this director of the C. N. R. did not.

RECALLS CIRCUMSTANCES.

"This was not the personal matter my friend seeks to make it appear. It was a public matter. I will call to the attention of the members of this House the circumstances under which my so-called charge was made. Honorable members will recall that there was a bill before the House calling for three judges to enquire into the Vancouver election frauds. A parliamentary committee had already sat and found that a conspiracy to carry on a personation on an extensive scale was entered into with the object of securing the election of the Liberal candidate. That finding was later duplicated almost word for word by the commission of three judges who said 'It is proved beyond any doubt that an elaborate and extensive scheme of personation was adopted on behalf of M. A. Macdonald, the Liberal candidate.'

"Members will recall that in my speech on that bill I argued that as John I. Scott, Dr. H. Pearce and other leading personages in the plugging had left the country that an enquiry in their absence would be useless. I pointed out that as the plugging conspiracy had evidently cost a great deal of money, both at the time and afterwards, it would be a very wise and proper thing to empower the commissioners to enquire into the collection of campaign funds, especially by unauthorized parties. I mentioned, not as making a charge, but merely by way of illustration, that information had come to my notice that several sums alleged to have been contributed by corporations to the funds of the Liberal party, had never reached their destination. I suggested that an enquiry along these lines might lead to the discovery of the men who had engineered and financed these plugging operations. That is why the contribution of the B. C. Electric had less interest for me at that time than those other corporation contributions which had never been accounted for. At the investigation before Mr. Justice Gregory I called the president of the Vancouver Liberal Association and Mr. John Hart, treasurer of the provincial campaign fund, and both these gentlemen testified on oath that they had never received this \$15,000 contributed by this C. N. R. director.

NOT GONE INTO.

"This question of campaign funds, which my friend flippantly boasts of being an authority upon, has never yet been settled. At the C. N. R. investigation, Mr. Justice Gregory refused

to allow any question as to the collection or disposal of campaign funds, whether regularly or irregularly collected, though he did say that he thought it was a proper matter for the Liberal party to enquire into. The commission of three judges who conducted the Vancouver election enquiry, refused to allow the government counsel, Mr. Douglas Armour, to cross-examine my colleague or any of the other witnesses upon the matter of campaign funds, as correspondence in my possession will prove, although it was drawn to their attention that a witness in the Gregory investigation had testified to a conversation at Victoria in regard to 'other amounts of which this amount (of \$15,000) was included.'

"The Liberal members of this House and of this country are entitled to know what becomes of moneys solicited or received in their name. This aspect of the question was referred to by my honorable friend's counsel who stated that the money had been distributed among the different constituencies, 'up-country' whatever that meant.

WHAT MR. TAYLOR SAID.

"My honorable friend's attitude toward the public is reflected in the language of his counsel, (page 71 of the proceedings). Said Mr. Taylor: 'My friend says the public want to know. I have great respect for the public, but I say we don't give a hang what the public want to know. I say it openly here. It doesn't make any difference what the public want to know. They will know exactly what they are entitled to know and nothing more.'

"That is the language of my friend's counsel. We don't give a hang for the public. It doesn't make any difference what the public wants to know. And this spokesman for my friend goes on to give his own cynical view of political life. He flouts the idea that you or I or ordinary members of the Legislature should have any interest in what moneys are collected in our names. He ridicules the idea of my honorable friend, the present minister of finance, thinking that he knows anything about the real state of affairs in the party finances. He says (page 127) 'Just as if the public are so foolish that they do not know that the main campaign fund of every political campaign never passes through the regulation channel. That is the way politics are conducted the world over.' That is the view of my honorable friend, the authority on campaign funds, in regard to his fiduciary relation to his colleagues in the Liberal party.

"Well, Mr. Speaker, that may be the view of my honorable friend and his political advisers, but it is not my view. I am satisfied that it is not the view of the majority of members of this House. I know it is not the view of the sound-hearted men of the Liberal party in my own constituency. When that coldly-braced code of morals is adopted by the Liberal party, there is one loyal Liberal member sitting in this House who will step outside the ranks of the Liberal party. The taint of this transaction has been transferred onto this House. My friend the former attorney-general, speaking through the lips of his counsel at the Gregory investigation boldly claimed that this money had been distributed among the members of this House. I challenge that statement. Honorable members have assured me voluntarily that they never shared in this money. I challenge any member of this House, unless it may be the honorable member from Omineca, to say that he shared in the money, which it is slanderously said on the records of this House, has been distributed among the members.

"No, Mr. Speaker! I have no animosity against the honorable the former attorney-general. At his first election in the city of Vancouver I lent my credit to help raise funds for his campaign. No man worked harder than myself to secure his return. I declined to testify against him at the enquiry which he forced me into. And at least one member of the present cabinet can bear me witness that when last year Dr. H. Pearce and other Vancouver Liberals came to interview the government and demand the expulsion of my friend the senior member, I personally besought them to withdraw their demand.

"I can not speak as an elder man to a younger, for in years I have little if any advantage over my colleague. But perhaps I have had more experience of the world. My colleague is, I fear, fast becoming the victim of his own imagination. There is a type well known to alienists, in which the subject becomes obsessed with a sense of his own significance, and thinks the rest of mankind are in a common conspiracy against him. I say again with my friend's counsel, 'He is a young man who has lots to learn in his political career.' He must learn that the pathway of return is not by a brazen defiance of the public will and of public decency, by an attack upon a brave and good man absent on the service of his country or even by an attack against the helpless and tongue-tied judiciary of our province."

ANOTHER NURSES' BILL

Dr. Sutherland Introduces a New One in Legislature.

VICTORIA, April 11.—Dr. Sutherland of Revelstoke has introduced another nurses' bill into the Legislature. Although many of the members profess to believe that this hardy annual will have no better fate this session than in previous years, the Revelstoke

member is at least determined to give it a fair send-off.

The bill is one similar to that for other "close corporation" professions, such as the lawyers, doctors and dentists, and provides for the formation of a council of the Graduate Nurses' Association of B. C., the first council to be appointed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons and subsequent councils, consisting of twelve members, each to be elected by the association.

The requisites for registration as a member of the association are that an applicant must be a member of the present unincorporated association, shall be a graduate of an approved training school and has passed an examination set by a board of examiners appointed by the government and comprising four members of the nurses' association and two members of the medical association.

Persons registered as trained nurses in other provinces may be registered here without further examination. No one not on the register of the association "shall be deemed to be qualified to hold themselves out to the public as a registered nurse." Association members may add "R. N." to their names.

TOO SELFISH TO AID PRINCE RUPERT

This Is Hon. T. D. Pattullo's
Opinion of Vancouver
and Victoria.

Northern City Forced to
Conduct Lone Fight for
Central B. C.

Richard Wallis Complains of
Condition of Highway
to Alberni.

Land-clearing and Road-
building Questions Are
Discussed.

VICTORIA, April 11.—The cities of Vancouver and Victoria were stigmatized by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, in the House yesterday as being too selfish to give a helping hand to Prince Rupert in its struggle for commercial recognition. These southern provincial cities, declared the minister, did not seem to realize that their prosperity depended to a great extent upon the outlying districts. It was a shame, he said, that Prince Rupert had to conduct a lone fight for Central British Columbia, which section would eventually redeem the province.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo pointed to the fact that the big government subsidized dry dock at Prince Rupert was practically idle for lack of business. He also told the House that the Dominion Government had declined to accept an application from the northern city for the construction there of ten steel ships.

Turning to the position of this province in regard to war work, the minister said that while British Columbia had given a greater proportion of its population to the war than had any other province it had received the least benefits from war contracts. Yet on account of its attractive climate and situation it would probably be called upon to make the largest proportionate expenditures in the returned soldier problem. Mr. Pattullo remarked that he considered the war would likely go on for several more years and on account of the adverse situation of British Columbia with respect to war work not only would its residents have to pay tribute to the east but their children would be in the same position for their lifetime. Some effort should be made to see that British Columbia got a fair share of the war business, said Mr. Pattullo.

SAYS ROSS A BACKSLIDER.

Reviewing the situation of his own department he asserted that although possibly his predecessor, Mr. Ross had made an honest attempt when he first went into office to reorganize the department he was soon travelling to the bad company of the remainder of the government and speedily became a backslider with the result that Mr. Pattullo found the department much disorganized.

He explained that the large expenditures in the renovations and furnishing of the land offices was due to the fact that the forest and water branches had been moved into the main building in order to provide for efficient administration.

The speaker diverted for some time to the question of public expenditures of the old government, stating that the public works expenses in 1914 were centered on September and October, just before the election. Almost every man in the Queen Charlotte Islands had been put on roadwork by the old government. One returning officer, who was also road foreman, paid the men off in the poll.

Announcement was made that the lands department was working on a grazing policy from which something definite would be evolved next session.

WAS HELPED SHIPPING.

In respect to irrigation the minister said that he realized that thousands of settlers depended upon a proper solution of the water question. It was with a view of giving help that the conservation fund had been provided for.

He made reference to the utilization of motor cars in the forest service during the past season, an innovation which had brought efficiency at reduced cost. This policy would be enlarged during the coming summer.

Explaining the reason for the small expenditures since the new government took office for lumber market extension, he said that it was impossible to obtain shipping facilities to the antipodes. He was inclined to think that Mr. Ross only took credit to the old government for the shipbuilding aid policy of 1916 because it was now "out of the woods." War conditions being left unrepresented in the House for eighteen months. He expressed regret that the government in bringing down the estimates had not seen fit to separate the district appropriations so that each member would know the amount to be expended in his district. He urged the repair of the Canadian highway to Alberni, declaring that this important tourist road was in bad condition. He ridiculed what he said was the antiquated method of building and maintaining roads and urged a more modern and permanent method.

Mr. Richard Wallis, opposition member for Alberni, followed the minister in the budget debate. Mr. Wallis said his victory in Alberni was due to the fact that the electors there resented being left unrepresented in the House for eighteen months. He expressed regret that the government in bringing down the estimates had not seen fit to separate the district appropriations so that each member would know the amount to be expended in his district. He urged the repair of the Canadian highway to Alberni, declaring that this important tourist road was in bad condition. He ridiculed what he said was the antiquated method of building and maintaining roads and urged a more modern and permanent method.

He suggested a motor tax based on horse-power, with the additional revenue to be spent on highway maintenance and construction. He also asked if it would be feasible to ask a registration fee of \$1 for each tourist coming to the province. He advised giving authority to municipalities to collect taxes on motor-torries and trucks.

TESTING OF CATTLE.

Passing on to other subjects, Mr. Wallis contended that the government should make the testing of cattle for tuberculosis compulsory upon all owners, thus doing away with the unsatisfactory system whereby the government inspectors tested some cattle, but never saw the majority. The member strongly urged that the ten-mile road from Quatsino to Hardy Bay, thus connecting the east and west coast, be completed owing to its importance in furnishing more rapid transportation to Vancouver from the west coast and in aiding the pulp industry at Quatsino. He spoke of the lack of roads on the west coast and commented severely upon the fact that last year one-third of the road money spent in the Cape Scott district went to the road foreman himself.

A promise had been obtained from the minister, he added, that more trails would be constructed in the west coast area. The member expressed satisfaction at the promised exemption of farm improvements from taxation as well as the proposed reassessment of farm lands. Few farmers in his district made a living from their farms without outside work, and the surtax with this year's increase proved a bitter pill. He considered that the government should help the settler in land-clearing and should also grapple with the question of high stumping-powder prices. He suggested the installation in each district of a new gas engine and apparatus for land-clearing purposes. Concluding, Mr. Wallis called upon the government majority not to show the white feather and to talk less blue ruin.

SOLDIERS HOOT AND YELL AT PREMIER

Demonstration by Angry
Veterans at Victoria Cause
of Exciting Hour.

Great Crowd Assembled on
Lawn Opposite Legisla-
tive Building.

Demand of Hon. J. Oliver
that Civil Service Act
Be Enforced.

Bill of Indictment, Insult to
Dead Premier, Replies
Honest John.

VICTORIA, April 11.—Angry war veterans, fully a thousand of them, hooted and yelled at Premier John Oliver and other members of the government at an open-air meeting in front of the Legislative buildings last night.

The soldiers, accompanied by a military band, and with scores of women belonging to affiliated associations, marched to the buildings where they formally presented the cabinet with a request for support to the resolution calling upon Ottawa to take prompt steps to deal with the alien situation. The Premier gave a qualified support.

Then the war veterans gave him a surprise by demanding that he put last year's Civil Service Act into effect. The Premier grew indignant at the demand, which he said constituted an insult to the memory of the late Premier. He virtually defied the soldiers, and his reply was greeted with a storm of loud objections. War veterans from every part of the massed body shouted out their feelings, and what they said about the administration was very far from complimentary. Hon. Mr. Pattullo came in for special attention, half a dozen of the men demanding that he show himself.

GREAT CROWD ON LAWS.

As the procession turned into Government street, with many large automobiles crowded with invalids from Resthaven Military Hospital in the lead, the crowds along the way broke into cheers and handclapping, the applause keeping up until the end, when most of the spectators fell in and accompanied the parade to the buildings, making the attendance on the laws nearly 2500 by the time the ministers came out to meet the soldiers.

Following the automobiles came a band, then the ladies of the Women's Auxiliary to the Great War Veterans, veterans of previous wars, a large body of returned soldiers, the Next-of-Kin Association, the Men's Auxiliary to the Great War Veterans, and the Win-the-War League bringing up the rear with a large attendance. All along the parade were striking banners, spaced a few feet apart, calling for the internment of aliens, the enlistment of conscientious objectors as stretcher-bearers, "Down With Graft and Profit-taking," there being nearly two dozen of these pithy slogans.

PREMIER RECEIVED RESOLUTION.

Hon. John Oliver met the deputation at the head of the entire cabinet, and the resolution was placed in his hands by Major T. B. Monk, who said that the matter of action on the alien question had been brought before the Dominion Government by the Great War Veterans, but that nothing had come of the representations made. The returned soldiers were convinced that the Union Government was anxious to tackle the matter. The parade had been got up in order that the hands of Sir Robert Borden might be strengthened, and he asked the Premier to tell the gathering what the Provincial Government was prepared to do to aid in their object.

Hon. Mr. Oliver said the matter dealt with in the resolution was one which was strictly reserved for the Dominion Parliament, and while it might very well be that the feelings of the Provincial Government on the alien question were in alignment with those of the returned soldiers, yet he wanted to point out that more than two hundred specimens of the wisest heads of Canada were gathered at Ottawa, and when they had refused to take action on this alien question which was not available to the Government of British Columbia.

PROPOSES T

"You have considered this matter," he told what we said. "I have any question me, and so I government w which you ha will give the the more so t this very da House, been tile to the in the governm and if we fir in truth stre Federal Gove the alien que to Ottawa wi The Premi to bring to t a resolution up and dema Ottawa was like away-of and suggest which prison might have possibly be a alien regulat men then be interruptions "No excuses" ing to do ab stated that h nearly in fr conditions w desire.

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PREMIER

"This is this govern submitted," he had re "This is m only in m memory of province, t that it acc playing po as it accus this. No thing agai have been limit of h have not h attended t ter requir I personally this Civil i

PREMIER

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PROPOSES TO CONSIDER.

"You have given us no time to consider this matter. You demand to be told what we are prepared to do," he said. "I have never been one to shrink any question which may be put up to me, and so I will tell you that this government will take these resolutions which you have submitted to us. We will give them careful consideration, the more so that this government has this very day, on the floor of this House, been charged with being hostile to the interests of the soldiers and the government in power in Ottawa, and if we find that this resolution will in truth strengthen the hands of the Federal Government in dealing with the alien question, we will forward it to Ottawa with our endorsement."

The Premier then complained that to bring to the Provincial Government a resolution which they had drawn up and demand that it be sent on to Ottawa was no proper and business-like way of dealing with the matter, and suggested that the treatment which prisoners in the enemy's hands might have meted out to them would possibly be affected by stringent anti-alien regulations in Canada, but the men then began a series of sustained interruptions mingled with calls of "No excuses" and "What are you going to do about it?" Mr. Oliver then stated that he and his colleagues were heartily in favor of bringing about the conditions which the returned men desire.

A NEW RESOLUTION.

After thanking the Premier for his assurances, Major Monk introduced Comrade A. R. Berry, who said that while the matter just discussed was undoubtedly one for the Dominion authorities, he had a matter to submit which was strictly a provincial affair. He then read the following resolution which he desired to submit to the gathering:

Whereas the Provincial Legislature, at the last session of the House, passed a statute instituting civil service reform, to be administered by a commissioner and providing for preference to returned men who are properly qualified to fill vacancies in the government service, and

Whereas the appointment of a commissioner to put the new regulations into effect has not yet been made.

Therefore this assembly respectfully urges on the Provincial Government the advisability of immediately appointing a civil service commissioner and asks the Premier to announce here and now that such an appointment will be made forthwith.

The reading of the resolution was greeted with rounds of applause by the crowd, and a great shout of appreciation indicated its adoption after Comrade Gloima had formally seconded it.

PREMIER MAKES PROTEST.

"This is a bill of indictment against this government which you have just submitted," said Hon. John Oliver after he had recovered from the shock. "This is most unfair; it is unjust not only to we who live but also to the memory of the late Premier of the province, the Hon. Mr. Brewster, in that it accuses him of negligence and playing politics to the full as much as it accuses us. I will not receive this. No man can make me do something against my conscience. We have been working ever here to the limit of human endurance, and we have not had time to get this matter attended to. Besides, this is a matter requiring careful consideration, and I personally do not know exactly what this Civil Service Act really entails."

PREMIER IS "BOO'D."

Then the soldiers gave vent to the feelings which they had held in check with evident effort during the earlier portion of the proceedings. "Boo!" "Well make you take it!" "You've had a year to start work!" "What did we put you in for?" and many other remarks came from all sides, and Mr. Oliver had to wait for a few minutes before he could make himself heard. He then said: "When you think this matter over tomorrow you will think more of John Oliver for not being overready with the 'glad hand.'"

Comrade Gloima then asked for permission to ask a question and amid a tense silence asked:

"The government passed that act when you were a member of the cabinet and you voted for it?"

The Premier—Yes.

"You do not know what it really means?"

The Premier—No.

"Then you admit that you voted for something which you don't know anything about, being at that time a minister of the government?"

A shout of joy went up from the crowd as the clear voice of the soldier made itself heard even at the outskirts of the gathered thousands, and the noise of the motors as the procession started its onward way drowned the Premier's angry disavowal of the interpretation which had been read into his explanation of the delay.

HELD LATER MEETING.

Characterizing as slippery and evasive the attitude of Premier John Oliver, a mass meeting of returned soldiers, next-of-kin and sympathizers, who packed the Princess Theatre to its doors last night, recorded its emphatic support of the representations made by their deputation earlier in the evening relative to the alien enemy and civil service issues.

The Provincial Government came in for general denunciation for its apparent policy of avoiding settlement of

the returned soldiers' problem, and the Premier's reply to the resolutions submitted to him at the steps of the Parliament buildings was branded as "the remarks of a man who didn't know there was a war on." Dissatisfaction with the stand taken by the government was voiced by almost every speaker. The meeting decided to demand that the Provincial Government endorse the conscription of aliens proposal before the rising of the House. The following resolution was also passed by a standing vote:

"That whereas the present Provincial Government under the leadership of the late Premier passed a Civil Service Act, making it obligatory for all civil servants to obtain through competitive examinations and also containing a special clause concerning applications of returned soldiers; and whereas, although this act is now on the statute books of the Province of British Columbia, but is non-operative until a commissioner or comptroller is appointed, be it resolved that this meeting here assembled now ask the Hon. John Oliver in his position as Premier of British Columbia to put the act into force."

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1918.

COMPROMISE ON ORE RATES

New Enquiry Plan on that Question Passes the House.

Government Representative Will Act With Kootenay Board of Trade.

VICTORIA, April 12.—As a compromise between the Nelson smelter rates enquiry resolution, which calls for an investigation by the mining committee of the House, and the Hawthornthwaite amendment for a royal commission enquiry, Hon. William Sloan yesterday introduced in the House a second amendment which was adopted with the support of the opposition.

It provides that the government appoint a representative to act with the Kootenay Board of Trade committee of enquiry, if it shall appear from his report that the Consolidated smelter interests are interested in injustice upon the mining operators of eastern British Columbia or that further enquiry is necessary, then the lieutenant-governor-in-council should appoint a royal commission under the Public Enquiries Act or take such other means as considered efficient for the relief of the operators.

The minister outlined the history of the dispute over the smelter rates and referred to the complaints of the mine operators that the Trail smelter by means of high charges had penalized zinc ores. It was found impossible up to the present, he said, to have the American duty on Canadian ores removed even for ore shipped across the line for munitions purposes, hence the British Columbia silver-lead and zinc miners could not get an American market while at the same time American ores came in to the Trail smelter free of duty.

A DENVER EXPERT.

He touched on the appointment of a special committee by the Associated Boards of Trade of Southeastern British Columbia, this committee having been recognized by the Dominion Government. The services of L. O. Whitaker of Denver, a mining and smelter expert, had been engaged for the enquiry and he would be available in about two weeks' time.

Hon. Mr. Sloan then proposed his amendment to the Nelson resolution, pointing out that it would be desirable for the government to have a representative acting with the up-country committee. Following his report, if necessary, the administration could then have a royal commission enquiry.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite pressed for a commission at once, declaring that the Sloan amendment was merely an attempt to solve the subject.

"BEST HE COULD GET."

Mr. Nelson spoke at length in support of his original motion for an enquiry by the House mining committee, but wound up by agreeing to the Sloan amendment. He took the view that it was not the desire to have a lengthy investigation and the committee could go into the situation in a preliminary way before the close of the session. Mr. Nelson resented the suggestion of Mr. Bowser made on the day previous that this committee was a political one and would bring in a dishonest report.

Mr. Bowser, following, said he would withdraw the word "dishonest." He pointed out, however, that the Liberal

members of that committee had conducted a private session on the resolution and had discussed the situation with representatives of the mining and smelting interests. He poked fun at Mr. Nelson for his willingness to drop his resolution or at least all the vital portion beyond the "whereases." Mr. Bowser said the opposition was willing to take the Sloan amendment as being the best it could get, but he thought the minister was sidestepping the issue. On a series of House votes, in which Mr. Hawthornthwaite stood out against the remainder of the members, the Sloan amendment was adopted.

JITNEY CLAUSE IS APPROVED

VICTORIA, April 12.—The private bills committee this morning completed the Vancouver private bill thus accepting the city's claim for the right to prohibit the jitneys. The committee sat in camera.

Its members took the view that the city in its agreement with the B. C. Electric to abide by the Shortt report, should be permitted to obtain power to follow out that promise.

Members of the committee were not anxious to express views as to the abolition of the jitneys and the question will therefore virtually go to the House without prejudice.

It may be remembered in this connection that the Legislature last year varied the report of the committee in the dispute between the city and the B. C. Electric with regard to the former's light and power rights. A warm legislative fight is expected over the jitney clauses of the Vancouver Bill particularly in regard to the effect they will have on outside lines such as the Blue Funnel. Some of the committeemen said today that there was a feeling in the committee against giving the city any power which might lead to the elimination of outside auto lines running into the city. The Vancouver bill will be reported to the House this afternoon.

MUST TAKE STAND ON OLD-AGE PENSIONS

J. W. Weart Proposes to Force Government to Announce Policy.

VICTORIA, April 12.—Up to the present the government has not seen fit to accept Mr. J. W. Weart's old age pension bill, and the South Vancouver member now proposes to make the House face the issue in a resolution that the Legislature go into committee of the whole to consider the recommending of legislation at this session providing for such pensions. This motion will force the government to give a declaration of policy upon the question.

Mr. Weart can not himself introduce the measure because it deals with crown revenue. His bill provides for a tax upon practically all individuals with earning power and also on all companies. The tax on unmarried earners would be about three cents a day, with half that sum for married wage earners and five cents per day for those persons not in the wage class. Companies would pay a sliding scale. He believes that in ten years' time, when pensions would start, there would be a fund of twenty millions. The maximum pension for any individual not receiving other income would be \$400 per year.

FOR TIMBER CRUISING

Amendment Offered by Hugh Stewart Accepted by House.

VICTORIA, April 12.—The benefits of this session's amendment to the Forest Act, by which discoverers of timber for pulp purposes are to be protected insofar as their costs of location are concerned, will now be extended to all discoverers of any timber areas, according to a second amendment offered by Mr. Hugh Stewart of Comox, and accepted by the Legislature. Under the old act, when the locator of timber limits applied to the minister of lands for license to cut on the property, the minister cruised it and advertised for tenders. In many cases the discoverer was outbid and thus lost his time and money spent on locating. The minister's amendment provided that in connection with pulp timber licenses the discoverer would be repaid his expenses out of funds put up by the successful tenderer.

Mr. Stewart presented a clause applying this concession to all timber so that the original locator might receive a reasonable sum, within the discretion of the minister, but not to exceed the cruising cost incurred by the government. The intention of the

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Comox member successfully introducing this amendment was to protect the interest of the small locator, who would therefore not lose money in case he was not fortunate enough to obtain the license at the time of auction.

IF IT HURTS DON'T PAY ME

But Use of that Phrase Cost
Dentist Heavily in
Fines.

Latter Were Then Claimed
by Other Practitioners in
Association.

VICTORIA, April 12.—A charge that the Dental Association in Vancouver is making use of the powers given to it by the Legislature as a weapon in a family quarrel, and a demand that the Legislature amend the Dental Act to prevent such abuses of power, was made by J. S. Cowper, fifth member for Vancouver, in the course of the budget debate Thursday afternoon.

"I take my own share of the responsibility," said the Vancouver member. "A year ago when the Dental Bill was before this House I supported it in the belief that we were placing a reasonable measure of disciplinary power in the hands of the association. Now I find that this body, which enjoys such extraordinary privileges, has used them almost exclusively to enrich itself in a family squabble which has been raging over how this or that man should write his advertisements."

"The principal victim," said the member, "turns out to be a man who roused the ire of the association by advertising himself as 'the gentle dentist.' That has a very reassuring and comforting sound to the ordinary citizen who thinks of visiting a dentist, but it roused the ire of the other members of the dentists' union. He did even worse. He advertised: 'If it hurts, don't pay me.'

"If it hurts, don't pay me' sounds like a very attractive and considerate proposition to me. But the other dentists didn't like it. They took the view that they ought to be paid, no matter how much they might hurt. So under the powers granted them by this Legislature, they dragged the man who didn't want to be paid into court, and there had him punished for that offence. They not only fined him once, but they fined him half a dozen times over in the first day with cumulative fines, as if he were a hardened offender.

WORST STILL TO COME.

"But that wasn't the worst, I am informed," continued the member. "In order to convict their victim about a dozen of his rivals went into the witness-box to give their opinion as to what they thought the public might think was meant by 'if it hurts don't pay me.' And the strangest travesty of all is that instead of the fines being handed over to the treasury of the province as they should, this body of dentists, who laid the information and supplied the witnesses, promptly claimed the fines as the property of the association.

"The magistrate, however, found himself unable to convict the dentist of the crime of calling himself 'The Gentle Dentist' and so I am told, after having got this man's money, a member of the association visited him and offered to bribe him with half of his own money that they had taken from him by way of fines in the Police Court, if he would consent to drop the phrase 'The Gentle Dentist.'"

Mr. Cowper claimed that the Legislature would never have granted powers and privileges to be used in this fashion and invited the government to bring up the Dental Act for amendment, passing retroactive legislation to ensure that whatever moneys had

been collected by the association in fines during the past year should be handed over to the provincial treasury.

BANISH NEWSPAPERMEN.

The Vancouver member also took exception to the annual grant which has been made as a regular thing to the Law Society which he said was a dignified name for the lawyers' union. "There is no more reason for making a grant to the lawyers' union than there is to the bricklayers' union or the carpenters' union. Indeed, there is less reason, for the lawyers are a well-paid and protected class, better able than any other body of men in the country to take care of themselves.

"I have heard it said that the grant is used to help sustain the law libraries of the province. Law books are the tools of the lawyer and are not

available to the layman," said the Vancouver member, who added that to make sure that members of the public could not have access to the law libraries even though every person was presumed to know the law, he had paid a visit in company with a legal friend to the law library at the Vancouver Courthouse. When he explained that he was a newspaper writer by profession and wished to have access to the library for purposes of public information, the librarian had told him that she had received special instructions to keep all newspapermen out.

BOWSER FORCED TO SPEAK AT MIDNIGHT

Opposition Plans for Gallery
Filled With Returned Sol-
diers Are Spoiled.

House Sat Until 3 a. m., and
Then Voted Million and
Half in Thirty Seconds.

Hon. John Hart Took Valu-
able Lessons in Knitting
from Mrs. Smith.

J. W. Jones and W. R. Ross
Chief Seconds in Delay-
ing Tactics.

VICTORIA, April 12.—The Legislature adjourned at 3 o'clock this morning after an all-night fighting for position. The opposition wanted to have W. J. Bowser go on in the budget debate this afternoon, but the government, influenced, it is claimed, by a report that the returned soldiers intended to fill the galleries today for the Bowser speech, decided that the debate would have to be closed up last night. Accordingly, government members used every effort to force the opposition to wind up. The minority fought hard and talked against time until midnight, but finally, forced into a corner by the Speaker's ruling, gave way, and Mr. Bowser delivered his budget address at 12:30 midnight, speaking until a quarter to 3 o'clock.

QUICK ACTION ON MONEY.

The debate was concluded by Mr. Bell of Victoria, and the House then went into committee of supply, passing the first item of the estimates, being a sum of approximately \$1,500,000 required to meet fixed charges. This sum was passed in thirty seconds.

Adjournment was then reached at 3 o'clock and the tired legislators went home for a few hours rest before beginning committee work at 10 o'clock this morning and the regular House session at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

Premier Oliver doubts if the Legislature will be able to finish next week, even if sessions are held morning, afternoon and night. He points out that many bills are still in progress and more are yet to come. The new ones include the P. G. E. Bill, Land Settlement Bill, Vancouver and Victoria private bill and several other measures of less importance.

WHAT LED UP TO IT.

Indications of a struggle between the opposition and the government came late in the afternoon during the time that Mr. J. W. Jones of South Okanagan was speaking. Learning that the Premier intended to close up the debate that night, the opposition kept Mr. Jones at work. He spoke for a couple of hours in the afternoon, and resuming at 8:30, kept going for another three hours. Mr. Jones covered a wide range. He read freely from various volumes on irrigation—a pet subject with him—and described in minute detail the great irrigation projects of the world, jumping with a word from the Okanagan Valley to the Nile, back to the Wenatchee Valley and over to Italy. When the South Okanagan member finally concluded his proposed a want of confidence resolution as follows:

That whereas the promises of economy and retrenchment made on behalf of the government during the election campaign leading up to the general election of 1918, have not been adhered to, but on the contrary the fixed charges of the government have been increased and new offices have been created at high salaries and filled by the appointment of political friends of the government without regard to efficiency or any comprehensive scheme of civil service reform and without any consideration for the returned soldiers.

And whereas notwithstanding the passage of an act providing for civil service reform by the present administration which was assented to on May 19, 1917, to come into force when proclaimed by order-in-council, no steps have been taken up to this time to make such legislation operative, and in the meantime the government is filling vacancies in the civil service without regard to the requirements of said act and without consideration of the special clauses of said legislation favoring returned soldiers.

Therefore he resolved that the Legislative Assembly has no confidence in the honorable the Premier as leader of the government, or in the present administration.

ROSS COULD NOT START.

Presumably in order to gain time for the opposition and keep the fight going so that Mr. Bowser could come up this afternoon, Mr. W. R. Ross offered a motion that the House adjourn to consider business of public urgency, being the soldiers' resolution offered to the government on the steps of the Parliament Buildings by the War Veterans on Wednesday night.

Premier Oliver promptly raised a point of order that the motion could not be considered until the want of confidence resolution arising out of the budget debate had been dealt with.

There was a long argument, the members quoting parliamentary authorities at length. The chair first ruled that the House must decide at once when the Ross resolution would be considered, thus in effect giving the Fort George member the floor, which was what the opposition wanted, in addition of course to the advantage gained by bringing the War Veterans' resolutions into the Legislature. But the moment the time for consideration of the point came, Premier Oliver raised a point of order that the resolutions did not constitute a matter of grave public urgency and therefore could be taken up at another time.

Mr. Speaker Keen ruled in his favor, hence Mr. Ross did not get started.

The last appeal against the decision, but lost on a party vote. Then came the want of confidence resolution.

Premier Oliver demanded notice of such a motion and again obtained support of the Chair.

This left the opposition forced to proceed with the budget debate.

Mr. W. A. McKenzie of Similkameen came to the front with a speech lasting until 12:30.

ON RETURNED SOLDIERS.

By that time the opposition strategists concluded they would have to bring Mr. Bowser on then, or in the later hours of the morning. So he started on an address which ran over two hours and a quarter. Despite the lateness of the hour, the opposition leader made a vigorous speech, scoring the administration for its alleged failure to look after the interests of returned soldiers in civil service appointments, producing figures to show that despite its promises of economy, the government was increasing the salary list and showing annual deficits, was stifling agriculture and industry by heavy taxation and failed to pay any attention to its no-patronage promises.

Members who had expected a long and dreary time of it found the opposition leader taking their entire attention. There were many interruptions from Premier Oliver and other government members and at times the debate was quite acrimonious.

LEARNED TO KNIT.

Hon. John Hart devoted part of the evening in taking lessons from Mrs. Smith in knitting socks and made considerable progress in the art. While the opposition leader thundered on the finance minister filed the knitting needles in the seat he took next to the Vancouver woman member, and although Mrs. Smith may have had to unravel a good deal of his knitting, she says he was an apt beginner. Mrs. Smith has arranged to sell this pair of grey socks to Mrs. Letts of the G. T. P. colonization department, Winnipeg, for ten dollars, the money to be given to her I. O. D. E. chapter in Vancouver. It will be the first pair ever knitted in the legislative halls, and according to her computation, should be finished in a day or two.

WHAT MR. JONES SAID.

The actual substance of Mr. Jones' speech was given in his afternoon effort. The evening address was largely what might be termed camouflage. He said that he, in common with the rest of British Columbians, was watching to see just when the Liberal government proposes to abolish patronage and other evils which were attacked with such pre-election vigor. Complimenting Hon. John Hart upon his first budget, delivered with native Irish optimism, Mr. Jones wished him good luck during the short term the Liberal government is likely to remain in office. He impressed the necessity of watching the treasury and safeguarding against horde of party friends demanding government positions. Instead of referring as other Conservative speakers had done to the "jackpot" budget, Mr. Jones pictured it as a "fishpond affair" insofar as the jump sum for road improvement was concerned. Several members of the Liberal persuasion had been allowed to angle in the fishpond, and the Conservatives also would want to go fishing if the system were continued, he said.

The public could not sure notable improvements, lumbering increase of \$133,333 having held its own small decrease over circumstances; fisher Columbia still in products, however, for this province, \$19,788,000, and necessity for encou production. No les of imported butter couver daily, said.

WERE THEY SIN

Referring to the promises which the see carried out, t ated those promise in expenditure, no lic accounts, comp tical provision fo non-partisan civil patronage and div Jones was dubio ment's intention these into real ac

Touching upon province, Mr. Jos Brewster budget, net debt as \$18,33 budget for 1918 s \$20,946,000. Deficit a two-year total expenditures 191 estimated expend \$10,800,804, and e for 1918-19 at \$ the items of big out by Mr. Jos salaries amount salaries for var an increasing co which he stated, \$131,000 for 19 1918.

SATURDAY,

GAME-HOC

Suggestions From
Reduce

REDUCE

VICTORIA, A "hog" came in f the Legislature, no House considered ments. One an warmly criticize who made a hab game or catchin It is questioned be so amended, stantial reducti seasonal limit o and grouse, wh in many distric ing to the statu The same cont the big game, a big game const

Mr. Buchan' the license fee to \$25, with an of game slaug cussion far af game protecti the system in States and Pauline referre cent remarks c he considered half of the gri Pauline decli habits and ag chief to flocki tion of any fe instead, a bo upon it.

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Mr. McKen be cut to fifti one day redu Mr. Schoff the seasonal Mr. Barrow to see a dall activities not agree w season.

Premier O House desire should probi use and con Mr. Schoff who are su were realy hence upon

OPIN

But Govern of O

VICTORI

townsite in literature. Ans Rose of Ne nia and O the Land yesterday divided opi had the qu vision and He added: "The mi public in t that any o this quest affecting t elve con necessary were the power."

The public could review with pleasure notable improvement in trade conditions, lumbering having recorded an increase of \$13,385,000; agriculture having held its own; mining having a small decrease owing to adverse circumstances; fisheries finding British Columbia still in the lead. Imported products, however, showed up badly for this province, he said, totalling \$19,786,000, and demonstrating the necessity for encouraging our own production. No less than \$5000 worth of imported butter is going into Vancouver daily, said Mr. Jones.

WERE THEY SINCERE?
Referring to the Liberal pre-election promises which the country expects to see carried out, the speaker enumerated those promises as being economy in expenditure, no concealment in public accounts, comprehensive and practical provision for returned soldiers, non-partisan civil service, abolition of patronage and direct legislation. Mr. Jones was dubious about the government's intention of putting any of these into real action.

Touching upon the net debt of the province, Mr. Jones said that the Brewster budget of 1917 showed the net debt as \$18,336,000, while the Hart budget for 1918 showed a net debt of \$20,946,000. Deficits of 1917-1918 show a two-year total of \$3,200,000. Actual expenditures 1916-17 were \$9,079,317; estimated expenditures for 1917-18 are \$10,890,804, and estimated expenditures for 1918-19 at \$11,611,694. Some of the items of high expenditure pointed out by Mr. Jones were civil servants' salaries amounting to \$1,500,000; high salaries for various commissions and an increasing cost of provincial police which he stated was \$135,000 for 1916, \$124,000 for 1917, and \$129,000 for 1918.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1918.

GAME-HOGS GRILLED

Suggestions From Many Members to Reduce Total Bags.

VICTORIA, April 13.—The game "hog" came in for his due desserts in the Legislature yesterday when the House considered the Game Act amendments. One and all the members warmly criticized the greedy hunters who made a habit of bagging feathered game or catching fish by the hundred. It is quite possible that the act may be so amended as to provide a substantial reduction in the daily and seasonal limit of such game as ducks and grouse, which are growing scarce in many districts of the province owing to the inroads of heedless nimrods. The same condition holds true with the big game, said members from the big game constituencies.

Mr. Bucham's amendment to reduce the license fee on hunters of big game to \$25, with an added charge per head of game slaughtered, carried the discussion far afield to the subject of game protection, as compared with the system in vogue in the United States and New Brunswick. Mr. Pauline referred to Mr. Bucham's recent remarks on the subject and what he considered had been a plea on behalf of the grizzly bear, an animal, Mr. Pauline declared, whose predatory habits and capabilities for doing mischief to flocks warranted the elimination of any fee for its slaughter, and, instead, a bounty should be placed upon it.

Mr. Yorston suggested prohibition of the sale of game and permitting settlers, especially in the North, to shoot for their own use. If they knew that the protection of the game meant its continued use, they would take steps to see that the laws were enforced.

Mr. McKenzie urged that the limit for the season of 250 grouse or ducks be cut to fifty, with the limit for any one day reduced to ten or a dozen.

Mr. Schofield of Trail agreed with the seasonal limit of fifty, but while Mr. Barrow of Chilliwack was willing to see a daily limit in order to cut off the activities of "game hogs" he did not agree with the fifty limit for a season.

Premier Oliver declared that if the House desired to protect game then it should prohibit the killing except for use and completely prohibit the sale.

Mr. Schofield declared many men who are supposed to be sportsmen were really only "game hogs" and hence the necessity for a limit being placed upon the season's kill.

OPINION IS DIVIDED

But Government Has Not Lost Sight of Closed-town Question.

VICTORIA, April 13.—The closed towns issue is still before the Legislature. Answering questions from Dr. Rose of Nelson with regard to Britannia and Ocean Falls being subject to the Land Act, Hon. Mr. Pattullo said yesterday that this matter was one of divided opinion, but the government had the question of requiring subdivision and opening under consideration. He added:

"The minister of lands assured the public in the election campaign of 1915 that any abuses in connection with this question or any other question affecting the public interests would receive consideration and thereafter necessary action by the government were the Liberal party returned to power."

EXPECTS TO SEE BOOM IN FARMING

W. A. McKenzie Also Defends Location of Hope-Princeton Auto Road.

VICTORIA, April 13.—Mr. W. A. McKenzie of Similkameen has come to the defence of the Hope-Princeton route of the transprovincial highway which Mr. Anderson of Kamloops said the other day was not feasible because snowballs bloomed in July in the heights of the Hope Mountains, which the proposed route would climb.

Speaking in the House, the Similkameen member pointed out that the section of the road already built did not cost \$20,000 per mile, as Mr. Anderson suggested, but had actually cost \$9000 per mile, as against an estimated cost of \$7500. He said that the grade of the road would be several thousand feet lower than the K. V. Railway over the Hope Mountains. This route, he claimed, would provide a short-cut highway from the Coast to the rich Southern B. C. mining and agricultural territory, and in addition would give access to Kamloops just as well as the Fraser Canyon-North Thompson route advocated by Mr. Anderson. The Hope route was chosen by the engineer sent out to locate the transprovincial road, he pointed out. He strongly urged the government to take up the work of finishing the broken link, doing a little each year, so that the interior people could look forward to auto connection with the Coast.

The Similkameen member talked on irrigation at some length, advocating that the government take over the main flumes and ditches of the dry-belt systems. He suggested also that in the administration of the present legislation the government keep in touch with the needs of the small isolated ranchers with their own little systems. In many cases, by means of financial assistance from Victoria, small landholders could be grouped together under one system and with a suitable storage reservoir.

In taking up the subject of road work the member advocated the construction of trails to promising mineral claims. He defended the policy of the old administration in making large public works expenditure for the development of the province. He also proposed to the government that it make a forward step in land development by obtaining large tracts, such as that south of Penticton, for community settlement purposes, preferably for returned soldiers. This tract he pointed out could be irrigated either by the construction of a gravity system or by electric pumping, power being obtained from the proposed extension of the West Kootenay Light & Power Co.'s line.

He told the Legislature of the existence along the K. V. R. of many excellent agricultural areas, as yet unsurveyed, but which could be settled up if the government surveys portions of them year by year. He believed that within the next few years would come a lively interest in farming which the government might properly take advantage of.

THEY JOCKEY FOR POSITION

Government Tries to Prevent Opposition Getting Credit from Soldiers.

Liberal Amendment Contains Very Slight Change of Ross Motion.

VICTORIA, April 13.—The Conservatives "pulled off" a coup in the House the other evening when Mr. W. R. Ross brought in a motion calling for consideration and acceptance of the War Veterans' resolutions presented to the cabinet by the soldier delegation.

These resolutions dealt with the status of aliens and asked that enemy aliens be employed on national industry, their wages above the pay of a Canadian soldier to be taken by the government for war purposes; that the Military Service Act be applied to Allied aliens; that no steps be taken to call out the second or other classes in Canada or to return the married "originals" to France until the alien question had been settled satisfactorily to the citizens of Canada; that no enemy alien hold public office; that alien questions be taken from provincial control; that the Dominion establish an alien registration bureau; that aliens wear a badge; that enemy alien newspapers be prohibited, and that no person of alien birth be permitted to have firearms.

It was also proposed that a law be passed punishing with a heavy fine all aliens breaking labor contracts, particularly on farms. The last resolution sought the immediate operation in British Columbia of the Civil Service Act.

ASKED HOUSE TO ADOPT.
When the soldiers met the Premier on the steps of the legislative buildings, he assured them that the government was well disposed to the resolutions with regard to aliens, although possibly not being ready without examination to agree to present them to Sir Robert Borden as requested. Premier was, however, resentful, he said, of the demand that the Civil Service Act be put into effect, considering it a reflection upon the late premier.

The government filed a return in the House, giving the soldiers' resolutions in full, but Mr. Ross went one better by proposing that the Legislature adopt them.

It was made apparent today that the Liberals have no intention of permitting the opposition to have the credit either of putting through the motion or forcing the government to make an awkward decision, hence Mr. Jackson of the Islands has filed notice of an amendment to the Ross motion. His amendment is exactly the same as the soldiers' resolutions offered by the Fort George member except that he drops off the clause asking for the putting into effect of the provincial Civil Service Act.

"ORIGINALS" FOR FRANCE.
He also makes one change in the alien sections, and instead of asking Ottawa that no other military class be called out or "originals" sent back to France until the alien question has been settled to the satisfaction of the soldiers, he proposed that "it would be unjust to call out the second or other class under the Military Service Act or to return to France married men of the first contingent while sufficient numbers to replace them from aliens in this country remain immune from service."

Otherwise, Mr. Jackson's amendment follows word for word the Ross motion as offered by the War Veterans. Assuming that the government majority accepted the Jackson amendment, which it would no doubt prefer over the Ross motion, if it took either one, then the government could be in the position of saying that one of its supporters fathered the soldiers' alien demands in the Legislature and credit for this would go to the opposition. The original plan had been for Mrs. Smith to introduce the motion, but Mr. Ross apparently forestalled her; now the Liberals are "coming back."

SOLDIERS IN THE SERVICE.
A few days ago Mr. Bowser asked that a return be supplied to the House setting out how many returned men had been utilized in the government service since November, 1916. Yesterday Premier Oliver tabled a document showing that 134 returned men were given positions by the government since the date specified and of that number eighty-three are still following their avocations in various parts of the province. The report also shows that ninety-five men were given temporary work and that out of this number seventeen are still at work. Seven men were discharged for "good and sufficient" reason. In almost every instance otherwise the man has either left of his own free will or has re-enlisted. Positions given under the permanent head include thirty-nine clerks, twenty-nine constables, fifteen game wardens, six fire wardens, twelve orderlies and the balance are of the more miscellaneous nature.

IS CAMOUFLAGE SAYS LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Hon. John Hart's Surplus a Matter of Bookkeeping, His View.

Appeal to Government to Treat Soldiers With Decency and Sympathy.

Some Recent Appointments in Civil Service Are Criticized.

Many Interruptions Occur in W. J. Bowser's Midnight Speech.

VICTORIA, April 13.—"You came into power with honesty and economy written all over you, but you no sooner

achieved office than you spent \$3613 in refurnishing the cabinet offices and \$17,741 in buying new automobiles."

W. J. Bowser dealt in millions in his budget speech in the early morning hours of Friday, but this criticism of the government on the carpets and autos was perhaps the most striking. The opposition leader was on his feet from 12:30 midnight until 2:45 in the morning. It was his only opportunity to speak before the closing of the budget debate, the government being determined to bring it to an end at the Thursday night session.

The speaker reviewed the financial affairs of the province during the last six years of the old regime and compared the situation as it existed then with the first year of the new administration. He declared that in its first two years of office the present government would show a deficit of at least four millions at a time when economy and retrenchment had been expected. He told the House that Hon. John Hart was merely practicing financial camouflage when he attempted to show a surplus for the estimated accounts of this fiscal year by setting capital account by itself. Mr. Bowser stated that the government, despite the Liberal election criticism of a borrowing policy had already borrowed four or five millions and proposed to obtain three millions more.

CAMOUFLAGE, HE ALLEGES.

The opposition chief was given close attention by the House despite the lateness of the hour. There were fifty-nine interruptions, according to the Conservative scorer. Premier Oliver led the list with 24. Hon. John Hart had 13, Hon. Mr. Pattullo 8 and Hon. Mr. Farris 6.

The early portion of Mr. Bowser's speech was devoted to an analysis of the financial situation of the province. He declared that the practice adopted by the minister of finance of charging a large portion of the year's expenditure to capital, then claiming a surplus on current expenditures, would not affect the ultimate situation. He claimed that it was not right to charge interest and sinking funds to capital in any event. The estimated current surplus for 1918-19 was \$241,000, he noticed, but as a matter of fact, when expenditures charged to capital account were taken into consideration, the estimated deficit was \$1,711,000. Under these circumstances, it was purely financial camouflage, he said, to claim any surplus whatever, as the total expenditures were way above the total revenue and after all that was the real situation to be taken into account.

EXPENDITURES ON NEW WORK.

Then he compared the 1917-18 and 1918-19 budgets of the Liberals with the last six years of Conservative rule. The Liberals had been fond of showing, he said, that the Conservatives had \$18,000,000 in deficit in that period. He pointed out that they had never tried to show a surplus by leaving capital expenditures out of consideration. For this year, however, the Liberal finance minister had actually charged one-fifth of the entire estimated expenditure up to capital account, and even then much of this proportion was not properly so chargeable. Proceeding on this basis of charging one-fifth to capital account, and the old government could properly have charged a much greater portion owing to the heavier expenditures in that six year period, on roads, bridges, buildings, etc., it could have cut nearly \$15,000,000 from the \$18,000,000 deficit shown. In that time, total expenditures of the old administration were \$72,250,000, and by the Hart theory the late government could have shown its deficits at only \$3,500,000 instead of \$18,000,000. Mr. Bowser commented on the fact that in the province's growing year of 1911, its deficit was about the same as that estimated for the coming year, despite the fact that the new administration had promised retrenchment. He pointed out also that with the Hart theory fully one-half of the 1911 expenditure of \$11,000,000 could have been charged to capital account and thus separated from the surplus and deficit statement. For 1918-19 the new government was showing a greater expenditure than the old government had made in the boom year of 1911. He prophesied that the Oliver Government would have a greater deficit in two years than the former one had in six if the Hart theory were to be accepted as a basis.

Mr. Bowser took some pride in the fact that although the estimated expenditure of the old government for the last six years of its life was \$81,000,000, the actual expenditure was \$8,000,000 less, showing a considerable saving. In that time \$29,500,000 had been spent on public works, and the expensive Price-Waterhouse report in the public accounts investigations of the new government had failed to bring home a single scandal against the old regime. It was true, he said, that heavy expenditures had been made during the period from 1911 to 1916-17, but the people had strongly upheld the government, as shown by election returns during that time. Cities, municipalities, companies and individuals had all followed the same course. The total municipal debt of the province was \$95,000,000, Vancouver alone had a debt of \$35,000,000, and Victoria \$18,000,000. The province with \$20,000,000 compared very favorably.

IN OFFICIAL ADVERTISING.

The speaker twitted the Premier upon what he called "Oliverisms," such as telling the delegations to take off their broadcloth and don overalls; pay

the piper, etc. He contrasted the "blue ruin" talk of the Liberals with the Price-Waterhouse report, and also with a prospectus issued by the present government in connection with its flotation of a \$1,000,000 loan in Eastern Canada. In that prospectus it had asserted that the province owned one and one-half billion dollars' worth of crown lands, yet in the 1916 campaign the Liberals had said the Conservatives had given away the crown lands. The speaker then produced a large number of figures to show in dollars and cents the great value of the various natural resources of British Columbia, and the annual output in industrial production. In proportion to the revenue the provincial debt in British Columbia is smaller than any other province of the Dominion, he said, and the natural resources in proportion to population were larger than any other province.

He touched upon the revenue for the fiscal year which expired March 31, showing that while the late Premier Brewster had claimed there would be no deficit despite the speaker's own assertion of that time that there would be a deficit of \$2,000,000, results showed a deficit of \$1,655,000. The expenditure in the last fiscal year was \$10,800,000, and for this year will be \$11,000,000 above that sum. This did not include the repayment of Nakusp and Slocan bonds of \$844,000, half a million for irrigation conservation, half a million for soldiers' land, \$350,000 for University of British Columbia, aid for South Vancouver, money for land settlement, and no doubt a large addition sum for P. E. further construction. The actual deficit of last year, with the estimated deficit for the coming year would run about \$2,500,000. As a matter of fact, he added, when these other expenditures were taken into account it will be found that the Liberals in their first three years in office had achieved a deficit of at least \$4,000,000 at a time when retrenchment had been so loudly recommended.

FORCED TO BORROW.

The new government had decried a policy of borrowing, but had already itself borrowed \$5,000,000, he pointed out. Mr. Bowser said he found no fault with borrowing as a temporary expedient, because posterity should help to meet the present abnormal situation. The government had already arranged to borrow another three million, he told the House, and apparently found itself forced to a policy the Liberals had so severely criticized.

He compared the rate of 6.39 paid on the old government's loan in 1915 and the price of 5.62 paid in Toronto for 1916 loan, with the rate of 6.88 which the present government had to pay after it had been forced to go onto the money market for a large amount. He scored the minister of finance for borrowing trust funds of the Workmen's Compensation Board, on the ground that no trustee should take what were virtually his own trust funds. He also pointed out that although the minister had told the House that this \$300,000 loan was costing 5 per cent, as a matter of fact owing to the discount it was really costing 8 1/2 per cent. The speaker rapped the taxation board as being unlikely to have any authoritative or comprehensive policy for the government.

He devoted some time to the surtax on land, pointing out that farmers in municipalities escaped such a levy, and it fell only upon those less advantageously located in unorganized districts. In a surtax discourages development. He also criticized the course taken by the government in lumping the expenditures in the estimate, thus concealing from the House the makeup of the various notes. He wanted to know why the government had spent \$15,000 on the Griffith Hughes farm and was preparing to spend another \$25,000. The administration, it seemed to him, seemed to be in a great hurry to get the support of Mr. Hughes' newspaper, the Victoria Times, and started lavish expenditures on the farm he had "loaned" for five years. When Mr. Hughes got the farm back it would be a valuable one indeed. Mr. Bowser caused a laugh when he read a list of names of Chinese who had been employed by the government on the farm and had been paid \$33. Premier Oliver promptly pointed out that the government had discharged the Chinese as soon as whites were available to take their places.

ON RETURNED SOLDIERS.

He appealed to the government to treat the returned soldier "with decency and sympathy." He declared that no returned soldier policy had been brought down since the government took office, until the administration had been stamped into action by a recent demonstration in front of the Parliament buildings, and had suddenly introduced a half-million-dollar land bill.

One of the striking features of the Bowser speech was his enumeration of some thirty-five outstanding cases where civil service appointments had been made by the government allegedly without regard to the claims of returned soldiers or of officials now in the service. One by one he took up each instance, and reading from replies to his order-paper questions showed that the customary answers of the government were that a returned soldier was not given the position because the department had no information of an available veteran, or that no suitable war hero had made application for the position. He said it was, however, remarkable that grit heeled seemed to be in close touch with the civil service vacancies. The soldiers were well able to hold a rifle, but apparently were not fit to hold the Bible as "swearing-in" officers in connection with elections. That job needed grit heeled with experience, he said. He said that an ex-saloon keeper, aged 63, was made a game warden

at Revelstoke on the plea that there was no soldier in the district fit for duty. The nephew of Premier Oliver read novels at \$4 a day, in watching the P. G. E. audit in Parliament buildings. Mr. Bowser wanted to know what peculiar qualifications Mr. Walter Hepburn had for the position of moving picture censor, or Mrs. McGill as juvenile court judge, or Stanley Brown as inspector of railway commissioners. He thought that either returned soldiers or soldiers' wives could be found for all these positions.

CROSS-FIRED WITH DR. KING.

Mr. Bowser fell foul of the speaker in connection with his reference to the dismissal of Provincial Constable Forrester at Creston. The speaker declared that this dismissal was due to the activity of Forrester in prosecution of two men on liquor charges, and implied that these were the friends of Hon. Dr. J. H. King. The minister remarked, however, that the prosecutions had no connection with the dismissal although the latter came a few days afterwards. Mr. Bowser was not inclined to accept this statement, taking as a ground that Dr. King could not speak with authority upon a matter outside his own department. "You are bound to accept the statement," said Mr. Speaker Keen.

"It seems unfortunate that you should make such a rule in regards to a matter arising in your own constituency," replied Mr. Bowser, passing on to a criticism of the government for appointing as Forrester's successor a man who had been in this province only nine days.

He demanded from the government that it investigate the charges he had made in his King's speech address, that while Duggan was discharged for favoring the Unionist cause, many Liberal appointees who worked openly in the Laurier-Liberal campaign were not even reprimanded. He went over the list of them again, repeating the charges in each case.

Hon. Dr. King declared that he had an affidavit from Factory Inspector Stewart, one of the men complained of, that he had not displayed the particular political activity alleged.

QUOTED MR. FARRIS' LETTER.

The opposition leader submitted a very interesting letter written on December 3, by the attorney-general, to the Longshoremen's Union in Vancouver. It was in reply to requests of November 29, for fortnightly pay legislation and for other concessions which might involve Dominion action. It was significant, said Mr. Bowser, that in this letter written just before the Unionist election, the attorney-general, himself a Laurier-Liberal, had written to the Longshoremen: "It may be that there will soon be a government at Ottawa, with which we can act in closer co-operation." The speaker thought this a very strange statement to make, and one which made it quite clear as to what attitude might be expected from this government with regard to the federal Unionist administration. In closing his speech he urged encouragement by way of bounty to the iron and steel industry and also besought the government to enter upon a shipbuilding policy.

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1918

NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SOON

Oliver and Bowser Had Live-ly Tilt Over Question of Premier's Salary.

VICTORIA, April 15.—The closure was applied in the Legislature on Saturday afternoon, following a keen debate in which Premier Oliver and the leader of the opposition locked horns over the latter's demand for an explanation as to why in this year's estimates the words "without portfolio" in connection with the vote of \$7500 as salary for the Premier had been omitted, when last year the vote contained those words, thus making it clear that the Premier then was to receive \$7500, but only on the understanding that he held the position alone without any connection with any other portfolio.

The leader of the opposition made it clear that the opposition would insist upon an explanation. After nearly an hour's debate the Premier, who accused Mr. Bowser of merely attempting to raise a bogey man, a fictitious cry on which he could appeal to the electors, called for the putting of the formal resolution covering the vote for the office.

The opposition resented this move, and when Mr. F. A. Pauline, who presided as chairman of the ways and means committee, put the resolution, which was carried by the government majority, Mr. Bowser appealed to Mr. Speaker, who ruled the Premier's closure plan was out of order, in that it could not be put unless the Speaker or Deputy Speaker occupied the chair.

An appeal by the Premier against the decision of the chair was upheld, and the vote for the office was put through. Incidentally, during the discussion Hon. Mr. Oliver stated that following the termination of the session he proposed to relinquish the portfolio of agriculture. Who his successor as min-

ister of agriculture state. It will

Barrow of Chill Mr. Bowser de ber on the govt delighted to hea templated vacat agriculture; th good. He coul supporter writi half and felling asserted that ur the Premier hel he received \$60 as Premier of \$160 demny of \$160 elved a total Premier receive dividual was \$ follo, with the \$1600; a total paid where \$1 this, too, by a economy and 7 Attorney-Gen tl.

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Mr. Bowser declared that every member on the government side would be delighted to hear that the Premier contemplated vacating the portfolio of agriculture; that would make them good. He could see each government supporter writing home to his better half and telling her he had hopes. He asserted that under the old government the Premier held a portfolio for which he received \$6000 and was given \$3000 as Premier. With his sessional indemnity of \$1500, the Premier then received a total of \$10,500. Now the Premier received \$7500 and another individual was given \$6000 for a portfolio, with the sessional indemnity of \$1500; a total of \$14,100 was being paid where \$10,500 was paid before, this, too, by a government pledged to economy and retrenchment.

Attorney-General Farris—It's worth it.

"The attorney-general smiles and says it is worth it," retorted Mr. Bowser. "Well, perhaps in the light of the recent byelections the people, burdened by sur-tax and other heavy taxes, do not think so. As these estimates are framed, the Premier can keep both the Premiership and the portfolio of agriculture. An explanation of the elimination of those words, which would prove the necessary safeguard against any such step, is due to the opposition.

Mr. George Bell stated the House regretted that under last year's arrangement it is costing the people over \$4000 more, but he felt the additional expense was warranted by results. With all due respect to the late Sir Richard McBride, who had held the portfolios of Premier and minister of mines, it had not been possible for him to give adequate attention to the needs of both.

LAST WEEK AT VICTORIA

Premier Oliver Plans to Leave for East Next Saturday.

VICTORIA, April 15.—The members of the House reassembled today determined to close up the session by the end of this week and accordingly the word has gone out to rush business as fast as possible. Despite the fact that half a dozen new bills will come down during the next few days, it is believed possible to complete the programme by next Saturday. In the ordinary course there is enough business still on hand to keep the Legislature in session for at least two weeks, but Premier Oliver wants to leave for Ottawa next Saturday, and this fact, combined with the desire of the up-country members to return to their homes leads to the decision to rush business through.

It is planned to wind up committee consideration of the estimates today even if the House has to sit all night.

ARE CRITICAL OF AMOUNTS IN ESTIMATES

Mr. Brewster's Acquisition of Cobble Hill Farm Is Questioned.

New Superintendent of Police Has Former Salary Doubled.

Objection Taken to Extra Money for Movie Censor Hepburn.

Premier Undergoes Change of Heart on Tuberculin Cattle Test.

VICTORIA, April 15.—The deal whereby the government took over the Cobble Hill farm of Mr. Griffith Hughes was made by the late Hon. H. C. Brewster.

"It was not handled in a business-like manner, said Premier Oliver on Saturday in the House, "but I take the responsibility now."

To W. J. Bowser the Premier admitted that the government would pay all taxes on the place, and when the leader of the opposition quoted from the report of the provincial soil inspector to the effect that unless large expenditures were made to keep the farm going for four years its operation would not pay initial expenses, the Premier stated that if he were in charge of it personally he could make it pay handsomely.

FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

"A white elephant" is the way the lead of the opposition described the farm. He scored the unbusinesslike manner in which the government had become involved in an obligation costing thousands. It was a run-down farm, he said, the government takes it over, pays all taxes and puts up thousands in drainage, buildings, breaking new ground, etc. After a year, and with \$15,000 spent, but two returned soldiers were trained, one of them now being employed on the farm at the magnificent salary of \$35 a month.

"This is a sample of what the returned soldiers are getting from this government," said Lieut. Mackenzie of Delta. "Do you wonder we had them all over here the other night? It is in line with the government's action on the new Civil Service Act, nothing tangible, nothing done."

Mr. Ross suggested it was not yet too late to secure a proper agreement, while Mr. Jackson, The Islands, suggested "Frondeur" would not prove satisfactory, and it would be better to acquire some good land in the vicinity of the Dominion experimental farm at Sidney. Plenty of land could be secured on similar terms to that given by Mr. Hughes, he said.

Some amusement was occasioned when the item of a \$500 grant to the Goat Breeders' Association was reached. The Premier stated he had had lots of suggestions as to the advisability of encouraging breeding of that class of stock in British Columbia, one woman writing to him and suggesting he should charter a steamship, go to Mexico, and bring back a cargo of the animals.

RECOMPENSE FOR CATTLE.

An hour's discussion occurred on the vote of \$20,000 for compensation for tubercular cattle killed by government inspectors. The Premier, who has hitherto been opposed to the tuberculin test, apparently has changed his ideas to a great extent. The necessity of a change in the regulations whereby the man with one or two head should get a larger compensation than 50 per cent. of the value of his animals, was urged, and it was pointed out that in the case of large herds the owners were actually benefited by the tests and should not be placed on the same basis as the smaller owners. The Premier expressed his willingness to receive any suggestions as to amendments to existing regulations and probably some will be brought in by members interested in the matter.

Chief discussion on items connected with the attorney-general's department centred about the salary of the new superintendent of provincial police, Mr. McMynn, recently transferred from the Okalla prison where he received a salary as warden of \$1850, to the head office at a salary of \$2350, in succession to former Supt. Campbell, who has been moved to Okalla at a salary of \$1920.

Mr. Bowser pointed to Mr. Campbell's twenty-five years' service during which he had worked his way up to the highest position in the department; his honesty and wide experience of the province, and declared his reduction now was an insult and no proper course to pursue to build up the service and ensure a contented civil service. On the other hand, while he knew Mr. McMynn to be an estimable man, he did not think him possessed of knowledge of the province, or that he knew one-half as much as the former superintendent in regard to police duty.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Manson referred to the Hazelton bank robbery and the conduct of the police on that occasion as evidence of poor police work, indicating lack of proper supervision, but Mr. Bowser retorted that he supposed on that reasoning the New Westminster bank robbery would be advanced as an argument against the New Westminster and Vancouver police chiefs.

TRIED TO GET CHAMBERLAIN.

Attorney-general Farris admitted Mr. Campbell was a fine type of man, but he lacked initiative, he said, and probably he had been so long under the direction of the former attorney-general that he had lost his independence of action and got into a rut. He had tried to secure the services of the former chief of Vancouver, Mr. Chamberlain, but could not. Mr. McMynn possessed organizing ability, he claimed, and it was necessary to have a complete reorganization by which various services could be co-ordinated and the work done with less overlapping than formerly.

Mr. Whiteside pointed to the fact that former Warden Turnbull of the New Westminster jail had been let out after eighteen years of service, and something should be done for him. He had been badly treated by the government, Mr. Whiteside said.

Mr. Manson objected to the salary to be paid to Mr. McMynn in view of the small wages being paid other old-time civil servants. A salary readjustment all round was the suggestion of the member for Omineca.

Objection to the salary of Moving Picture Censor Hepburn, \$2040, and with three assistants, was made by Mr. Bowser, who learned that that official, in addition, will draw \$550 from the finance department for his work of taking care of the amusement tax funds. Mr. Hepburn, Mr. Bowser asserted, was over the age limit for civil servants, did not possess any special qualifications that would warrant his being employed, and some one in the office should have been promoted. He advocated cutting the \$2040 item by \$360 providing the minister of finance intended he should get that amount from the finance department appropriations. The fact that the amusement tax moneys went through his hands was no addition to his work, Mr. Bowser thought. The vote stood.

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FOR PROHIBITION WORK.

"A valuable official whose duties embrace a wide scope," was the way Attorney-General Farris referred to the prohibition commissioner, Mr. Findlay, for whose salary of \$2400 and those of assistants, vendors, etc., including \$10,000 for purchase of "stock", \$50,405 in all, was passed without comment from the opposition.

A vote of \$3480 for salary of an inspector of legal offices brought the explanation from the attorney-general that while there is at present no such official, it was proposed to have Mr. Pineo, departmental solicitor, now exercising the duties, devote all his time to caring for legislation, etc. Hon. Mr. Farris opined that up to date not sufficient time had been spent on that work with the result that legislation came to the House in ill-digested and unsatisfactory manner. In that event a new inspector of legal offices would be secured.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1918.

BLAMES FORMER SYSTEM FOR ESCAPES

Attorney-general Defends Appointment of Miss Bayne to Girls' School.

Socialist's Characteristic Speech on "Canting Humbugs Full of Goodwill."

Mr. Whiteside Complains of Small Salary of Royal City Magistrate.

Education of Deaf, Dumb and Blind Children Is Discussed.

VICTORIA, April 16.—Consideration of the estimates for the year always provides many fruitful topics of warm argument in the Legislature, but none proved so interesting to the House this session as the discussion yesterday over the Girls' Industrial School in Vancouver.

Mr. W. J. Bowser declared that it was not necessary to find a new woman superintendent in Miss Bayne to replace former Superintendent Collier and his wife. A man's firm direction was required, he claimed. He pointed out that shortly after the appointment of the new superintendent, which he considered was political, sixteen girls escaped from the institution, although the attorney-general in answering questions in the House had originally placed the number at five. Mr. Bowser twitted Mr. Farris with chasing after the women, meaning by that, he hastily explained, that the attorney-general was anxiously seeking the women's vote, hence his selection of a woman superintendent.

The worst feature of the situation, he claimed, was that five of those escaped girls were kept for from eight to ten days in the Vancouver police station illegally and were then sent to the Oakalla prison farm to associate with older women convicted of crime. In his own day there was only one case of an industrial school inmate being transferred to prison and that was of a young man.

WHY THEY ESCAPED.

Attorney-General Farris in replying to the criticism declared that there were several reasons for the escape of the girls, among them being the treatment they had received under the old regime. There was no place for exercise, despite the huge sum of money spent on the school building and property, the staff had not been increased despite the increase in inmates, there was no separate dormitory for girls who might corrupt the others, the window-fastenings were not secure, the building was in some respects insanitary, evil outsiders hung around and the whole system was a case of "all collar and no socks."

When Mr. Bowser declared that the girls sent to the prison farm were improperly treated, the attorney-general read from their records to show that they had been incorrigibles, had frequently been on bread and water, and had received whippings under the former management. The medical sheet would also show an interesting record in their cases, he declared.

"Let us take it as read," interjected Mr. Whiteside.

Hon. Mr. Farris said that the women's organizations had pressed for the selection of a woman superintendent. The work of the school was improving and things would be in much better condition next year, he prophesied. The girls sent to Oakalla were taken there under express power provided in a Bowser act. One by one they would be returned to the home if their improvement in behavior warranted it.

CANTING HUMBUGS, HE SAYS.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite contributed to the debate by rounding up the Bell of Victoria who has previously described him as ranting and raving. The Newcastle member said that the Victoria man belonged to the "unca guid class of hypocritical people who are always glad to incarcerate children, who believed in sending a youngster to jail until it improved." That system of bread and water and thrashing was "absolutely rotten," he declared. He added that Mr. Bell and "other canting humbugs" full of goodwill would be dealt with by the people the first chance they got at him. He and several others of the House would not last long.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite said he did not know much about the medical record of the girls referred to. The medical record of most British public schools was none too good and if that line of argument was followed many of the public school pupils would be in industrial schools. He expressed strong disapproval of any system of cooping youngsters up in institutions run on a jail system.

"That is precisely why the former superintendent was removed. We hope to do away with that system," declared Mr. Farris.

Mr. J. S. Cowper told the House that he had made a personal inspection of the Girls' Home in Vancouver, and he considered that Miss Bayne's coming was one of the most creditable things the attorney-general could have arranged for. She had done wonders in the place, said the Vancouver member, as he went on to describe the changed conditions in the home. He urged the adoption of a cottage system and an honor system for girls and boys of this type.

Mr. Bowser agreed that Mr. Cowper had made an intelligent defence of the appointment of the new superintendent of the home.

WORK IN WESTMINSTER.

The House then went on with the attorney-general's estimates.

Last year the vote for stipendiary magistrates was \$2800, of which only \$2000 was expended, according to Mr. Bowser, who could not see why the unspent balance could not be applied this year and a saving effected. This year the grant calls for \$3800, of which \$500 is for Nelson and \$2800 is provisional. In this connection Mr. David Whiteside of New Westminster drew attention that Magistrate Clute of the Royal City draws only \$250 and does more work than the Vancouver magistrate, who draws twice that sum. Mr. Whiteside wanted the matter investigated, and the attorney-general promised to see what could be done toward a more equitable arrangement.

It has been the practice to grant \$500 annually to the Bar Association for legal library facilities and assistance rendered to the government in untangling involved legal problems. Such an item was included in this year's estimates, but Mr. Alec Manson arose to state that while the object might be laudable, in these strenuous times, and in view of the minimum of assistance rendered, the grant might well be disposed of this year in the interests of economy. Attorney-General Farris stated that the \$500 included in the present estimates was apportioned in fulfillment of last year's agreement, which was never fulfilled, explaining that it was really a re-vote of last year's apportionment. Lieut. McKenzie of Delta, wanted to know whether it was the intention to continue this practice, but was told by the attorney-general that it would depend largely on circumstances. The grant was passed.

FOR ABNORMAL CHILDREN.

When the grant for \$11,500 for education of deaf, dumb and blind was called, Mr. J. E. W. Thompson of Grand Forks arose to state his regret that the government could not see its way clear to make provision for a provincial oral school where these abnormal children might be taken in and taught useful occupations as well as the principles of English education. In reply, Hon. Dr. McLean said that the establishment of such a training school would incur great expense, and inasmuch as this is impracticable this year, the government decided to assist the oral school in Vancouver which is doing a splendid work along these lines.

Mr. J. W. Jones of South Okanagan, appreciated the government's sympathy with these defective children but thought the matter of vital importance, surpassing perhaps even that of tuberculosis in demand for government action. He declared the Vancouver school unable to accommodate all who applied, and deplored the evident necessity of sending some of these children out of the province to the school facilities of other provinces. The grant was passed.

NO INCREASES IN FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS

Provincial Assistance Larger Here Than Elsewhere, Says Dr. McLean.

VICTORIA, April 16.—There is no chance for increased school assistance for the cities and municipalities of the province announced Hon. J. D. McLean, minister of education, in piloting the educational estimates through the House yesterday.

In replying to questions from Mr. Jones of South Okanagan he pointed out that this province was already the most generous in the matter of statutory grants of any in the West, and there was no hope of an increase at present.

Mr. Jones had mentioned that the education vote for this fiscal year, amounting to approximately \$1,700,000, was 50 per cent. higher than last year, and was considerably greater than in other provinces despite the fact that Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta had larger populations than British Columbia. The minister explained that there were fewer municipalities in British Columbia than in the other provinces of the West, hence this government had more unorganized district schools to look after. The statutory grant to municipalities for school assistance was also more liberal than elsewhere. This year's increase he attributed largely to the rapid growth in school population.

Lieut. MacKenzie remarked that the municipalities were in need of more help, and the announcement of the minister that the grants would not be increased would prove a great disappointment.

Mr. Jones pleaded for the establishment of a uniform text-book system for Western Canada. Dr. McLean noted that conferences had already been held on the subject, and it would be taken up again early in the summer.

Mr. Bowser asked if there was any overlapping with the agricultural department and the university in connection with the vote for agricultural education, to which the Dominion authorities contribute \$20,000. Replying, the minister pointed out that the scope of activity of the university, agricultural department and educational department with regard to agricultural education had been clearly set forth at a conference some time ago. The educational vote in that respect was largely for school gardens, the department assisting school boards on a fifty-fifty basis. Four hundred schools of the province received the benefits of this assistance.

Announcement was made by the minister that the department would endeavor to increase the number of centres at which high school commercial work was taken up. He commented upon this important feature of the high school curriculum.

The hope was expressed by several of the members that the domestic science training would be put on the same basis as manual training.

Mr. Manson of Omenica offered a suggestion that during the war period the public school inspectors carry on the work of high school inspection or vice versa, in order to obtain a reduction of staff and elimination of travelling expense.

OPPOSE LUMP SUM VOTE

Appropriations in Attorney-General's Department Are Discussed.

VICTORIA, April 16.—The opposition found unexpected support Monday when it challenged the lump sum votes of the attorney-general's department in respect to provincial police. In former years the system was to separate the items into districts, but in this year's estimates they are lumped together in a salary total of \$175,000.

Attorney-General Farris explained that there would be a chance to check them over next session, but Mr. Bowser complained that by that time the money would be spent. Then the attorney-general came back with the argument that the constables would probably be changed around during the summer and hence to particularize now would not be of any advantage. By next session there would be some substantial reorganization which could not be shown naturally in the estimates, he pointed out.

But Mr. Walters, liberal member for Yale, said he considered lumping the votes a retrograde movement which gave the public the idea that there was something behind it. He thought that each member and the public should know where the constables were to be stationed.

"Details would not help you any if we change or withdraw them," answered the attorney-general.

Hon. Mr. Farris admitted that the vote was increased over last year as there were seven or eight more men, but a big saving had been achieved in game department salaries.

Mr. Bowser declared that even in 1916 when the civil service was probably overmanned as a result of the boom days of a few years earlier, the civil salary expenses were less than now.

During consideration of other votes in the attorney-general's department, Mr. Bowser said he failed to see why there should be a fifty-dollar increase for the medical inspector at Kamloops and Nelson. It was explained that the doctor at Kamloops also did the old man's home inspection work. Hon. Mr. Farris twitted Mr. Bowser with bothering about fifty-dollar items. He remarked that the government always heard from him of the increases, but never of the saving.

Mr. Bowser asked what was being done to find a position for Warden Turnbull of the New Westminster jail which had been closed up. The opposition leader thought that Mr. Turnbull whom he considered an efficient officer should be placed at Oakalla, instead of having a man from Saanich sent there.

Mr. Whiteside of New Westminster agreed that Mr. Turnbull should have become warden at Oakalla. He would be "taken care of" however, he thought.

Attorney-General Farris said it was a pity the old government had not founded a superannuation fund.

Mr. Bowser replied that the practice had been to give a faithful servant a retiring allowance. All the new government did was to give a three months' salary allowance if the employee had been ten years in the service, with one month's salary if five years employed.

"Why should there be any allowance? There is none in other walks of life," said Mr. Walters.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite said there should be a pension in every position, whether governmental or private. All workers were entitled to that consideration.

MARKS IDENTIFY THEM

Police Would Have Easy Time Tracing Messrs. Farris and Bowser.

VICTORIA, April 16.—Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, attorney-general, and W. J. Bowser, former premier and attorney-general and present leader of the opposition, have both left their marks in the Dominion bureau for the identification of criminals. They have both had finger-prints taken in the Federal bureau.

This somewhat startling information was given to the House yesterday when Mr. Bowser asked for details with regard to a vote of \$1000 for the establishment of such a bureau in the provincial police department. The attorney-general said that he had examined the work done at Ottawa and thought it wise to commence here in order to co-operate with the Dominion authorities. He casually mentioned that he had during inspection of the Ottawa system taken advantage of the chance to have his own finger-prints taken.

"I am glad to hear that my friend has made his mark there," remarked Mr. Bowser.

"But I learned that the attorney-general of the old government had been there before me," answered Hon. Mr. Farris.

Mr. Bowser observed that the record would be complete when Mr. Farris' predecessor (Mr. Macdonald) left his impression there as well.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1918.

WILL NOT BE PASSED

But Mr. Weart Is Trying to Get Attention for Pensions Plan.

VICTORIA, April 17.—Mr. J. W. Weart of South Vancouver, being unable to get his old age pensions bill before the Legislature as it is a measure affecting crown revenue, came to the front yesterday with a resolution urging the government to bring in such a bill. He explained briefly the virtues of a pension for the aged residents of the province. Mr. Whiteside of New Westminster moved the adjournment of the debate.

As the government has declined to bring in such a bill at present there is a chance that the session will close before Mr. Weart's resolution is disposed of and it will thus be left high and dry. The South Vancouver member said in the House yesterday that he would be willing to accept legislation next session if he could not get a government bill now.

CLOSING B. C. OFFICE

Question Discussed, but Usual Vote for Operation Is Passed.

VICTORIA, April 17.—British Columbia House in London came in for its usual attention when the estimates were taken up in the House yesterday. The vote remained unchanged.

Mr. Bowser urged the government not to give way to any sudden economical leanings and abolish the office in the Old Country. He also counselled the administration not to appoint Mr. F. C. Wade of Vancouver as commissioner in succession to the late Sir Richard McBride.

Premier Oliver promised that the whole question of the desirability of keeping the office open would be gone into shortly. He admitted that he was not in favor of abolishing the office, because a "live" representative in London would be of great value to the province. There was the question, however, to consider as to the virtue of carrying the load entailed in the cost of the big new building.

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Messrs. Cowper and Weart were inclined to cut down the salary of the acting commissioner and get rid of the building. They considered a city office would be sufficient. C. F. Nelson told of his visit to the building when he was on the overseas prohibition commission. He was inclined to be pessimistic about the future of such a large project as the province now carried on there. Mr. Whiteside of New Westminster, chairman of the commission, took a more rosy view, however. He thought that British Columbia House would eventually be a "winner."

EVERY WOMAN'S VOTE HER OWN BUSINESS

But If Her Husband Is Civil
Servant, She Should Not
Work in Politics.

This Is W. J. Bowser's View,
but Premier Strongly Dif-
fers With Him.

Wives of Government Offi-
cials May Display Political
Opinions, He Avers.

List of Active Wives of Van-
couver Office-holders Quot-
ed by Opposition Leader.

VICTORIA, April 17.—Both government and opposition have definitely declared their policy with respect to the status of wives of civil servants.

Mr. W. J. Bowser believes that women who live on salaries paid their husbands from the public purse should not take part in politics.

Hon. John Oliver considers that every wife should have her own political individuality, even publicly displayed, no matter whether her husband is a civil servant or not.

The subject came up during House committee consideration of the estimates early yesterday morning.

Mr. Bowser was dealing with the appointment of C. J. Wilkes as chief janitor of the Vancouver courthouse, replacing Janitor MacLennan. The latter had received \$100 per month, but the budget salary provided for the appointment of the new government was \$1320 per year. The opposition leader wanted to know why more money was being given to the Liberal appointee than was paid the former janitor, despite the fact that the courthouse is not used to such a great extent now as formerly.

MR. PATTULLO ON FROWNS.

He answered his own question by declaring that the reason lay in the influence which the ladies evidently had upon the attorney-general. Mr. Wilkes got the job largely because of the political activity of his wife. The same held good in the case of Stanley Brown, inspector of railways, he said. "I beg to differ," interjected Hon. Mr. Pattullo.

"You beg to differ! What do you know about it?" demanded Mr. Bowser. "Don't think you frighten me with that frown," said the minister. "Time was when the honorable member's frown would frighten forty sycophantic members of this House, but that day has gone never to return."

HAD THEM IN A LIST.

Mr. Bowser went on to read a list of the active Liberal women in Vancouver, who were wives of men recently appointed to public office. They included Mrs. H. S. Wood, whose husband became crown prosecutor; Mrs. Frank Burnett, whose husband is assessor in Vancouver; Mrs. H. Urquhart, whose husband is vendor of liquor in Vancouver; Mrs. Stanley Brown, wife of the inspector of railways; Mrs. W. S. Steves, whose husband "if he has not a job now is going to get one"; Mrs. James Stables, wife of the new sewerage board chairman; Mrs. E. S. Brown, whose husband was said to be slated for the game inspectorate under the new game law amendments. The opposition leader read from newspaper reports to show that these women were active Liberal workers, and even after the appointment to office of their husbands had taken a prominent part in a Laurier-Liberal gathering.

AT LAURIER CONVENTIONS.

"If you want to hold a provincial position in Vancouver, all you need to do if you can't go to a Laurier-Liberal convention yourself is to send

your wife," commented Mr. Bowser. He went on to say that not one should any man in civil service have a wife in politics but so also should a wife, who lived off the money he earned from the taxpayers.

"You won't find the appointees of the old government or their wives doing this sort of thing," he said.

PREMIER'S VIEW.

Premier Oliver replied that no wife should have to sacrifice her individuality because her husband held a political post. She should not be fettered in any way. He wanted to know if Mr. Bowser would appoint only single men for fear that the wives of married men would get into politics.

"I say the woman who receives her livelihood through the salary earned by her husband has no right to get into politics. She has her ballot right, but to take a public part would only create friction between political sections of the taxpayers. Decency demands that she should retire."

"Would you dismiss the husband if she refused?" asked Hon. Mr. Farris. "I think all that is necessary is to bring the matter to her attention and that of her husband," was the answer.

Mr. McGeer of Richmond said he was astounded at the cave-man principles of the leader of the opposition.

COMPARISONS OF SALARIES.

Before the discussion closed, Hon. Mr. Hart made a statement with respect to the civil service salaries which the opposition had declared were higher this year than ever before despite all the Liberal promises of economy. Notwithstanding the high cost of living, the civil service lists for 1918-19 totalled only \$1,908,329, said the minister. He declared that the high water mark of the salaries of the old government in 1915-16 was not \$1,500,000 as stated by the opposition, but was \$1,944,158, a figure somewhat above this year's total.

WATER BILL DRIPS THROUGH HOUSE

Government Has No Inten-
tion of Protecting Irriga-
tion Stockholders.

VICTORIA, April 17.—Contrary to the suggestion held out in its name the bill amending the irrigation provisions of the Water Act proved a dry proposition in the House Tuesday afternoon. The estimates had been left over for the evening session and the House went into committee on the water legislation. Perhaps it would be better to say that a corporal guard went into committee. Only seventeen members stayed in the House and most of these devoted their time to the evening paper. Hon. Mr. Pattullo took the bill through its stages. Mr. Bell of Victoria, acting as chairman. The only other members who took any interest in the proceedings were Dr. K. C. Macdonald of North Okanagan, Mr. J. W. Jones of South Okanagan, Mr. W. A. McKenna of Similkameen and Mr. D. Whiteside of New Westminster.

CUT BY NINE-TENTHS.

Mr. Jones appeared as the chief critic of the bill. He charged that the minister had made pre-election promises in Similkameen that a \$500,000 conservation fund would go towards the relief of the irrigated sections, but it had dwindled until the estimates only contained \$50,000.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo replied that this sum was as much as could be well expended in any one year. The minister accused Mr. Jones of being over-solicitous of the water companies. The South Okanagan man promptly retorted that this interest consisted of one share of \$100, which he offered to sell to the minister for ten cents. The two opposition members got some amusement out of reminding the minister that his \$500,000 fund promise failed to have any effect in the Similkameen, where the by-election went strongly against the administration.

Mr. Jones expressed the hope that the minister would eventually reach public ownership as he seemed to be moving year by year in that direction. Meantime, urged the member, the drastic clauses of the new bill should contain some provision so that companies forfeiting their systems to the waterusers through inability to operate should have a chance to resume control later on if conditions improved.

THEY FIRST MADE MONEY.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo said the companies had all made money out of land sales and deserved little special consideration now. The government had no intention of protecting the investment of stock and bondholders in these concerns, he said. Its interest was only to see that the men on the land got water.

Mr. Jones said only one such company in the Okanagan ever paid a dividend. The committee dragged on until 6 o'clock reporting some progress on the bill.

RETAIN EQUITIES UNTIL AFTER THE WAR

Vancouver Deputation Asks
Government for Extension
of Moratorium.

Victoria, April 17.—An extension of the moratorium principle in order to protect the equity which a landholder may have in his property is sought from the government by a Vancouver deputation which discussed the question here yesterday. The deputation comprised ex-Ald. J. J. Miller, Mr. R. D. Rorison, Mr. Bland, ex-Ald. J. W. Prescott, Mr. A. Whyte and Mr. T. Mathews.

Members of the Terminal City delegation declare that they obtained a favorable hearing from the government, and they hope that something in the nature of relief will be obtained. Their request summed up is that the equity which a landholder has shall not be wiped out by the mortgagee, but shall remain until after the war. They are asking that this concession be made retroactive in order to cover all lands which may have been seized by the mortgagee, but which have so far not been resold. The members of the deputation advance the view that normal values will return, and it is not fair in the meantime that the landholders should lose all and the mortgage-holders virtually lose nothing. If there is to be a loss it should be shared, they consider, on the ground that the mortgagee went into the deal virtually as a partner, and should not receive full protection at the entire expense of the landholder.

The amendment desired by the delegation reads:

During the continuance of the present war in Europe, and for two years after the end thereof, no mortgage of land shall be foreclosed, nor shall any judgment for money secured by any such mortgage be recorded against any person who:

(a) Assigns to the mortgagee or person standing in the place of the mortgagee all revenue which may be derived from the mortgaged premises, or who:

(b) Is himself the actual resident or occupant of the whole or a major portion of the mortgaged premises, and who submits to the payment to the mortgagee or person standing in the place of the mortgagee of a periodic sum equal to the rent that could be derived from such premises, or who:

(c) If such land is producing no revenue, enters into an agreement with the mortgagee or person standing in the place of the mortgagee, to quitclaim all interest with right to redeem.

Notwithstanding the foreclosure of any mortgage of lands, any defendant in foreclosure since the commencement of the present war until the expiration of two years after the end of such war, may redeem the mortgaged premises upon payment of all moneys due under such mortgage, together with the value of any improvements put upon the mortgaged premises since such foreclosure, and upon payment of interest not over 8 per cent since the date of such foreclosure upon the mortgaged debt.

Provided that this section shall not apply when the person to whom foreclosure was granted has for value bona fide disposed of his interest in the mortgaged premises.

GRAND JURY PLAN TO GO OVERBOARD

J. W. Weart Declines to Vote
and Establishes a Pre-
cedent.

VICTORIA, April 17.—Adopting a resolution offered by Attorney-General Farris, the Legislature yesterday decided to ask the Federal authorities for an amendment to the criminal code doing away with grand juries in this province. The attorney-general declared that a great saving would thereby be accomplished. He pointed out that there were no grand juries in Saskatchewan and Alberta and it was quite feasible to offer an indictment without the formality of grand jury proceedings.

Mr. Bowser was opposed to the resolution, announcing that in his opinion it was an interference with the principles of the administration of justice. He wanted to know who would be held responsible for indictments if there were no grand juries, and pointed out that they also performed an important function in investigating cases of death by misadventure where a trial before a petit jury would be costly and

unnecessary. They also inspected public buildings and structures. Do not tamper with justice, was the substance of his plea.

Mr. Bell of Victoria thought a grand jury only a matter of form, but strange to say Mr. Hawthornthwaite, the Socialist member, was a strong upholder of the view of Mr. Bowser. He said the House of Lords, Senate and such institutions might better be improved than eliminated. The same held good with the grand jury. Mr. Hawthornthwaite charged the Liberals with introducing radical ideas only when it cost them nothing, as in this case.

IDEA OF NURSES' BILL

No Intention to Establish "Close Corporation," Says Dr. Sutherland.

VICTORIA, April 16.—The Nurses Bill being introduced by Dr. Sutherland of Revelstoke is creating considerable comment among the members of the Legislature. A news item appearing in The Province of last week contained the suggestion that this bill was a "hardy annual," which had for its purpose the creation of another "close corporation," similar to that of the medical and legal professions. The sponsor of the bill has the following to say:

"This bill does not in any way contemplate a nurses' 'close corporation.' It is a measure for which the graduate nurses of this province, including those splendid members of the profession who have volunteered for service at the front, have been fighting for years. The object of the act, which is on the statute books of Ontario, New Brunswick, the three prairie provinces and practically every state in the Union, is simply to provide a means whereby a properly trained and qualified nurse may indicate to the general public by means of adding the letters R. N. (signifying Registered Nurse) that she is an efficient nurse and has received the training and passed the examinations required by the council to be appointed under the act.

"The act will not only be useful in this way to those who are compelled to choose a nurse from the profession generally, but will make for greater efficiency and a higher standard of service in the profession. It will also overcome a handicap which the nurses of this province are met with in states and provinces which confer the degree, as if the act is passed all nurses from any part of Canada or the United States, where similar acts are in force, and the members of the profession in this province will be enabled to use their titles anywhere. It should be understood that the act does not attempt to interfere with the right of any one to follow the profession of nursing in the province, and that any properly qualified person may obtain recognition by the council. Graduate nurses, including those at the front proper training school within the next three years may be admitted by the council without examination."

THREE SHIFTS OR CONTINUOUSLY IF NECESSARY

Thirty-five Bills Must Be Disposed Of Before End of the Week.

War Relief Act Amendment Will Include Drafted Men.

New Schedule of Certificates to Be Granted to Teachers.

Liquor Illegally Kept Will Hereafter Be Subject to Seizure.

VICTORIA, April 17.—Four new bills came in Tuesday afternoon, giving the Legislature thirty-five to deal with before the close of the session, which the Liberals in caucus yesterday decided must come by the end of the week, no matter if the House sat continuously night and day.

The new measures comprise an amendment to the Public Schools Act, an amendment to the Prohibition Act, one to the War Relief Act and a bill to authorize payment of \$200,000 to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. The last recites the fact that an agreement was made between the government and the company in April, 1912, by which the province would pay the company the extra cost of providing highway accommodation on its railway bridge across the Fraser River at Fort George. The railway erected the steel railway and highway traffic bridge, at a cost for the highway traffic portion of \$371,800. The province in June, 1915, paid \$150,000 on account and the \$200,000 provided for in the bill is to be accepted by the company as payment in full of the balance.

TO INCLUDE DRAFTED MEN.

The War Relief Act amendment is an enlargement of the existing act so as to make it clear that war relief on financial obligations shall clearly extend to commissioned officers as well as enlisted men and shall include draftees as well as volunteers. It is to go into effect on May 15 next.

The School Act amendment gives authority for the establishment of a consolidated school for adjoining school districts provided a majority of the school ratepayers in the case of rural districts ratify the union. It provides that adjoining municipal school districts may make agreements for the interchange of pupils. It also allows the department to grant sums to school boards for courses of instruction in manual training, domestic science or commercial training, up to one-half the initial amount necessary for equipment, the maximum for each course of instruction to be spent by the department being \$500. Night schools may be established by the school boards where in any school district there are at least twenty persons ready to take instruction in technical education, manual training, domestic science, commercial training or in the ordinary branches of English education.

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES.

The certificates to be issued by the board of examiners for teachers in future will be, academic, valid for life; first class, valid for life, and second class, valid for life. Third class shall be valid for three years if the applicant has a preliminary normal certificate. If he possesses both preliminary and advanced normal certificates the third class will be valid for life. Graduates in arts, science or literature of recognized Canadian, British or colonial universities will be granted an academic if they hold Canadian normal certificates.

The new School Act amendments go on to deal with the assessment in school districts and the voting in school district meetings.

The Prohibition Act amendments have previously been referred to. They clear up the status of Prohibition Commissioner Findlay, of whom Attorney-General Farris said in the House the other night that he was an excellent and painstaking official. The bill permits the seizure of liquor illegally kept as well as of that illegally sold. It gives manufacturers added rights with regard to keeping liquor and also allows vessel captains to have a supply on hand for emergency. Perfumery and medicine manufacturers may buy and use liquor for purposes of manufacture, providing they hold a permit from the commissioner.

MINING RIGHTS ALONG E. & N.

Hon. William Sloan Proposes to Radically Change Conditions.

Old Grant to Railway Has Radically Hampered Mineral Development.

Victoria, April 17.—The abolition of conditions by which dual control of the base metals of the E. & N. belt on Vancouver Island obtains is aimed at in a resolution offered to the Legislature yesterday by Hon. William Sloan, minister of mines.

He explained that under the terms of the original land grant to the railway company, it enjoyed control of the base metals within the railway belt. Pressed upon the point by Mr. Bowser, he reiterated his statement that the province has no ownership in the base metals, although it exercised the ordinary control vested in provincial mining regulations. Until this dual control was removed there would be no effective production on the Island, he claimed.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite, in supporting the resolution, which calls for an agreement with the railway company whereby the minerals in the E. & N. belt may be more satisfactorily administered, said that the land titles issued by the railway contained little, the company reserving everything but the atmosphere. He contended that the Legislature had full power to deal with the situation and should force a conclusion, particularly as the railway company had not lived up to its contracts.

The debate on the resolution was adjourned by Mr. Bowser.

In his lengthy discussion of the matter Mr. Sloan said in part: "The net result of the company's regulations and the Mineral Act has been very little mining industry other than coal in this locality, known as the E. N. belt, and this will maintain indefinitely unless conditions are materially altered. The principal object of the railway company is to get sale of lands at reasonable prices, which is, of course, amply supported by the fact that in land sales deeds they have until very recently gratuitously included all minerals it owns except coal, iron, petroleum and freclay."

"In order to give the prospector or the operator the protection he is entitled to and without which development is impossible, one governing body should be placed in a position to deal with the locator in a definite way. The railway company appears only anxious to sell their land; the province is interested in the development of both the land and the minerals. The province wants industry, settlement, production. As a result of this conflict of interests for thirty-four years, prospecting and mining for other than coal in this belt has been perfunctory. The absence of an effective arrangement for obtaining proper protection has been a sore spot with all who following mining around this city all the way to Nanaimo and, I may also say, as far as Comox and Alberni. I am not finding fault with the legislators of that day, as the legislation was the result of conditions existing at the time of the enactment; the frame of mind the public were in at the time; but at this date, a generation later, something must be done to rectify conditions and permit of an extension of mineral development in this area.

"In the interest of mineral production in the area, in conformity with our policy of aiding the prospector by road and trail construction, coupled with free expert advice in his operations and boring tests where circumstances hold out sufficient possibilities, it is imperative, if the southern end of the Island is to get that attention from the mining world that my department considers it is entitled to—if we are to put forth every effort to increase development and production that the whole world is demanding for present needs and to take care of the indebtedness we are creating—some arrangement is surely necessary. Therefore I have had my department examining into the possibilities of these old crown grants and the areas covered by them.

"I make this statement—that it is my belief that these minerals were given with the grant in order to be a benefit to the people of this province. Consequently it is my opinion that some fair and equitable arrangement should be arrived at as between the province, the E. & N., and holders of old crown grants, in order that they may be thrown open for development, thereby lending every encouragement to the prospector and the miner."

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1918.

STILL RAILWAY MINISTER

Hon. John Oliver Makes Announcement in the House.

VICTORIA, April 18.—Hon. John Oliver contemplates a continuance in charge of the portfolio of railways. He announced this during the course of a short debate last night. He specified, however, that he will hold the railway portfolio without salary. Mr. Ed. Barrow of Chilliwack is mentioned prominently in legislative circles as the logical successor to Hon. Oliver in the ministry of provincial agriculture.

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NEW OFFICIAL IS JOHN WHITE OF GREENWOOD

Will Come to Victoria, Taking Position of Deputy Provincial Secretary.

Allowance to Be Made Mr. Reddie, in Office for Thirty Years.

Socialist Argues There's No Difference Between Parties on Patronage.

Hon. W. Sloan Gives Summary of Expenditures on Mine Trails.

VICTORIA, April 18.—John Lillie White, druggist of Greenwood, the centre of the riding represented by Hon. J. D. McLean, provincial secretary, is to be the new deputy provincial secretary, succeeding Mr. Campbell Reddie, who has been in the service of the province for the past thirty years. This information was elicited in the House yesterday by the opposition leader during a process of cross-examination of the provincial secretary when the latter's estimates were being considered in the Legislature.

Mr. Bowser appeared to have the scene all carefully prepared. When the vote for the salary of the deputy provincial secretary arrived he gravely asked the minister if it was proposed to get rid of the services of Mr. Campbell Reddie.

Hon. J. D. McLean admitted that that was the case.

Then Mr. Bowser wanted to know who would be his successor, but the minister would not make any definite statement. Finally, after several more questions, the opposition leader produced a copy of a Liberal paper published in Grand Forks which stated that Mr. White, a druggist in Greenwood, was selling out his business for the purpose of coming to Victoria as deputy provincial secretary. The salary for the position is \$3,840 per year. About as far as the minister would go in admitting the proposed appointment was that Mr. White's application had been received and would be given consideration. Later he made the admission more definite.

Criticized Appointment.

That gave the opposition leader his cue. He charged that the minister had set at defiance the statute law of the country, had paid no attention to the claims of a civil servant who had given good service for many years, and had neglected the rights of returned soldiers in selecting a druggist from his home town as deputy provincial secretary. The opposition chief advanced the further argument that the minister, if he desired to have a change in the office, might at least have done something towards other men in the civil service. He made some capital out of his charge that he had forced the admission of the proposed appointment out of the minister when the statement could have been made frankly and freely from the government. This started him on a lively attack upon the government on the patronage question.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo arose to remark that several civil service employees in his department had been promoted.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite was inclined to be satirical. He complimented the government that in any event it had chosen a man from British Columbia, instead of going outside of the province. He said he had no particular objection to a druggist becoming deputy provincial secretary.

WHAT IS HIS SALARY?

Mr. McGeer made a complaint about the efficiency of the present incumbent of the office. Mr. Ross wanted to know if the new man would receive the salary the old one left off at and was informed by the minister that he would probably start at a reduction. Hon. Mr. McLean told Mr. Bowser that the government intended to make arrangements for an allowance for Mr. Reddie. He said he did not propose to reply to the opposition leader's charge with respect to patronage as shown by the Liberals.

"You have no reply," taunted Mr. Bowser.

Mr. Stewart of Comox said that an extra polling place had been "slipped into" his district in the general election, largely through the instrumentality of Mr. Reddie. Mr. Hawthornthwaite said that the Liberals were no better than the Conservatives because they did the same thing for him in the by-election.

"It is all very well for the pot to call the kettle black," he went on. "You Liberals are just as bad as the Conservatives, even if you do go around sniffling your breasts and saying how virtuous you are."

Mr. Wear suggested that a superannuation fund be created for retired civil servants, so that they would feel certain of protection when the time came for them to step out of office.

"The government has abolished patronage, as the old government knew it," said Hon. Dr. King. "In the old days any man getting work had to be a Conservative. That is not the case now."

He went on to show that even with the joint sewerage board in the old days every employee had his politics checked off.

"There is no department in this government where there is more politics and rottenness than that of the minister of public works," retorted Mr. Bowser. He pointed out that where the Liberal organization of Powell River called for applications for the government position of road foreman, etc. He also told of a case in which the member of the Islands had given instructions to a road foreman that only men on a list which he furnished should be employed on the roads. The opposition leader proceeded to refer to the case of Kerr of Rock Creek, McAlpine of Summerland, Stewart of Revelstoke, Heriot of Creston and other Provincial Government employees who despite their connection with the service had displayed political activity for the benefit of the Liberal cause.

OMINECA IS FORTUNATE.

That started an argument in which half the House participated. Mr. Hawthornthwaite remarked that under the old regime none but Conservatives got jobs in Newcastle riding. Under the new government none but Liberals were employed. There was no difference between the parties with regard to patronage, he said, and it was idle for the government to attempt to shove down the people's throats any claim that it was honest in that respect. Mr. Manson of Omineca paraded that in his district both sides got a fair show.

"Oh that is an exceptional district with an exceptional member," answered Mr. Hawthornthwaite. "Anything that is pure and beautiful, sweet and lovely, holy and innocent comes from Omineca and its member."

Mr. Bowser severely scored the government for the fact that it had given an annuity of \$30 per month to Mrs. Butler, widow of an employee in the printing office. He pointed out that Mrs. Wolfenden, whose husband had been a veteran provincial employee as well as a pioneer in the life of the province, had been the only widow so honored. Mrs. Butler has no particular claims, he asserted, except that she was the mother-in-law of J. D. McLean, a former Liberal member and present deputy minister of labor. He charged that the government had not placed her vote openly in the estimates but had camouflaged it in a lump sum where it could not be found.

MINES APPROPRIATIONS.

There was little discussion on the mining department vote and Hon. William Sloan had a comparatively easy time. Mr. Bowser wanted to know why the salary of the chief mines inspector had been increased from \$2,460 to \$4,500 and it was explained to him that Inspector Wilkinson had received many flattering outside offers and even at the increased salary would not remain long.

The minister said that there was no politics in his department. Replying to questions, the minister announced that of the \$200,000 vote last year for mineral development by way of assistance in trail and road construction, the sum of \$142,000 had been spent. An additional \$75,000 was provided in this year's estimates, he said. Last year, out of \$100,000 in the act for assistance to mines by way of engineering advice, drilling, etc., a total of \$21,000 had been spent and \$25,000 more would be provided in this year's estimates.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1918.

TO SETTLE TITLE TO E. & N. LANDS

Sloan Resolution Passes Unanimously in Victoria Legislature.

VICTORIA, April 19.—Dispute over ownership of the base metals within the 3000 square miles of territory in the E. & N. Railway belt may be settled shortly. A forward step in the negotiations between the government and the C. P. R. was taken on Thursday in the Legislature by the passage of the Sloan resolution suggesting that the title be vested in the province.

The government hopes to obtain clear title and so lift the reserve which is said to have retarded development in that area for over thirty years. A settlement with the C. P. R. was infinitely preferable to the long-drawn lawsuit, said Mr. Bowser, in urging the House to stand undivided behind the measure.

Dr. Sutherland's bill to register all nurses received second reading. The bill, said the Revelstoke member,

would not disqualify midwives or nurses, but would have the effect of setting apart the fully qualified practitioner.

When the House reached the Ross resolution covering a series of motions on treatment of alien enemies, Premier Oliver asked that the order be passed by. This may mean that the resolutions will not be reached before the end of the week.

Some radical changes in the method of selecting school trustees are proposed in some resolutions introduced by Mr. J. W. Wear. In cities of the first class he would have the board consist of the mayor and three elective trustees and three appointed by the mayor from the City Council. Second class cities would comprise the mayor and four trustees similarly chosen. In municipalities he would substitute the mayor for the reeve. He would have all school accounts approved by the City Council. Trustees' salaries can not exceed \$25 monthly in Mr. Wear's bill.

A bill authorizing the government to pay the guaranteed bonds of the Nakusp and Slocan Railway Company, which fall due within a few months, for over \$600,000, has been introduced in the House.

MINE COMPANIES AND FARMERS AFFECTED

New Taxation Amendments Presented to Legislature Today.

Mining Concerns Do Not Welcome Changes With Much Warmth.

Change Also to Be Made in Levy Against Salmon Canneries.

Provincial Tax Sales Not to Affect Soldiers or Dependents.

VICTORIA, April 18.—The bill containing the government's taxation proposals for this session was introduced this morning by the minister of finance, Hon. John Hart. It is intended to revise the present Taxation Act and equalize the burden which has to be borne by the taxpayers.

In regard to the farmer, provision is made for a complete new assessment of all the real property in the province coming under the taxation department, and this will be made during the summer. Upon it the rolls for 1917 will be based. Exemption of improvements up to a value of \$1500 is given to farmers, this being in addition to the exemption up to \$1000 on personal property which they now enjoy.

An important portion of the bill is that dealing with the taxation of mining companies. In 1917 these were brought under the operation of the Income tax provisions of the act and also under the Surtax Act, at the same time continuing to be subject to the 2 per cent. mineral tax. In making them liable to income tax they had not the advantages of any allowance by way of deductions from gross incomes for directors' and officers' salaries, depreciation or development work and the shareholders were taxed on their income from dividends.

CHANGES PROPOSED.

What the bill now before the House proposes is that mines shall be taxed either on income or 2 per cent. on the assessed value of the ore removed, whichever is the greater. In coming under income taxation, depreciation of plant may be allowed in the discretion of the minister to 15 per cent. per annum. A deduction will be allowed for development work, having regard to the ore produced from which an income is derived. The salaries paid to directors and officers will be allowed as a deduction when the recipients are resident in the province, and therefore paying income tax themselves. It is also proposed to exempt from income tax dividends from mining companies when the tax has been paid at the source.

Gold mining companies will be taxed on profits only, in view of the fact that the price of gold is fixed, while the cost of production has greatly increased. The various deductions just mentioned apply here as well, and of course they equally affect all other income taxpayers, with stampage allowed as a deduction to lumbering firms.

A tax of 37 1-2 cents a ton is placed on iron ores, but this is more than offset by the bounty of \$3 a ton. All these mining taxes and the deduction affecting them date back to January 1, 1917, and as soon as the amendments are law the taxes for 1917 and 1918 will be levied and collected.

Prior to last year salmon canners were taxed at the rate of four cents a case on their annual pack, but last year shareholders were made liable for income tax in addition. The proposed amendment will tax the income at its source as an alternative to the four-cent tax, whichever is greater. For 1918 canners will pay taxes on that basis, but for 1917 shareholders will have to pay on their income. The same applies to whaling companies, which will pay on income, or at the rate of ten cents a barrel for whale oil, and twenty cents a ton for fertilizer, whichever sum is the larger.

Banks will be taxed as last year, \$3000 on the chief office of each bank, and \$500 for each other office in the province.

City and district municipalities will be exempt from taxation of municipal property in unorganized territory. This affects Sooke waterworks property and waterworks properties belonging to Vancouver and Kamloops.

REGARDING TAX SALES.

Amendments dealing with tax sales are proposed which will remove the difficulty which prevented a tax sale last year, that of having to proceed for all arrears of taxes up to December 31 preceding. When property is advertised in future the whole amount of taxes owing will be shown, but in the event of the government deciding that only the taxes up to, say, the end of 1917 shall be sought, an owner can save his land from sale by paying arrears and interest to that date. Provision is made that a delinquent owner may at any time pay at least one year's arrears with interest. Hereafter a collector could not accept any payment unless it represented the full sum owing. In the event of a tax sale the lands of any member of the Allied forces are to be withheld from sale, and the lands of his father, mother, wife or children, if dependent on him, may likewise be withheld.

The minimum tax on any parcel of real property is fixed at one dollar instead of twenty-five cents. There are several thousands of parcels now assessed for less than one dollar, the larger number at less than a quarter, and the expense of collection eats up most of the levy.

Every taxpayer is required, before September in each year, to send in a statement of taxable property and of his income. No notice or demand will be made on him for this, but he can secure forms from any assessor on application. Failure to make returns entails a fine, and the making of a false return fine and imprisonment.

The department has found some reluctance to make returns because of an impression that financial statements made were open to the public. Some time ago instructions were issued by Mr. Hart that all information obtained by officials in connection with the business of taxpayers must be held absolutely confidential, and to more fully enforce his order he has placed a section in the Bill imposing a fine of \$200 on any person disclosing any information of this kind. Besides this departmental regulations would entail the summary dismissal of the official.

NOT PLEASING TO COMPANIES.

Representatives of mining interests did not welcome the mining taxation concessions with any degree of warmth and frankly stated today that they considered the government was giving them little or no relief.

It was pointed out that the amount allowed on the exemption list for development was working expenses, to which the mines were entitled in any event.

It was also claimed that Hon. Mr. Hart was attempting to read into the act that the mines were subject to the surtax of 1917, based on the assessment of 1914.

The mining men contend that as their income was first made taxable by the 1917 act, an assessment on the earnings of 1917 was as far back as the government should go, the preceding year being a closed book insofar as their operations were concerned. Under the proposal of Mr. Hart the mining companies will in June have to pay an income tax of 22 1-2 per cent, and by December next must also set aside an additional 10 per cent, payable the following June. Thus out of the earnings of 1917 and 1918 the mines will have to pay 32 1-2 per cent to the government. This, they claim, is unjust.

LEGISLATURE'S FUN

"You Should Have Stayed in Museum" Bowser to McGeer.

VICTORIA, April 19.—Repatriates does not fall some of the House members, even in the rush of preparing for the sessional windup.

Mr. Wallis was discussing the museum estimates in supply committee the other day. He made a reference to the lack of attention which he said had been paid to the mounting of bird specimens. Mr. McGeer of Richmond took up the defence of the institution.

"Why I was in the museum one time before I was a member," he started out.

"Should have stayed there," rapped out Mr. Bowser.

There was a roar of laughter in the House. The Richmond member retorted that if he was hunting for curiosities he need not leave the House so long as Mr. Bowser remained in it.

"No Gathering Can Stampede Me" --- J. Oliver

Premier Defends Attitude Towards Returned Men.

Bowser Criticizes Appointment of Engineer.

Mrs. Smith Joins in Hot Debate in Legislature.

VICTORIA, April 19.—There was a battle royal between the government and the opposition yesterday over the soldier resolutions brought in by Mr. W. R. Ross, opposition member for Fort George. The engagement had not been concluded when the debate was broken off after nearly three hours of speech-making.

Included among the speakers were Premier Oliver, Mr. W. J. Bowser, Mr. F. H. Mobley of Atlin, Mrs. Ralph Smith, Mr. J. H. Hawthorn, thwaites of Newcastle, Lieut. Frank Mackenzie of Delta and Mr. J. B. Cowper of Vancouver.

Mr. Ross's resolution recited that the House regretted the inability of the government to approve of the soldiers' motions, which were then given in toto. They dealt with the treatment of aliens by the federal authorities and also asked for the immediate operation of the Civil Service Act of British Columbia, which provides for soldier preference, but which has so far not been put into effect.

Mr. Mobley agreed that the Provincial Government should take steps to relieve any returned men who might be in financial difficulties, as it was the duty of the administration to comply with the needs of the soldiers in a temporary manner until some permanent plan of assistance could be devised. He said he believed, however, the resolution could be improved if it did not look so much like a demand.

SAID IT WAS HELD BACK.

Lieut. Mackenzie, himself back from overseas duty, told the House that the war veterans were not greatly interested in politics, but wanted fair treatment in view of the sacrifices they had made. He pointed out that Mr. Mobley had carefully refrained from touching on the civil service feature of the soldiers' demands, a subject that the Provincial Government could well attend to, even if it considered the alien clauses of the series outside of its scope. The Jackson amendment to the Ross resolution also omitted this particular request of the veterans, he said. In his opinion some hidden hand was holding back the Civil Service Act, a measure formerly described as the cherished wish of the late Premier. Lieut. Mackenzie remarked that he did not believe there was any justification for the heated language used by Premier Oliver in replying to the soldiers' delegation on the Legislature steps last week.

"I have nothing to take back from my attitude," announced the Premier. "I intend to maintain it. The mover of this resolution starts off with the unwarranted assumption that the government will not approve of the soldier's motion. I can say this, that I do not intend to be stampeded either by the opposition or by any public gathering. I have had to withstand public gatherings in the past and I can do it again. I may possibly be stubborn, for I will certainly not be dictated to by any man or any aggregation living."

CONSIDERATION FOR OTTAWA.

"I told the soldiers at the time they met the executive that possibly I could approve of most of the objects they aimed at and I want to see that I get fairplay in regard to this matter. I had their resolutions printed at once and placed before the House. Now the opposition is attempting to make political capital by a species of sharp practice in trying for a snap vote on the motions. I explained to the veterans that their demands with respect to the treatment of aliens by Ottawa might embarrass that government if pressed by this administration, seeing that Ottawa had already declined the veterans' request. Now these men in opposition in this House are willing to ask this Legislature to pass the motions."

The Premier said that the provincial administration was not hostile to Ottawa. The man who added to the federal government's troubles was not a good citizen. But for this government to have adopted resolutions refused by Ottawa would savor of an attempt at hostility.

"But these self-constituted champions of the Union government"—referring to the opposition—"who think they have the monopoly of the patriotism of the country in their breeches pocket, for a little notoriety in the prospect of a by-election in the city of Victoria, would try to force this thing through."

Premier Oliver waxed indignant when he got to the civil service request of the war veterans. Their demand, he declared, was a bill of indictment against the administration and an insult to the late Premier, than whom there was no one so endeared in the hearts of the public. The late Premier Brewster gave his life for his country as truly as any man on the battlefield, he went on.

WILL NOT BE RUSHED.

"I will not meet the demand for an immediate decision on this subject," he announced. "The soldiers had no right to ask for it as they did. I had no notice of this resolution, and the spokesman on it presented it in a most offensive manner, calling on me to state then and there that I would put the Civil Service Act into force immediately. I will not yield to any such demand from any man alive."

"I did not tell the soldiers I had not read the bill. I informed them that I had been exceedingly busy since coming into office and was not familiar with the details of the measure. But I did not say I had not read the bill. I left that statement for the lying men who tried to take advantage of the situation for the sake of dirty politics. I throw it in their teeth. The truth is not in them and they do not possess even common decency."

In a calmer vein, the Premier informed the House that he would put the act into operation when certain amendments designed to meet present conditions had been provided. The government had not realized a year ago when it passed the act, he went on, the full extent of the financial situation, and it therefore now found it necessary to modify the act.

"We shall take our time for the amendments," he mentioned. "I propose to do what is right rather than what is expedient, and I will leave it to the people to judge. If they become

mad enough government force in the struggling events that residents in the Assembly, go out of time."

ENDORSE

The Premier the alien provisions. He is fighting aliens national vigilance, with the id service residents in the suggested allowed to endorse an enemy paper that, be pur guage. He the demand be prohibit He favored breaking of played in the But he did ion had re allens, ener be required their class. Neither dic asking tha out the se classes, or the first question h and proper only to the when it sh ance in pr the front. "I make porter of declared, "sympathetic ministratio rass it wit acter."

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mad enough to return to power the government which plunged this province in the awful condition it is now struggling against. I can say at all events that I for one will not truckle for the sake of holding a chair in this Assembly. No doubt the Liberals will go out of power,—but not in my lifetime."

ENDORSED MANY PROPOSALS.

The Premier dealt seriatim with the alien proposals of the soldier motions. He agreed with the idea of putting aliens of enemy origin to work on national projects under proper surveillance, and he was also sympathetic with the idea of applying the military service regulations to alien residents in Canada. He accepted also the suggestion that no enemy alien be allowed to hold public office. He could endorse also the request that alien enemy papers be suppressed, or failing that, be published in the English language. He had no objection also to the demand that persons of alien birth be prohibited from carrying firearms. He favored heavy fines in the cases of breaking contracts by alien labor employed in greater production work. But he did not think that the Dominion had yet reached a stage where all aliens, enemy, Allied or neutral, should be required to wear badges showing their class, as the soldiers desired. Neither did he believe that the clause asking that no steps be taken to call out the second or other military classes, or to return married men of the first contingent until the alien question had been settled, was a fit and proper one. Such a motion would only tie the hands of Ottawa at a time when it should be given every assistance in providing reinforcements for the front.

"I make it clear that I am no supporter of the Union government," he declared, "but I realize that it needs sympathetic assistance, and this administration does not intend to embarrass it with a demand of that character."

HOW HE DIFFERED.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite came next. He told the House that the Premier was upright, honest and brave, the grand old man of the Liberal party. But he did not agree with his stand. He considered the Premier's condemnation of those who pressed the soldiers' resolutions far too sweeping. Nor did he consider that this House should bow down to the Dominion Government. It had a free right to offer criticism when it considered the provocation sufficient. So far as he could judge, the federal situation was the same as it had been before the war. There was no cessation of profiteering or graft. The returned men were full of complaints and had not in any way received compensation for their sacrifices. Mr. Hawthornthwaite said that much of the Premier's criticism of those putting forward the resolution really fell upon the men who drew it. "They were the soldiers and their loyalty was far above that of even the Premier himself."

The speaker maintained that neither Ottawa nor Victoria had done anything for the war veterans. The soldiers had formulated certain demands, and so far as he was concerned, he intended to support them. The Jackson amendment to the Ross resolution was obviously intended, he thought, to protect the Provincial Government by leaving out the demand for the operation of the civil service bill. The argument of the Premier that to pass these resolutions would virtually be censuring Ottawa did not contain much merit, he suggested, in view of the fact that a few days ago the Liberal majority did not hesitate to censure when they passed the C. N. R. resolution.

NOTHING DONE, HE CHARGES.

He appealed to the government to take steps for the benefit of the returned men, to ask Ottawa for money for that purpose and to use such funds, together with the provincial land and natural resources, in reaching a real solution of the problem here in B. C. without dropping the burden upon the Dominion authorities.

"Here we are, about to adjourn this House with nothing done for the returned soldiers. Sooner or later you will hear the tramp of armed men in the corridors of this building. You smiled when I prophesied that some days ago, but only last week you saw a thousand war veterans on the steps of the building. True they were unarmed,—indeed they were armless many of them—but they were muttering threats which one of these days will reach action. Just you wait until there are twenty or fifty thousand of them back from the front and they will pull the parliament buildings down on your heads."

Speaking deliberately and quietly, the opposition leader took the side of the mover of the resolution. He asked the government why it did not do something practical for the returned soldiers. He responded to the statement of the Premier that the War Veterans should have taken their motions to the Legislature instead of to the executive by declaring that the constitutional course was the one they adopted. Alluding to the declaration

of Premier Oliver that he had nothing to take back from what he uttered to the soldiers on the occasion of their stormy demonstration, Mr. Bowser expressed the feeling that the Premier certainly should have had some regrets for his words at that time.

REFERS TO FEDERAL ELECTION.

"And he keeps referring to the opposition as the self-styled champions of unionism. We do not lay claim to that distinction, but the position we did take was taken on the hustings during the federal elections when British Columbia sent a solid Unionist contingent to Ottawa. I can point out as well that the rank and file of the government majority of this House, as well as the government members themselves, were opposed to that Union government."

Mr. Bowser did not think that there was much in the Premier's contention that the opposition was willing to slap Sir Robert Borden in the face by pressing the soldiers' resolution. The opposition should always be willing to point out to the federal authorities where it considered they erred, he maintained. As a matter of fact, the soldiers' resolutions seemed well-founded and reasonable. The speaker went on to say that the provincial opposition had tried to be the friend of the returned man and hoped that the Legislature would do something practical for him.

He took up the Civil Service Act question, claiming that for the Premier to bring in the sentiment attached to the memory of the late Hon. Mr. Brewster was no defence for the non-operation of the act. Insofar as to whether or not the Premier had told the soldiers he had not read the act, Mr. Bowser was willing to leave that to the persons who stood on the Parliament Building steps and heard him.

INCREASES IN SALARY.

He reminded the House that last year when the act was put through the House he had told the legislators that it would not be enforced until all the Liberal office-seekers had been provided for. A year had passed, Liberals were being appointed daily, but still the new act had never been made operative. The public could not be treated in that manner, particularly in view of all the high-sounding promises which had been made. For Premier Oliver to say he could not remember particulars of the act was foolish, seeing that he had been reminded of the legislation during the recent by-elections. In any event he had always been the master of the administration since 1916, and must have had an accurate knowledge of the measure.

If it was necessary now to modify the act, presumably because it was found the financial situation of the province indicates that the legislation is too expensive for operation, why was it, he asked, that this year's estimates contained so many salary increases for Liberals appointed last year? Every Liberal appointee since 1916 had been raised a declaration, he said, the speaker. Premier Oliver had promised in his speech that afternoon to do the right thing with respect to the act, but that probably meant the

right thing for the Liberal hangers-on. Mr. Bowser gave a list of cases where he said the administration had discriminated against the soldiers. These instances have been referred to in previous speeches. He referred to one new one. It is the case of F. Lorenzen of Prince Rupert, who is said to have been appointed to take charge of the construction of a large bridge in the Bella Coola district. "This man was formerly city engineer of Prince Rupert and had to resign owing to criticism of his nationality, which I am told is German," said Mr. Bowser. "He was the first president of the German association of Prince Rupert. This man gets an important provincial appointment, although there must have been competent returned soldiers either in Prince Rupert or in the southern coast cities, who could have handled the job."

Mr. Manson of Omenica remarked that Mr. Lorenzen was a naturalized British subject who had offered his services to the country. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, of Danish parents.

"I notice that he was not allowed to vote at the last federal election because of his enemy origin and he was the first president of the German club of Prince Rupert," replied Mr. Bowser. "Yet our Liberal friends, with the soldiers' appeal still ringing in their ears, appoint this man to a government job. The Great War Veterans of Prince Rupert sent a wire of protest to the Great War Veterans of Victoria, and the latter organization wrote to me officially asking me to set on foot an enquiry in the House. That is why I bring this up."

MR. PATTULLO'S REPLY.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo declared that this was the first he had heard of the appointment and there had been no complaints to him of any such occurrence. He described Mr. Lorenzen as a fine type of citizen.

Mr. Bowser informed him that the appointment was made by P. W. Anderson, road superintendent of the district, a nominee for that position of the minister of lands himself. The reason the soldiers did not complain to the minister probably was that they had had no experience of that sort already and no doubt intended to leave the minister and the government alone.

Mrs. Smith took a new tack. She charged that the Union government had utterly failed to meet the situation. She said she was willing to saddle the responsibility on both par-

ties making up that government. She considered the provincial premiers should have been called in to Ottawa and kept there until a really practical scheme for the soldiers was reached. In her opinion the Federal Government dared not take any definite stand, and for that reason she had no sympathy with it. She thought the Victoria returned soldiers should have presented their alien and civil service demands to the Legislature instead of to the provincial executive. She urged that some definite action be taken to meet the soldiers' needs, but added that the first move should come from Ottawa, as the provinces could not assume their share of the

responsibility until the Dominion had led the way.

The reason she had seconded the Jackson amendment was that while giving the substance of the soldiers' motion, it was better worded and more emphatic, she explained.

Insofar as the operation of the Civil Service Act was concerned, she believed that it ought to be brought into force as quickly as possible, a course which she said the government would no doubt follow. But even the soldiers were divided on that subject, as one recently wrote asking her to "soft pedal" on the Civil Service Act, in view of a feeling among some of the veterans that all of the civil service employees should resign to leave the field open. The new act would now be law had the late Premier lived, she felt. Mrs. Smith spoke in favor of the appointment of women food controllers, declaring that the federal literature on food conservation was valueless.

Mr. J. S. Cowper was the last speaker. He agreed with Mrs. Smith's ideas, said she had propounded the really valuable ideas of the afternoon and declared that the Ross resolution was designed merely to camouflage the soldiers.

Mr. C. F. Nelson of Slocan adjourned the debate.

A VALIANT SUPPORTER

Nurses Will Owe Debt of Gratitude to G. G. McGeer.

VICTORIA, April 19.—Dr. Sutherland got his Registered Nurses' Bill through the committee stage of the House last night and it is now on a fair way to final passage. The House spent two hours discussing the measure.

Mr. Cowper objected to "R. N." for registered nurse on the ground that there would be a mixup with "Royal Navy."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite wanted to have women with one year's experience in midwifery given the "maternity nurse" recognition in the bill. His amendment was not accepted, however.

With one or two minor amendments the bill went through committee stage without undue delay, largely through the valiant efforts of Mr. G. G. McGeer, committee chairman, who did not lose a moment in pushing it ahead.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1918. OVER ELEVEN MILLIONS

B. C. Will Possess Extensive Borrowing Powers.

VICTORIA, April 20.—When the bill now before the Legislature providing for power to the government to borrow \$4,000,000 for provincial purposes, is made law, the present administration will not suffer from lack of borrowing powers. What with the bill, coupled with powers contained in previous enactments of the Legislature, British Columbia will possess borrowing powers to the extent of \$11,370,000 in all.

In addition, Hon. Mr. Hart stated yesterday that the government is in a position to secure any overdraft it might require from the bank, but, he said, it was proposed to repay the \$2,800,000 borrowed from the bank with part of the proceeds of flotation that would be made under the bill now before the House.

HALF-HOLIDAY ACT

Measure to Amend It Makes Appearance in Legislature.

VICTORIA, April 20.—The Weekly Half-holiday Act amendment which made a belated appearance in the Legislature today provides that half-holiday closing shall not apply for the week preceding Christmas Day. It also provides that the half-holiday shall not apply when New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, the birthday of the sovereign or any proclaimed holiday occurs. The arrangement contemplated in connection with these public holidays is that the half-holiday which would fall nearest the date of the public holiday shall be waived, whether it be in the week before, week after or the week of the holiday.

Premier Oliver brought in a bill this morning respecting the giving of security by public officers. It states that the lieutenant-governor in council may provide that any or every public official may be called upon to provide security for the performance of trust. The bill is to come into force when the Civil Service Act is made effective.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1918.

MANY BILLS ARE PASSED

Legislature Deals With 104
Measures During Spring
Session.

Members Absent Overseas
Are to Receive Sessional
Indemnities.

VICTORIA, April 20.—Within the last four days twenty new bills have been added to the Legislature, five new ones appearing at lunch time today. The total number of bills this session now stands at 104, which is a record. It is regarded as utterly impossible to prorogue before the middle of next week. New bills coming down today are: Amendments to the Civil Service Act, to the Provincial Elections Act, Weekly Half-holiday Act, Banff-Windermere Road Act, and An Act Requiring Public Officers to Furnish Security.

All were given first reading, while the Supreme Court Act is to be reconsidered for more amendments by the attorney-general.

A resolution by A. Manson of Omineca was adopted whereby three members absent on active service will receive the sessional indemnity of \$1600, which they could not have received without such action. They are G. Hanes, North Vancouver; J. W. McIntosh, Vancouver, and Capt. Hayward, Cowichan.

AMENDMENTS LOST.

When the Workmen's Compensation Act was in the committee stage, the Hawthornthwaite amendments to include tuberculosis and hernia under the act as industrial accidents for compensation were lost. There developed, however, a strong government backing that hernia should in some way become a subject for recompense. While nothing was done with the bill, progress merely being reported, the attorney-general agreed that during the year he will thoroughly investigate the proposition, and see what can be done in the way of 1919 legislation on the point.

NO DESIRE TO RUSH.

As printed copies of the new bills this morning were not distributed, Mr. Bowser asked that they be circulated early to afford time for consideration by the opposition.

Premier Oliver replied that the bills were ready for distribution, and there was no desire on the part of the government to rush the bills through in dying hours of the Legislature.

This afternoon Gerald McGeer of Richmond intends to launch a vigorous attack against the business tax clauses of the Vancouver bill. He takes the stand that the clause is unfair, not equitable, and will prove a serious menace to the commercial progress of the metropolis.

UNLIKELY TO AID UNIVERSITY NOW

One Member of House Even
Proposes to Abandon the
Whole Scheme.

VICTORIA, April 20.—Whether education furnished by the University of British Columbia should be free or not was a subject debated in the House this morning when the opposition leader drew attention to a clause in the amendment to the University Act then under consideration, which repealed the section of the original act granting free tuition at the institution.

Repeating, Hon. Dr. McLean said that there was a difference of opinion in the university board of governors upon the subject and as a consequence the government had decided to remove the clause calling for free tuition to have an opportunity of deciding the matter for themselves. It is not considered likely that the government will be able to give the institution the special grant desired this year in order to provide for the removal of new buildings to be constructed on the Point Grey site. The special sum desired for the moving to Point Grey was about \$200,000.

M. B. Jackson (Islands) urged that

the Legislature take into consideration the advisability of dropping the university scheme and adopting instead a project involving merely an agricultural college and a polytechnic institute.

The bill went through committee without change. Mrs. Ralph Smith was in the chair.

PREMIER PROPOSES ALTERATION OF ACT

Soldiers May Register by
District Within Ten Days
of Poll.

VICTORIA, April 20.—The Oliver Bill amending the Provincial Elections Act provides that any returned soldier as defined under the Allied Forces Exemption Act shall be entitled up to within ten days of a polling, to have his name placed on the register of voters for the district in which he was last resident prior to enlistment. His application may be made to any electoral district registrar.

The difference between this bill and the Bowser Bill which the government rejected, is that the opposition leader proposed to permit soldiers to get on the list up to within three days of an election, and he made no restriction as to the district list they might enroll upon, permitting them to get on any list in the province.

Another bill introduced today is an amendment to the Banff-Windermere Road Act, designed to protect any interest or right in the strip of land along this road, which may have been enjoyed by any person on May 27, 1916. On that date the Legislature turned over a five-mile strip on each side of the road to the Dominion Government. The new bill authorizes the Lieutenant-governor to arrange with any person asserting rights for relinquishment.

The appointment of an official now in the civil service to administer the Civil Service Act of 1917 in addition to his present duties, is forecast in an amendment introduced by Premier Oliver this morning. His bill provides that the salary of the commissioner shall be fixed by the Lieutenant-governor-in-council and shall not exceed \$5000 per year.

Under the act as it stood the salary was a flat \$5000. The clause of the act providing that the commissioner shall not hold any office is repealed by the amendment introduced today. No hint has yet been given as to when the Lieutenant-governor-in-council will bring the Civil Service Act into force. It is rumored that Comptroller-general Mount may be the new commissioner doing that work as well as his present duties.

PROPOSAL IS WITHDRAWN

Lieut. Mackenzie Suggested
More Compensation for
Destroyed Cattle.

At Earnest Request of Premier,
However, Subject
Is Dropped.

VICTORIA, April 20.—Premier Oliver found himself in a peculiar position last night when Lieut. Mackenzie brought forward a resolution asking the government to take into favorable consideration an increase in compensation for cattle slaughtered because of tuberculosis.

The Delta member had understood the Premier to say previously that he would welcome an expression of opinion on this subject. So last night he brought up a motion. Acting Speaker Manson proposed to rule it out of order because it might affect revenues of the crown. But the House majority desired to discuss the subject and the rule was waived.

DIVIDED SUPPORT.

Messrs. Bell and Fisher supported the resolution.

Mr. McGeer opposed because he said Lieut. Mackenzie had never pressed any such resolution on the old government.

Mr. Barrow of Chilliwack declared that the dairymen of his district were satisfied with the present regulations.

Mr. Wallis of Alberni strongly supported the motion.

Premier Oliver said there were few complaints of small compensation. As the tendency of the House seemed to favor the resolution, he urged Lieut. Mackenzie to withdraw it, pleading practically mandatory upon the government the administration did not wish the matter pressed.

So the Delta member agreed to withdraw the motion.

The House made good progress yesterday on its legislative programme.

TO AID FARMERS.

The Premier's bill amending the Agricultural Act was accorded a second reading after the Premier had explained that it provided the only remedy for conditions which harass various agricultural associations of British Columbia. He explained that upon receiving government loans, these associations have to mortgage all their assets to the province as security. In the packing seasons when they need boxes, sacks and the like, they find they have no security left to offer the banks. The act provides that the minister of agriculture may release a portion of the mortgaged assets held by the province in order to facilitate production by the associations. Another amendment provides for the government to release some of the real property held as mortgage in a case where it will facilitate the building of additional storage facilities. Administered with reasonable precaution, these amendments can not hurt the government securities, he said.

Obtaining second reading for the B. C. Prohibition Act Bill, Attorney-General Farris said that the amendments provide for a more effective administration, not interfering in any detail with the principles of the bill which was voted on by the people. One amendment makes a more workable provision for the handling of alcohol by manufacturers; another provides that doctors may buy liquor from druggists upon prescription instead of having to apply to the government vendor; a third enlarges the commissioner's powers as to confiscation, providing that liquor may be confiscated where it is illegally kept as well as where it is illegally kept for sale. Captains of vessels also are to be permitted to have liquor for emergencies.

IN SESSION ALMOST UNTIL DAYLIGHT

Vancouver's Bill Is Up and
Jitney Questions Are
Discussed.

VICTORIA, April 20.—The Legislature will not prorogue until Tuesday. Members sat until 3 o'clock this morning.

Vancouver City's bill was up in committee at midnight session when an oratorical Donnybrook was launched on sub-section 3 of section 1, disqualifying persons in holy orders and ministers to sit as mayor or aldermen.

Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite of New Carlisle, whose voice was the most strident in the argument, supported the section, and insisted that no temporary

powers should be given to men "of the cloth." Reverting to times when church and state were closely allied, history revealed the wisdom of withholding temporal authority from the church, and with his customary eloquence, Mr. Hawthornthwaite gave vivid pictures of the days of the rack, the thumbscrew and the fagot. These dark eras in the world's history, he said, should be a sufficient reminder of danger.

Mrs. Ralph Smith advocated freedom in this regard for any good citizen, regardless of creed or calling, while Mr. G. G. McGeer of Richmond thought it would be the wisest course to let the ministers who desire it have a round at political life and learn firsthand of their own disqualifications.

The argument would have proceeded until breakfast time, but somebody suggested an adjournment.

The joke is upon the Legislature, for this clause, which caused all the rumpus, is thirty years old, and was only included in the Vancouver bill by a regulation which makes the city print the entire section after a certain number of amendments are made to the charter.

Mr. Macdonald, in moving second

voting in the afternoon, briefly outlined the purport of the measure. To Mr. Hawthornthwaite, who enquired of the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" between the company and city for the elimination of the jitney competition, the "jitney" people had been parties, Mr. Macdonald replied in the negative.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite declared the main object of the measure was to eliminate the small man; it was but another instance of the modern tendency of the large corporation forcing the small one to the wall. He termed the bill, in that respect, pernicious and iniquitous and the proposal to be one of the worst things the House had ever been called upon to sanction. It was evident, he alleged, that the intention was to put the jitneys out of business, not through the force of competition, but by the exercise of the powers of the Legislature. He declared the real trouble with the B. C. Electric Company was over-capitalization, and he asserted that even were the jitney competition eliminated the company could never hope to pay dividends on its over-capitalization.

At this morning's session of the Legislature, Mr. Bowser wished to be assured that the soldier vote would be

properly taken before the session.

Premier said was in course to be presented.

Hon. Mr. Olmstead providing that be paid to R. Esquilmat, owner of the House, Mr. Olmstead and thought matter and Mr. Pooley's factory program.

Mr. Speaker's motion by Mr. Olmstead servants in V a day's pay 1 Patriotic Fur in that form.

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properly taken care of in legislation before the session came to an end. The Premier said that the promised bill was in course of preparation and would be presented during the day.

Hon. Mr. Oliver introduced a motion providing that the statutory indemnity be paid to R. H. Pooley, member for Esquimalt, owing to the illness of the member causing his absence from the House. Mr. Bowser thanked the Premier and the House for the courtesy and thoughtfulness displayed in this matter and informed the members that Mr. Pooley was making slow but satisfactory progress towards recovery.

Mr. Speaker Keen asked that a question by Mr. Bowser regarding what civil servants in Victoria were contributing a day's pay from their salaries to the Patriotic Fund, was an improper one in that form.

Final stages in connection with the following bills were reached by noon: Coal Mines Regulation Act; an act to amend the Agricultural Act, 1915; the Game Act; amendments to the B. C. Prohibition Act and the bill authorizing the payment of \$200,000 to the G. T. P. in respect of its bridge at Fort George and the Local Improvement Amendment Act. The War Relief Act and the Wills Act were reported complete.

HALF MILLION TO BUY LAND FOR SOLDIERS

Premier Oliver Regrets Not Having Done More for Returned Men.

But Calls Attention to What Some of the Demands Would Cost.

W. R. Ross Calls It Death-bed Repentance of the Government.

Socialist Criticizes Policy of Handing Anything Over to Dominion.

VICTORIA, April 20.—The bill to give the government power to spend half a million dollars in buying lands for returned soldiers is not by any means all that the administration should do for the veterans, but it is an earnest of its good intentions.

This is the way Premier Oliver summed up in the House yesterday the reasons for the introduction of the legislation and the conditions surrounding the measure. The bill in short provides that the government may reserve crown lands for soldiers, may spend up to \$500,000 in buying suitable lands, may subdivide and lease or grant to soldiers, may turn over the property to the Dominion Soldiers' Settlement Board, and may provide homesites near cities for those veterans who do not intend entering upon farm life.

The Premier frankly said that he regretted that more was not being done for the returned soldiers, and indeed had not been done since the government took office. Pressure of immediate business, however, had been very great. He outlined the features of the bill and informed the House that recently he had discussed its provisions with Major Ashton, advance agent of the Dominion Soldiers' Settlement Commission, who was satisfied with the measure as far as it went.

FROM ALL STANDPOINTS.

Representatives of returned soldiers had recently met him, the Premier continued, and the trend of their arguments appeared to be that it was solely the duty of the province to care for the veterans. This was a position with which he could not agree. Proceeding on the theory of the soldiers' deputation it would be found that if the province gave land and cash assistance to each of the 50,000 men coming here after the war, its total outlay would amount to \$125,000,000 in cash assistance and an equal sum in land.

That was a task which was of course impossible. The government's limited means prevented it doing all that should be done for the veterans, but it was realized, he went on, that British Columbia would have to provide land assistance because of the fact that the Dominion Government land in this province was up in the Peace River belt. Failing land grants from British Columbia, Ottawa would naturally devote chief attention to placing soldiers with cash loans upon prairie lands owned by the Federal Government.

Dealing more particularly with the matter of close-in homesites, the Premier said that he had in mind lots in South Vancouver which had reverted to the municipality for taxes. There was no reason, considering that the government had come to South Vancouver's aid, why these areas could not be utilized as returned soldiers' homes.

Concluding, he announced that the policy of the government in dealing with the returned soldier issue would be to co-operate with Ottawa.

DEATH-BED REPENTANCE.

Mr. W. R. Ross intimated that the opposition would concur in approving the principle of the bill. He asked the government, however, why it had abrogated the provisions of the Soldiers' Homestead Act of 1916 which set aside for the benefit of the soldiers all of the lands taken back from speculators. Had that legislation been made use of, part of the lands could have been laid out for soldier settlement and other sections could have been sold and the proceeds used in soldier loans. But two years had now been lost and the government was introducing a bill which in effect followed along much the same line. All that the government had done in 1917 was to provide a \$500 rebate to any soldier buying crown lands. Mr. Ross called the new measure a death-bed repentance brought about by the soldier demonstration on the Parliament Building steps some nights ago.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo argued that it would have been unwise to "carry on" with the Soldiers' Homestead Act because the speculators' lands were scattered all over the province, and in order to do some good to the veterans it would have been necessary to tie up all of the two million acres taken back from the speculators. A good deal of this would prove unsalable at present. On the whole it would be much better, he thought, to utilize that land in the ordinary way under the Land Act, and to deal with the soldiers by buying and setting apart specifically selected tracts, especially suitable for their needs. This bill would provide for co-operation with the Dominion he pointed out. In cases where the province saw fit to render financial assistance, apart altogether from the \$2500 loans from the Dominion Government, advances could be made by the Land Settlement Board under last year's legislation.

TOO MANY "MAYS," HE ALLEGED.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite was willing to agree with the principle of the bill, but thought that the proposal to convey land to the Dominion board was dangerous.

Mr. Stewart of Comox reminded him that it was Ottawa which would give the cash loans to the soldier farmers, and in order to get these men to settle in this province, where Ottawa had little or no farm land, British Columbia must provide the land.

Lieut. Mackenzie pointed out that the bill was too full of "mays." It was indefinite, and while all very fine in its ideas, would certainly not be satisfactory unless carried into full effect. Meantime it would furnish something that looked well on paper, but gave the government too much room to procrastinate.

Mr. Jackson of The Islands rather objected to the plan to give the soldiers who wanted to stay in cities, homesites nearby. He felt that this would create a housing problem. He spoke strongly in favor of giving all soldiers total exemption from taxation during the war period. To suspend the taxes until the close of hostilities as provided at present merely meant heaping up the financial burden for the veterans to shoulder when they got home.

Mr. Barrow of Chilliwack asked for opposition co-operation with the government in dealing with returned soldier problems.

The bill got second reading in the afternoon sitting.

SAYS LORENZEN IS NOT A HUN

Minister Defends His Appointment in Speech Last Evening.

Censored Substitute of Ross Soldier Resolution Is Passed.

VICTORIA, April 20.—In a party division the House last night refused to accept the soldier resolutions of Mr. W. R. Ross of Fort George and adopted in their stead a set proposed by Mr. Pauline of Saanich.

There were three sets in all. Mr. Ross gave the soldiers alien, food production and civil service motions in full, prefacing them with a jibe or two to the effect that the House deprecated the inability of the government to accept the requests of the veterans.

Mr. Jackson, of the Islands, had an amendment which gave the soldiers alien demands on Ottawa, with some change. He left off the civil service section, however.

Mr. Pauline of Saanich had another set giving the soldier resolutions in toto, with his own preamble added. He also left off the particular motion calling for the immediate operation of the Provincial Service Act. It was apparent that the presentation of this portion of the veterans' requests dealable with this matter was not acceptable to the government.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite did not vote in the division. The substance of the soldiers' alien and other resolutions has already been given in accounts of previous House discussions.

Last night's debate extended over a period of almost two hours.

Mr. Nelson of Slooan favored the substance of the resolutions although he could not agree with Mr. Ross' criticism of the government in his introductory sentences. Mr. Nelson considered that the civil service section offered by the soldiers could well come later.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo took up the Lorenzen case, noted by Mr. Bowser on the previous day. Mr. Lorenzen, having been born in Schleswig-Holstein, a Danish province of Germany, was really a Dane, not a Hun, said the minister. Because the government appointed him to a position at Bella Coola certainly did not mean that the administration favored Germans, he added. He pointed out that of twenty-four vacancies in the forest branch, twenty-two had been filled by returned soldiers.

"We have been working along the line of favoring returned soldiers for some time," he declared. Reading a list of "occupations" mentioned by soldier applicants, he showed, however, that very few of them were qualified by previous training for the positions the government had to offer.

Mr. Jackson of The Islands proved the entertainer of the evening. He launched out in a lengthy classical selection from a poet of another age, lost his way and while the House split its side in enjoying his predicament, sent for the book, found the poem and insisted on reading it all. He believed the opposition to the evil characters portrayed in the poem.

Lieut. Mackenzie of Delta wanted to know why Messrs. Jackson and Pauline made long speeches about what they wanted to do for the soldiers, but at the same time declined to include in their motions the Civil Service Act operation demanded by the soldiers. He pointed out that the Dominion Government had already adopted the greater part of the alien resolutions of the soldiers, hence the Legislature should devote its particular attention to the civil service request, something with which it alone could deal.

The division was then called for.

NOONDAY ROW IS SESSION'S HOTTEST

Premier and Two Aides on One Side; Bowser on the Other.

Accusation that Salaries Were Paid Where No Offices Existed.

Kitsilano Deal and Alleged Rake-off Are Resurrected.

Finally They Grew Tired and Had to Adjourn for Lunch.

VICTORIA, April 20.—There were four of them in the verbal affray. On one side were Premier Oliver, Hon. John Hart and Hon. J. W. deB. Farris. On the other was the opposition leader. The hour was a quarter to one in the afternoon. Most of the House members had gone to lunch and only a corporal's guard remained. Dr. Rose of Nelson, who was in the chair, and Lieut. Mackenzie of Delta were the only other Conservatives in the House. The House was in committee on the Audit Act amendments. Ordinarily, it might be supposed that such a prosaic subject as this would not create any stir, but the few members who remained for the bill saw more fuss than has previously been stirred up this session.

It all started when Mr. Bowser voiced a protest against the provision in the bill for the signing of government cheques by the deputy minister of finance instead of the minister of finance. Discussion then veered to the comptroller-general. Hon. Mr. Hart said that the government had every confidence in the official and that the Bowser charges to the effect

that he was a rubber stamp who passed every voucher put up to him were without foundation.

SAYS OFFICES UNCREATED.

"Well, he passes vouchers for salaries for offices which have no legal statutory existence," said the opposition leader. "This government has continually appointed men to offices which the Legislature never created. It might just as well make an inspector of caves-troughs as some of the offices it has created without authority," he added.

Premier Oliver suggested that Mr. Bowser was cavilling at small things. When there was work to be done it was customary for the government to appoint a man to do it whether the Legislature had created the position or not, he declared.

"If the leader of the opposition had the instincts of a gentleman he would withdraw the charges he made against the comptroller-general the other day," concluded the Premier.

FOOL STATEMENT, SAYS PREMIER

"All my friend can add to this argument is 'You did it,' like a big school boy," replied the opposition speaker. Then he proceeded to give a number of instances in which he said the government had made appointments to non-existent offices, such as that of prohibition commissioner, deputy-surveyor-general and assistant assessor. He contended that salaries for such offices must be voted by the House, otherwise they could not be paid, but the government paid them last year just the same.

"Both—that's a fool statement," commented the Premier.

Premier Oliver told the opposition chief that the Prohibition Act was not in force when last year's estimates were passed, so the House could hardly then vote a salary for the commissioner. Mr. Bowser said the vote could have been provided at the August session. The government was in such a hurry then to adjourn to avoid his want-of-confidence proposal that it did not bother about any such details. Hence the reason why it had to bring in a bill this session to clear up the status of this particular official. Already it had introduced ninety-six bills this session, most of them for the purpose of remedying its former mistakes. The government speakers promptly claimed that the mistakes to be cleared up were nearly all errors of the old administration.

WHO OWNS PROHIBITION?

"The Prohibition Act was your own creature," said Premier Oliver.

"Thank you for giving me the credit. Your government has always tried to take it from me," replied Mr. Bowser. He charged that the government had used steam-roller tactics upon him in August.

"We did not half try," said the Premier.

"We'll do it better next time," added Mr. Hart.

Then Hon. Mr. Farris took a hand in the argument. He quoted a section of the Prohibition Act to show that in the absence of a special vote salaries and expenses shall be payable out of the consolidated revenue fund.

"There is a limit to our endurance and this man has passed the limit," he declared. "Do we have to sit here and suffer his audacious and uncalled-for remarks? He talks of paying salaries illegally. Does he forget that he paid eighty thousand dollars to two men for putting over a reserve deal on the Kitsilano Indians? That sum and the \$225,000 paid to the Indians for a title they could not give was not voted by the government. He did not even have a minute-of-council for it, nor did it appear in the supplementary estimates the following year. Yet he comes here and deliberately, brazenly and audaciously criticizes this administration for paying a salary which is clearly provided for by statute."

Mr. Bowser replied that the \$300,000 paid for the Kitsilano Indian reserve is to be returned to the province by the federal authorities under an agreement providing that that sum could be at least the minimum award by arbitration. The development of the reserve as now indicated was far better than the night-time beating of tom-toms at Indian potlatches, and the old government deserved some credit for getting the reserve into use at no cost whatever to the province.

ALLEGED A TAKE-OFF.

"Does that justify the illegality of the deal in the first place?" asked Mr. Farris.

"The money was paid by special warrant approved by a lieutenant-governor, who was a Liberal appointee and before whom I, myself, laid the whole case," answered Mr. Bowser.

"I venture to say you never told him that there was an \$80,000 takeoff for Harry Alexander and Hamilton Read," said the Premier.

The Premier and the two ministers started a veritable bombardment at the leader of the opposition, Mr. Hart bringing questions about the firm of Bow-

ser, Reid & Wallbridge acting for the P. C. E.

"You would contribute a thousand dollars apiece if you could bring anything home against me," Mr. Bowser called out.

He returned to the discussion about the status of the prohibition commissioner and asked the attorney-general if there was nothing doubtful about it why did Mr. Justice Murphy hold that the official had no legal standing? Hon. Mr. Farris claimed that what the learned judge had held was that the attorney-general himself could not delegate his powers to the prohibition commissioner; there was no question as to the legal existence of the latter or the validity of his appointment.

The two sides wrangled on until finally they grew tired and at 1:45 o'clock adjourned to lunch.

ARGUE LONG OVER JITNEYS

Legislature Almost Encroached on Sunday Hours in Debate.

Vote of Citizens Should Be Taken, Argues Newcastle Member.

VICTORIA, April 22.—The issue on the Vancouver jitneys was joined by the opposing House factions on Saturday. They argued the subject until midnight, when an adjournment became necessary so that the Sunday Observance Law could be kept. At that hour no definite conclusion had been reached.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite appeared as the principal champion of the jitney interests. He proposed an amendment designed to modify the wide powers sought by the city so that instead of gaining the right to prohibit, regulate and control auto traffic on any and all streets, this power would cover only certain thoroughfares, presumably the carline streets.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite prefaced his arguments against the section of the bill by remarking that Vancouver and Victoria had too many members in the House and could virtually decide it on any legislation they favored. He considered that the city had taken an extraordinary position in attempting to crush small capital for the benefit of big capital. The House should not take part in a fight between the B. C. Electric and the jitneys, he thought. If the B. C. Electric wanted to get rid of the jitneys it should either buy them out or compete by means of its own auto cars. Before the jitney was abolished in Vancouver, a vote of the citizens should be taken, he considered.

QUESTION FOR VANCOUVER.

Mr. M. A. Macdonald said that all the House had to decide was whether it would give Vancouver City full power over auto traffic on its streets. The abolition of the jitney was a matter for the City Council to decide.

Mr. Fisher of Fernie pleaded for city control of the B. C. Electric in order to assure good wages for employees and cheap fares for the public. He said he would be against giving Vancouver power to cut off those outside jitneys which were not duplicating B. C. Electric service.

That Commissioner Shortt in his B. C. Electric enquiry had taken a one-sided view in favor of the company was the statement of Mr. J. S. Cowper of Vancouver. The member admitted, however, that the mass of evidence submitted to him was in that direction. While prepared to accept the Hawthornthwaite amendment he was not willing to admit the truth of the charge of the Newcastle member, he said, that the B. C. Electric was full of watered stock. The full and frank statements of the company showed as a matter of fact that its stock had been sold at a premium, that it had committed few extravagances and made no important mistakes. He was willing to admit, he went on, that jitney competition was more unfair to the company than a parallel carline, but at the same time it would not be wise to give the city a weapon by which it could cut off the jitneys entirely. He favored eliminating them, however, from the carline streets.

FUTURE ACTION.

Mr. Cowper asked if it would not be the case, in the event of the city obtaining such wide authority as it sought, that sometime in the future when the Bolsheviki, or common people of Vancouver, obtained control of the council, they would wipe out the B. C. Electric itself. Such wide power, therefore, should not be given the city.

Unrestricted competition was wasteful, argued Mr. Barrow of Chilliwack. In the long run, the public would be better off with controlled monopoly.

Mr. Witsiede of New Westminster told the House that jitney competition cost the B. C. Electric \$750,000 a year. With a continuance of this loss the company would "go on the rocks." Then the city would have to take over

the tram lines, and in order to protect itself would be forced to cut out the jitneys. There were not jitneys in Liverpool and Glasgow competing directly with the electric lines, he said. Transportation of the public on a large scale was a task which the small man could not handle.

Mr. H. C. Hall of Victoria started to propose some amendments when Mr. Ross of Fort George proposed what would have amounted to a closure when he asked that the previous question now be put. Chairman Nelson ruled him out of order on the ground that the closure could only come with the speaker or deputy speaker in the chair. Mr. Ross appealed to the House, but was defeated. Midnight hove in sight about this time and the House adjourned.

PROVINCE ABOUNDS IN RICH IRON ORE

VICTORIA, April 22.—The Ore Bounties Bill by which the province is given power to give a bonus on pig iron of three dollars a ton, if made in British Columbia from British Columbia ore, got its second reading in the House this morning. Hon. William Sloan said it was destined to be of great assistance in establishing the iron ore industry in the province.

Mr. Bowser, opposition leader, said he hoped for the best but he did not consider the "paper policy record" of the minister of mines such as would justify any great degree of faith in the new bill.

Mr. Sloan said that British Columbia had enough iron ore actually in sight for twenty-five years of production. This ore was of high-grade quality, yielding from 50 to 65 per cent iron. New processes provided for electrical treatment of magnetite ore such as found in British Columbia and the government was now negotiating with a Montreal expert to report on direct electrical treatment of British Columbia magnetite, thus obviating the necessity of using hematite ore. A moderate sized iron and steel industry in British Columbia would provide employment directly and indirectly for 17,500 men.

Mr. Bowser said he had not been greatly impressed with the Sloan mining legislation of last session. For instance, the act to establish samplers, smelters, ore-purchasing depots and concentrators did not bring any results whatever. Neither did the act to provide for diamond drilling claims at an overcharge of 100 per cent.

As a matter of fact not a single claim was drilled and the government now proposed to drop the overcharge and drill at cost. Mr. Bowser wanted to know if Hon. Mr. Sloan had the benefit of the industry at heart why he did not establish an ore-purchasing department when the up-country miners had their quarrel with the Trail smelter and why also did he give the six months' hoist to the bill designed to shut mineral labor out of the island coal mines.

CLERGY AND HOTELMEN

Both Are Now Eligible for Civic Office in Vancouver.

VICTORIA, April 22.—The disability against ministers of the gospel with regard to public office on the council of Vancouver was removed by the Legislature during consideration of the Vancouver private bill on Saturday.

Following a lengthy discussion of the subject in the small hours of Saturday morning the members concluded to alter the terms of the clause dealing with this subject. In future, therefore, clergymen will be privileged to become candidates for the mayoralty or seats on the council.

This clause prohibiting the appearance in the civic field of clergymen has been in the Vancouver charter for thirty-two years, and only came to the attention of the House last weekend, because it happened to form part of a section which was being amended in another particular. But the members saw no reason why this particular custom in Vancouver, time-honored although it might be, should continue any longer. The same section bars out hotelkeepers, but seeing that hotels no longer have bars, the House was disposed to remove also the restriction against hotel license holders.

PROPOSE MOI TAXES FOR

They Must Pay Income Rate, J. Ha

VICTORIA, April 22.—The House on Saturday afternoon passed the provincial income tax last year. John Hart, minister of finance, declared that last year would have to be printing industry this year was an issue during election, when Mr. that while the Bre had levied income other industries th merely paid the old per case.

There was a len the subject on Sat producing returns, only canners who b tax being Mr. She dollar payment, an five dollars.

Replying, Hon. M that the departme held that canner be forced to pay t last year on this the administration collected it.

"Had Premier would have been r pay the income ta declared.

Mr. Bowser ma the wording of t ments last year i not legally collect from canners for a case being in li tion, despite the i had probably ma the minister of ti tions had already lect the 1917 inc the opposition i they were probab after the by-elect taxation bill Hon the government's the question of t other industrial c completed, but during the year t ble to improve t recommendations mitted at next mineowners sou ties. The gover tactic to their yet ready to wo gard would be l a basis on whic watered stock o He believed the reason to objec give exemption up to \$1500 in tion of \$1000 o He desired to amendments i would make changes now b The bill was ing.

Millage VICTORIA, In this year's by Premier O provides for a nce of twenty the members c millage allowg since August 1

TUESDAY, HOUSE I

Hundred and During I

VICTORIA, prorogued at His Honor I nard official function wh adopted this Official bu concluded soi passage of amendments, tory bill, the million dolla Election Act settlement b Workmen's (Municipal a amendments A new bill from fees w was rushed t

PROPOSE MORE TAXES FOR CANNERS

They Must Pay Last Year's Income Rate, Says Hon. J. Hart.

VICTORIA, April 22.—The opposition leader was able to show the House on Saturday that the salmon cannery of the province had not paid any income tax last year, but Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, declared that last year's income taxation would have to be provided by the canning industry this year. The question was an issue during the recent by-election, when Mr. Bowser charged that while the Brewster government had levied income taxation against other industries the salmon cannery merely paid the old tax of four cents per case.

There was a lengthy argument on the subject on Saturday. Mr. Bowser producing returns to show that the only cannery who had paid the income tax being Mr. Shotbolt, with a ten-dollar payment, and Mr. Spencer with five dollars.

Replying, Hon. Mr. Hart pointed out that the departmental solicitor had held that cannery shareholders could be forced to pay the income tax for last year on this industry, although the administration had not yet actually collected it.

Had Premier Brewster lived he would have been required this year to pay the income tax for last year," he declared.

Mr. Bowser maintained that through the wording of the taxation amendments last year the government could not legally collect any income tax from cannery for 1917, the four cents a case being in lieu of all other taxation, despite the fact that the cannery had probably made millions. When the minister announced that instructions had already been issued to collect the 1917 income tax on cannery, the opposition leader remarked that they were probably not sent out until after the by-elections.

In moving the second reading of the taxation bill Hon. Mr. Hart stated that the government's investigation into the question of taxation on mining and other industrial companies was not yet completed, but would be continued during the coming year, and if possible to improve the act there would be recommendations to that end submitted at next year's sessions. The mineowners sought an allowance for depreciation in value of their properties. The government was sympathetic to their requests, but was not ready to work out a method. Regard would be had to cash capital as a basis on which to work, and not to waterret the farmer would have no reason to object to the proposal to give exemption on farm improvements up to \$1500 on income.

He desired to make it clear that the amendments now being proposed would make effective for 1917 the changes now brought down.

The bill was given its second reading.

Mileage for Members.

VICTORIA, April 22.—Bill No. 106 in this year's session was introduced by Premier Oliver on Saturday. It provides for a special mileage allowance of twenty-five cents per mile for the members of the Legislature. This mileage allowance is to cover the special August session of last year.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1918.

HOUSE IS PROROGUED

Hundred and Twelve Bills Passed During Session at Victoria.

VICTORIA, April 23.—The House prorogued at 1 o'clock this afternoon. His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Barnard officiating at the formal closing function when the list of 112 bills adopted this session was read.

Official business of the session was concluded somewhat earlier with the passage of the Vancouver charter amendments, the Hawthornthwaite factory bill, the South Vancouver bill, the million dollar loan bill, Provincial Elections Act amendment, the land settlement bill, the P. G. E. bill, the Workmen's Compensation amendment, Municipal amendment and Will Act amendment.

A new bill relieving war charities from fees was brought in today and was rushed through its various stages.

MILLION DOLLARS FOR SO. VANCOUVER

Legislation to Assist Municipality Introduced in House Today.

VICTORIA, April 23.—The necessary legislation dealing with the appointment of a commissioner for South Vancouver was introduced in the Legislature during the early hours this morning, and will be passed by tonight.

With this bill is another to borrow one million dollars for the purpose of meeting the obligations of South Vancouver. It is said that the government has already paid the South Vancouver short-term notes carried by Spitzer, Rorick & Co., out of funds obtained from the Dominion Government. The commissioner for South Vancouver is to have all the powers exercised by reeve and councillors, police commissioners and school trustees, and these bodies shall cease their functions upon his appointment.

The commissioner may exceed the Municipal Act limit of one and a half cents per dollar taxation, and it shall be lawful for the lieutenant-governor-in-council to guarantee any existing or future obligation of the Corporation of South Vancouver.

BATTALION IN A BY-ELECTION

Visions of New Invasion of Victoria Seen by a Member.

Fraud in Soldier Voting Is Suggested in the Legislature.

VICTORIA, April 23.—The government is gold-bricking the soldiers in its new Elections Amendment Act, claims Opposition Leader Bowser. The bill from the Premier comes into the House to replace Mr. Bowser's own piece of proposed legislation which Premier Oliver rejected the other day as being too liable to open the way to frauds.

Mr. Bowser had proposed that any returned soldier could get on the voters' list within five days of an election. The Premier's measure sets the period at ten days prior to an election and provides also that the soldier can only get on for the constituency in which he lived prior to going overseas.

Discussing this measure yesterday Premier Oliver said that it did away with the danger of improper voting at by-elections.

Mr. Bowser said he could congratulate the Premier upon seeing some light as a result of the soldiers' demonstration on the Legislative Building steps. He pointed out that under the existing Elections Act any voter after residence of a month in a riding could transfer to that district from another in which he had previously lived. Such a concession, however, was apparently not given to the soldiers. For instance under the Oliver bill a soldier from Nelson in a Vancouver convalescent home could only get on the list for Nelson, but that would be of no advantage to him if he had to remain in the Vancouver hospital. Thus he would not even have the benefit which was offered the ordinary civilian voter who after a month's residence in Vancouver could get on the Vancouver list. Mr. Bowser thought that his own bill would have been preferable because it would have allowed the soldier to get on the list in the riding in which he resided at the time application was made.

WHAT PREMIER SAID.

Furthermore the government, in setting the time limit at ten days, was giving an opportunity for doing the soldiers out of votes at by-elections for the reason that the existing Elections Act provided that by-elections could be called in eight days. Thus in Victoria, for instance, the government could call a by-election on short notice and the soldiers would never have an opportunity to get on the voters' list as they could not apply after ten days before the polling day.

The speaker said that he considered the Premier's statement the other day that the Bowser Bill would open the way to frauds was a reflection on the bona fides of the soldiers. It was a gratuitous insult to the returned men.

"I did not say that the soldiers would commit the frauds, I said people in the guise of returned soldiers," explained Hon. Mr. Oliver.

"But it could not be anyone else than a returned soldier, for he would be the man applying to get on the list," replied Mr. Bowser.

The Premier and the opposition leader got into a somewhat heated argument as to what Mr. Oliver had said about frauds. Finally the Premier appealed to the chair.

"My friend is always appealing to the chair for help," commented the opposition leader. "Why can not he do as I do? I do not think I have asked for a Speaker's ruling this session."

"I would sooner go out and die than do what he does," answered Premier Oliver.

A UNIFORMED INFANTRY.

Mr. Whiteside of New Westminster said he was willing to leave the door open as wide as possible for soldier voting, but there should be some safeguard against the possibility of fraud. For instance a thousand soldiers could come from Vancouver five days before the election, under the Bowser Bill, and get on the lists for the Victoria by-election, then they would switch back to Vancouver for an election there.

"That is putting the returned soldier in the same class as the Seattle plunger," said Mr. Bowser. "If you think that in my bill I am trying to fix it so that a soldier can get on any list without living in the riding I am willing to put in the ordinary thirty-day residence clause."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite objected to the Oliver bill on the ground that it would permit Chinese, Japanese and Indian soldiers to vote.

On the ground that the Premier had made some concessions to his opinions in introducing the bill even although it was more or less of a gold brick to the soldiers Mr. Bowser said he would support it on second reading and endeavor to get some amendments through committee.

JITNEYS' SWAN SONG IN SMA' HOURS

Legislators Discussed Vancouver Charter Amendments After Midnight.

Only Eight Votes in Support of Continuance of Blue Funnel Line.

Attorney-general Foreshadows Appointment of Public Utility Board.

M. A. Macdonald as Sponsor Conducted Argument in Favor of Bill.

VICTORIA, April 23.—At 2 o'clock this morning the Legislature passed clause 8 of the Vancouver Bill, being the section which will put the Jitneys out of business in the Terminal City. The Cowper amendment to limit the prohibitory powers of the city to the street-car routes found only two other supporters in the House, Messrs. Hawthornthwaite of Newcastle and Wilson of Rossland. The Hawthornthwaite amendment to prevent the city from eliminating the outside jitneys, such as the Blue Funnel line, obtained eight votes, Messrs. Hawthornthwaite, Buckham, Rose, Jackson, McKenzie, Fisher, Wallis and Schofield. There were thirty-six members present.

Mr. H. C. Hall of Victoria submitted an amendment to the effect that the right given the city should not be considered in any way a vested privilege. This was also defeated.

PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD.

Hon. Mr. Farris explained that the government did not consider the powers given the city a vested right insofar as the B. C. Electric Railway was concerned. In reply to a request from Mr. Hall he announced that the administration now had under consideration the question of appointing a public utility board and legislation to this end might be brought in at the next session.

The first proposed amendment which came up was that to confine the city's powers to the carline streets.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite accepted it in lieu of one he had offered on Saturday night that the city be permitted to bar the jitneys from certain streets instead of "any and all."

Messrs. M. A. Macdonald, McGeer and Anderson argued against the clause. Although its two chief supporters made a strong fight for it, the vote was overwhelming.

In offering the second amendment designed to save the outside jitneys, Mr. Hawthornthwaite paid a tribute to the value of the Blue Funnel line, and the service rendered by its manager. He charged that the company, instead of buying him out or competing with him on commercial basis, was attempting to steal his business through the Legislature. Mr. Fisher suggested that if the city passed a by-law which would eliminate a jitney line running through the country districts the measure would be ultra vires.

DIRECT COMPETITION.

J. S. Cowper could not support this amendment because he considered that the Blue Funnel offered direct competition with the company, a matter he was anxious to avoid.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite put up an argument in favor of giving the Blue Funnel time to get out of business and also to hold down the fares of the company by means of legislative control.

Mr. M. A. Macdonald, as sponsor for the bill, conducted the principal argument in its favor, pointing out that the government was merely giving the city autonomy and control of traffic on its streets. The city would not hurt its own future by improper action, he contended. The vote came after two hours of argument.

WHAT SOLDIERS GET IN LANDS

Interesting Discussion in the House on Treatment for Returned Men.

Socialist Takes Vigorous Exception to Mine Bounty Proposal.

VICTORIA, April 23.—Committee stage of the Land Settlement Act amendments brought some dissension in the House yesterday over the question of what treatment should be accorded returned soldiers.

Mr. Fisher of Pentic considered that the government should not content itself with giving soldiers ordinary pre-emption rights on crown land and a \$500 rebate on lands which it purchased and resold. Soldiers, in his opinion, and possibly indeed all bona fide settlers, should be permitted free settlement upon any and all agricultural land owned by the administration.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite of Newcastle pointed out that the finest lands held by the government were under the control of the land settlement board and this board did not propose to give lands to soldiers, but merely offered them a \$500 cut in the purchase price.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo took the ground that the province could not afford to buy lands from private owners and then give them away.

Premier Oliver said that the government had power to dispose of lands to the soldiers upon any terms it saw fit. The feature of the new bill by which the government proposes to punish holders of idle lands by exacting a special 5 per cent. penalty tax met with a good deal of criticism. It went through the committee, however.

Mr. Jones of South Okanagan warned the government against community settlement unless these settlements consisted of Anglo-Saxons. Alien settlements he had found in the prairies constituted sore spots. Premier Oliver explained that all propositions received by the land settlements board must receive governmental endorsement.

Lieut. Mackenzie asked for information as to the previous occupations of members of the board, claiming that they were not farmers. Mr. Manson of Omenica objected, however, raising a point of order.

JAIL FOR FALSE STATEMENT.

Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, came in for criticism at the hands of Mr. Bowser, while the new Taxation Bill was in committee. The opposition leader decried the necessity of sending a "tax-dodger" or person making false statement to jail for six months in addition to the maximum penalty of \$500 provided. The present government was accused of putting the thumbcrews on the public so far as taxation is concerned and an "awful" reputation for the government, together with a general exodus from the province, were events predicted by Mr. Bowser unless the government sees the error of its ways in regard to taxation, and eases up a bit. Mr. Bowser dealt at length upon the lack of necessity for any jail sentence in addition to the heavy fine provided for mis-statement to the tax collector.

Defending the imprisonment provision, Attorney-General Farris forwarded the opinion that there is not much difference between the man making false tax statements and the man who perjures himself—yet the minimum for perjury conviction is a term of not less than two years in the penitentiary. The clause passed, inclusive of the imprisonment section which, it was explained, is not mandatory, but merely discretionary with trial judges.

AID AGRICULTURE.

Passing on to the section covering taxation of farmers, divided opinion arose in the House. Mr. J. W. Jones of South Okanagan argued strongly in favor of exemption for all farmers on all improvements. Mr. M. B. Jackson of the Islands constituency agreed that farmers should be encouraged by exemptions, even to the point of bonuses, agricultural development he thought, being the main hope of British Columbia's future. The House merely reported progress on the bill, tacking it again later in the night. Mr. Jones then offered an amendment that the assessing of farm improvements be made at 50 per cent. of the value with an exemption on such valuation up to \$1500. It was defeated, however.

While the Iron Bounties Bill was in committee prior to its passage yesterday, Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite, Labor member for Newcastle, took a characteristic rap at the measure and the government, declaring the bill to be iniquitous and deceiving. In the first place he thought \$3 a ton as bounty on produced minerals in British Columbia entirely too large a reward for those whose only assets of the province in this regard. He could see no available fund which would supply the means for bounty and thought the government was wrong in passing such an enactment when those who would go into the enterprise had no assurance that the bounty would be paid. His argument was unavailing, however, for the bill got final passage.

HALF-HOLIDAY CHANGES

Members Suggest Drug Clerks and Barbers Be Included in Measure.

VICTORIA, April 23.—With the protest of the opposition, the House on Monday gave second reading to a new half-holiday amendment which does away with half-holidays when the legal public holidays arrive.

Mr. Bowser asked Hon. Mr. Farris if the clerks had approved of the bill. The attorney-general explained that the clerks had been in willing to do without the half-holiday when there were public holidays, but this concession had been based upon the acceptance by the government of other demands by the clerks themselves. These changes, he said, would be considered before next session, although the government was not prepared to accept them at present.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite considered the amendment cutting out the half-holidays when there were legal holidays in the same weeks a deliberate attempt to "do" the clerks out of at least six half days a year.

Mr. W. A. McKenzie of Similkameen asked to have the drug clerks included within the scope of the half-holiday act. Mr. J. S. Cowper of Vancouver sought the same concession for the barbers.

TOO MANY NEW BILLS

Opposition Protest at Late Introduction of Important Measures.

VICTORIA, April 23.—Complaint that the government, in the dying days of the session, was introducing too many important bills which the opposition had no opportunity of considering, was expressed by the opposition leader yesterday when the bill to obtain uniform legislation among the provinces of the Dominion was given its second reading.

"The Liberals used to charge the old Conservative government with rushing business at the end of a session, but this administration is out-heroding Herod," Mr. Bowser declared. "It is not content with making numerous changes to legislation passed last session, but it brings in entirely new measures, such as the Land Settlement Bill, with only a few hours for legislative consideration."

He drew attention to the fact that since the arrival of the budget which had showed a deficit of \$1,900,000 for 1918-19, new bills involving money expenditure of another two millions had been brought in. Thus if this money was expended the province would for 1918-19 alone have a deficit of four millions. Mr. Bowser took this possibility as a reason why the government should not enter upon a scheme to spend money in sending British Columbia representatives to annual conferences on uniform legislation for the provinces. In any event, he said, these conferences would not be particularly valuable for the reason that British Columbia's condition varied greatly from that of Quebec or Nova Scotia and British Columbia could therefore only legislate for herself. The whole project was Utopian, he said.

Mr. Anderson of Kamloops called Mr. Bowser's comment a calamity howl. He believed the bill a step in the right direction in that it would aid the public even though it hurt the business of the legal firms.

NEW PROPOSAL FOR THE P.G.E.

Premier Oliver Will Leave Tonight for Ottawa and Toronto.

Will Testify Before C. N. R. Commission Regarding Branch Lines.

VICTORIA, April 24.—Preparatory to leaving for Ottawa tonight, where he is to discuss the entire British Columbia railroad situation with the Ottawa authorities, Premier John Oliver this morning handed over the reins of office pro tem to Attorney-General Farris. The latter now has in addition to the responsibility of being attorney-general, the acting premiership, the portfolio of labor, the portfolio of railways and the presidency of the council.

It is expected that before the Premier leaves he will have Mr. E. D. Barrow of Chilliwack sworn in as minister of agriculture. Mr. Barrow is an Englishman by birth, coming to this country about twenty years ago from his native county of Hampshire. He is a successful dairy farmer in the Fraser Valley and president of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association, and as such was a lecturer recently at the University in one of the agricultural courses. It is expected that the by-elections both in Chilliwack and Victoria will be held in from six to seven weeks' time.

SPIRITED FIGHT IN VICTORIA.

It is quite possible that the Chilliwack by-election will go uncontested, but for the vacant seat at Victoria there is every prospect of a spirited four-cornered contest. Mrs. Spofford has been nominated as an independent woman's candidate, Mayor Todd is also spoken of as an independent candidate, while the two political parties will almost certainly have soldier candidates in the field. In Conservative circles Major Monk is regarded as the standard-bearer.

One of the first things that Premier Oliver is to take up at Ottawa is that of the completion of the C. N. R. branch lines and terminals in the province. Both on Vancouver Island and in the Okanagan there are uncompleted branch lines, for which the trust funds raised on the province's guarantee of C. N. R. bonds are exhausted. Both at New Westminster and Victoria the terminals have not been started, although both the terminal and the line construction trust accounts have been paid out in full.

During the session a resolution was passed by the Legislature praying the Ottawa government not to pay over to Mackenzie & Mann the \$10,000,000 that they are expected to get for the shares in the C. N. R. until the branch lines and terminals in this province are completed as originally contracted for. Premier Oliver will accordingly proceed to Toronto, where the C. N. R. commission is sitting, and will give evidence in regard to these uncompleted undertakings.

DETERMINE EXACT POSITION.

There is also the further question, it is said, of the release of the province of its obligations under the C. N. R. guarantees. Two rather contradictory statements have emanated from Ottawa, one of them giving the impression that the Ottawa government is taking over the entire burden of the C. N. R., including the guarantees of the bond issues given by the provinces, while the other statement casts some doubt on the extent to which the federal government will assume the provincial liability. This is said to be one of the things that Premier Oliver has set himself to have placed beyond any misunderstanding.

Premier Oliver is said to have an even bigger scheme to urge on the Ottawa government. Undeterred by the refusal of that government some months ago to take the P. G. E. Railway off the hands of the province, Premier Oliver is now returning with a proposal that the Ottawa government take over the P. G. E. as part of the C. N. R. system, linking up the two systems by a cut-off line at Ashcroft. The possibilities of increasing the usefulness of the C. N. R. system by linking it up with the new areas opened up by the P. G. E. system is something that the Premier is quite enthusiastic about. At any rate, the Premier is going to Ottawa, it is said, with the confident hope that on his return he may be able to announce to the province that the load which is too heavy for the province to carry under its present circumstances will be taken off its hands and developed into a colonizing and developing line by the richer parent government.

FEDERAL SUB

Should the Ottawa government be susceptible to a request will be made by the general authorities with the Edmonton other Albertan I sidy of \$12,000 in return the P. G. E. under Dominion Railw it to be a line of Canada.

Hon. John Hart will leave for this time to join the and Ottawa. F in all of the returned s operation of a soldier will be

COUNCIL

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City Legisla B. C. Elec New O

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In granting council the Le that it must a no provision interurban serv With the coun lines the coun ty demand t company make of the trade d lines, said Ald. farm, this wou gest, but he w laration that t such routes as run must be covenanted se

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VICTORIA.

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It also allow up to 15 per c consequence s makes a libera ment expendit The last-me cause of cons tween the gov interests and moment that took to make opment, chief of J. Edward The develop of the deducti from their tax development c in producing

FEDERAL SUBSIDY.

Should the Ottawa government prove unsusceptible to the Premier's arguments for taking over the line, then a request will be made that the federal authorities do as they have done with the Edmonton & Dunvegan and other Albertan lines and grant a subsidy of \$12,000 a mile to the province. In return the province will place the P. G. E. under the authority of the Dominion Railway Board and declare it to be a line for the general benefit of Canada.

Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, will leave for the East in about a week's time to join the Premier at Toronto and Ottawa. Finance looms very large in all of the provincial schemes for the returned soldier and future co-operation of plans for the returned soldier will be sought.

COUNCIL TO START ON JITNEY BY-LAW

City Legislation May Require B. C. Electric to Care for New Outside Trade.

The Legislature having conferred upon the city the right to eliminate the jitneys from Vancouver, the City Council, in order to keep faith in the arrangement made prior to Dr. Adam Shortt's appointment, will immediately prepare the necessary local legislation to bar the jitneys from service within the corporate limits.

In granting these powers to the council the Legislature made it clear that it must apply to all jitney lines, no provision having been made for interurban services.

With the elimination of such jitney lines the council will in all probability demand that the street railway company make provision to take care of the trade developed by the jitney lines, said Ald. Kirk today. Just what form this will take, he did not suggest, but he was emphatic in his declaration that the public travelling on such routes as the Vancouver-Ladner run must be accommodated with a convenient service.

There are other points of debate when the council undertakes to frame the necessary prohibitory legislation, and it is expected that the jitney interests will not quietly relinquish the fight, but will endeavor to obtain legislation of less drastic nature than is allowed by the powers given to the city. The jitney licenses will expire on June 30, and it is expected that the by-law will come in effect on that date. It will not, in all probability, be passed upon finally until the return of Mayor Gale from the East.

Some suggestion had been made that the jitneys might operate on the collection box system of voluntary contributions from passengers, but this had been anticipated by the Legislature and provision was made to prevent any such scheme of operation.

MAKES PROVISION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Changes in Mining Legislation—Farm Improvements Up to \$1500 Exempted.

VICTORIA, April 23.—The Taxation Act was in committee stage about 10 o'clock last night, the most important clauses being those referring to taxation of canneries, farms and mines. There was considerable discussion on these subjects, although the work of the minister of finance received favorable comments from both sides of the House. The bill was recommended and read a third time. Under the new act farm improvements are exempted from taxation up to an amount of \$1500, while the 1917 act affecting mining taxation is altered to a great degree.

The 1917 act taxed mining companies 2 per cent. on the output of their ore and in addition 10 per cent. on the income. No allowance was made for development or depreciation of smelters or other mining plant.

The act brought down this year relieves mining companies from the payment of the double tax and makes them pay 2 per cent. on the output of the ore or 10 per cent. on the income, whichever is the greater.

It also allows depreciation on plant up to 15 per cent. and what is of more consequence to the mining industry, makes a liberal allowance for development expenditure.

The last-mentioned subject was the cause of considerable discussion between the government and the mining interests and it was only at the last moment that the government undertook to make an allowance for development, chiefly on the representation of J. Edward Sears of Vancouver.

The development clause now permits of the deduction by mining companies from their taxable income of the total development costs incurred by them in producing the ore.

BILL ON SETTLERS' RIGHTS WITHDRAWN

Measure Never Saw Light in Legislature — Dealt With Coal Dispute.

VICTORIA, April 24.—The dispute between the Canadian Collieries and the Granby Consolidated Company relative to under-surface rights of coal lands at Cassidy's wharf, Vancouver Island, almost reached the Legislature during the closing days of this session. The government, in fact, has prepared a bill dealing with the settlers' rights situation and it is said the measure had caucus approval, but opposition was raised on the score that the whole question was in the courts and legislation would be inopportune. Accordingly, the bill was never introduced.

In 1917 the Brewster Government passed an act extending for a short period the time in which applications covering the claims of original 1881 settlers for under surface rights in the E. & N. belt might be presented. The Canadian Collieries, which had taken over the E. N. coal properties objected to this legislation and recently applied to Ottawa for disallowance. Previously the whole tangled question of the rights of the early settlers under the McBride Act of 1903 had gone to the Privy Council.

Mixed up with the application of the Canadian Collieries was also a dispute between this company and the Granby over coal properties purchased by the latter near Nanaimo, and which it is said were covered by applications made under the 1917 act and objected to by the coal concern.

The Liberal caucus decided this week, it is said, to bring in a bill designed to remove the matter from the jurisdiction of the courts by declaring in definite terms that the E. & N. and its successors had no claim upon any under-surface rights of lands held by any 1881 settlers. Presumably, such a bill would automatically put the Canadian Collieries out of court so to speak, in connection with any of the 1917 applications to which it had taken exception.

Several members of the House, learning of the proposed bill, announced that in their view the question was one for the courts to decide, hence they would be prepared to object to it. In view of the fact that such objections would have meant prolonging the session for several days, the government decided to drop the bill before it reached the Legislature.

SOUGHT BOND AID

Dewdney Dyking Commissioners Unsuccessful in Request for Guarantee.

VICTORIA, April 24.—The dyking commissioners of Dewdney visited Victoria during the last two days of the legislative session in an effort to obtain a government guarantee of \$150,000 worth of dyking bonds. The commissioners proposed to float the bonds at 6 per cent. It is understood, and sought a government guarantee up to 4½ per cent.

Premier Oliver was said to have been willing to provide the guarantee, but the caucus majority felt that it would not be wise to bring in such a measure at the last moment, although somewhat similar legislation for the Nicomen dyking scheme was passed the previous week. The proposed bill was therefore not introduced and the Dewdney commissioners left for home without the desired bond guarantee.

A P R

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Sadly Out.
Mr. Farris was fully warmed up to his theme by this time and passed on to another statement made by the Leader of the Opposition in which Mr. Bowser claimed that he had brought the matter up in the House by placing the question on the Order Paper in March of last year, where it had remained until the seventeenth day of August, the day of prorogation following the adjourned session. But, said Mr. Farris, this was not the case. He had looked up the records and found that instead of the question languishing unanswered all last summer, it had been put on the Order Paper by Mr. Bowser for the first time on the evening of August 14 last, to be answered on August 17. "The question was answered on the date specified," rapped out the Attorney-General with some gusto and amid Ministerial applause. It stated that Mrs. McGill was appointed under the authority of a statute.

Serious Matter.
The Attorney-General said he desired to treat the matter somewhat fully since the report of the proceedings of Friday last had been published in the newspapers of the province and some amount of editorial comment had resulted. The impression that had got abroad was of a serious nature since it questioned the legality of one of the Courts of the province. So virtually convincing had been the reports in the newspapers that Mr. Farris almost inferred that some of his own followers had doubted whether or not "one had been slipped over." While the Attorney-General did not say as much he seemed to be taking in both Ministerial, as well as Opposition benches, as he sought to drive home the suggestion that any doubting Thomases should take a "tumble," while, if the legal department of the Government slept, it performed the operation with its eyes wide open and ears cocked.

Cinched!
Dealing officially with Mr. Bowser's assertion that Mr. Shaw's appointment had been secured from Ottawa by himself, Mr. Farris caused the records to be searched, only to find that Mr. Bowser had made no such application to Ottawa in behalf of the appointment in question. On the contrary a Provincial Order-in-Council had been passed by the late regime appointing him in precisely the same manner as the procedure followed out by the present Administration in relation to Mrs. McGill. Not satisfied with that, however, Mr. Farris caused The Canada Gazette to be searched—there again there was no record. But to make absolutely certain of the situation a wire was sent to the Deputy Minister of Justice at Ottawa, whose reply—which the Attorney-General read aloud to the House—disposed of the claim of the Leader of the Opposition and showed that although Mr. Shaw had been Judge of the Juvenile Court since 1910, he had never been appointed from Ottawa.

Mr. Bowser Apologizes.
Very briefly Mr. Bowser said that if he had unwittingly made statements not in accordance with the truth he would apologize to the House since he had no desire to mislead knowingly. He still held, however, that such an appointment should come from Ottawa for the provision of jurisdiction in the matter of infractions of Federal Acts.

G. G. McGeer, member for Richmond, observed at this point that this was another colossal blunder to be laid at the door of the Leader of the Opposition.

In view of the apology of Mr. Bowser the Premier came to his rescue. He had known the Leader of the Opposition for many years; and at last he detected a ray of hope for his future, since he had just heard with his own ears the honorable gentleman opposite apologize for his misstatements.

There followed a good deal of camouflage on the subject of political appointments.

HAIG CABLES PREMIER OLIVER HEARTFELT THANKS OF TROOPS

In reply to the cabled resolution passed by the Legislature on Tuesday last expressing the thanks, confidence and prayers of the people of British Columbia to Sir Douglas Haig and all ranks of the British army in France, Premier Oliver received the following message from the British Commander-in-Chief this morning:

"To the Premier, Victoria, British Columbia.

"All ranks of the British army in France send heartfelt thanks for your message of confidence, which has greatly encouraged us at this critical time.

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1918

JAPANESE TREATY RIGHTS IN CANADA COVER WIDE RANGE

No Wonder Hawthornthwaite's
Bill Got a Six Months'
Hoist

In view of the general interest which followed the publication of the report of Thursday's debate in the Legislature on the subject of the Hawthornthwaite Bill, there are set out hereunder for the benefit of Times readers the various clauses under Article 1 of the Treaty existing between Great Britain and Japan. From the recital thereof it will not be difficult to appreciate the attitude taken by the Minister of Mines in his speech and amendment asking for a six months' hoist for the Bill in question, while the Government's action as a whole objecting to any discriminatory legislation against Great Britain's ally, would appear to find all the necessary backing from the terms in part of the historical document itself.

Ratified by Canada.

The Dominion statute goes by the name of "An Act respecting a certain Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between His Majesty the King and His Majesty the Emperor of Japan," with a short title citing the Act as "The Japanese Treaty Act, 1915." The treaty was entered into and signed at London, England, on April 3, 1911, and declared to have the force of law in Canada. The Dominion Act ratifying the conditions of the treaty was passed in April, 1913, receiving the Royal assent on April 10 of that year.

Article 1 of the Treaty sets out fully that phase of the subject bearing on the discussion which took place in the Legislature on Thursday last when a six months' hoist was given to the Hawthornthwaite Bill. The measure in question, it will be recalled, ostensibly deals with the regulation of employment in dangerous industries, but in effect it is aimed at the exclusion of the Oriental from British Columbia in that particular respect.

Equal Privileges.

The provisions of the article referred to go on to relate that "The subjects of each of the High Contracting Parties shall have full liberty to enter, travel, and reside in the territories of the other and, conforming themselves to the laws of the country—1. Shall in all that relates to travel and residence, be placed in all respects on the same footing as native subjects. 2. They shall have the right, equally with native subjects, in all kinds of merchandise of lawful commerce, either in person or by agents singly or in partnerships with foreigners or native subjects.

Leasing of Land.

3. They shall, in all that relates to the pursuit of their industries, callings, professions, and educational studies be placed in all respects on the same footing as the subjects or citizens of the most favored nation. 4. They shall be permitted to own or hire and occupy houses, manufactories, warehouses, shops, and premises which may be necessary for them, and to lease land for residential, commercial, industrial and other lawful purposes, in the same manner as native subjects.

5. They shall, on condition of reciprocity, be at full liberty to acquire and possess every description of property movable or immovable, which the laws of the country permit or shall permit the subjects or citizens of any other foreign country to acquire and possess, subject always to the conditions and limitations prescribed in such laws. They may dispose of the same by sale, exchange, gift, marriage, testament, or in any other manner, under the same conditions which are or shall be established with regard to native subjects. They shall also be permitted, on compliance with the laws of the country, freely to export the proceeds of the sale of their property and their goods in general without being subjected as foreigners to other or higher duties than those to which subjects of the country would be liable under similar circumstances.

Access to Courts.

6. They shall enjoy constant and complete protection and security for their persons and property; shall have free and easy access to the Courts of Justice and other tribunals in pursuit and defence of their claims and rights; and shall have full liberty, equally with native subjects to choose and employ lawyers and advocates to represent them before such Courts and tribunals; and generally shall have the same rights and privileges as native subjects in all that concerns the administration of justice.

7. They shall not be compelled to pay taxes, fees, charges or contributions of any kind whatever, other or higher than those which are or may be paid by native subjects or the subjects or citizens of the most favored nation.

8. And they shall enjoy a perfect equality of treatment with native subjects in all that relates to facilities for warehousing under bond, bounties and drawbacks.

The other twenty-six articles set out more specifically what the treaty is intended to provide for between the two nations with the same liberal provisions, however, as contained in Article No. 1.

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1918

WARNING NOTE FROM MINISTER OF LANDS

British Columbia's War Gifts
Should Ensure Bigger Share
of Business

MORE SHIPS COULD BE BUILT IN THE NORTH

Reference has already been made in these columns to the interest Premier Oliver is displaying in connection with the shipbuilding industry in British Columbia. He is naturally not alone in his labors on behalf of the Province; his cabinet is behind him to a man, and in view of the Hon. T. D. Pattullo's more intimate association with the capabilities of Prince Rupert to handle craft of goodly proportions the Minister of Lands has given expression of his view to a representative of The Times. He agrees quite naturally at the outset that the ship building industry is of the greatest importance to British Columbia, and nothing should be left undone which can be done to place the industry upon a permanent and stable basis; he deprecates at this time especially merely spasmodic activity. Continuous work and construction should be the definite aim of all action taken in the matter, he says.

Labor Goes to Industry.

Mr. Pattullo considers that in connection with the Prince Rupert Dry Dock a duty devolves upon the people of Southern British Columbia to lend a hand to the northern port in seeing that the drydock there is given every opportunity and encouragement to operate. "The argument that has been largely used," says Mr. Pattullo, "is that scarcity of labor makes operation in the northern port impracticable. This is not a reason; it is merely an excuse. If there is any logic in this argument, the large plant at Ocean Falls would never have been started because there was no skilled labor there. When an industry is started the labor must go to it. The moment orders are continuous, there need be no importation of skilled labor because the skilled labor will be there."

General Benefit Follows.

The Minister of Lands declares that Prince Rupert has been battling in a lone fight for business from its inception, and yet in spite of what appears to him, to have been a determined effort to keep it down, the town has made steady progress. He believes that there is not the slightest doubt in the world that it will continue to make steady progress because of its wealth of natural resources. "Whatever helps one portion of British Columbia," declared Mr. Pattullo with emphasis, "helps the rest of the Province, and at this time when Prince Rupert has a magnificent drydock ready for operation, the more thickly populated cities of the south should lend a hand to help the northern port. Northern British Columbia," he recounts, "has contributed millions of dollars annually in a business way to the cities of southern British Columbia and has been a very considerable factor in their prosperity. With a very real threat of business going across the border now is the time for the extension of the helping hand." Lacking that reciprocal feeling between the northern and southern sections of the province the Minister is apprehensive lest the people of the north may eventually look to the east with the business hitherto done in the south.

The Economic Situation.

"I wonder if the people of British Columbia generally realize just what is happening to this province in an economic way," asks the Minister of Lands. "This is not an easy subject to discuss," he agrees, "because, with the public mind supersensitive and superheated one is very apt to be mis-

understood. Yet it seems to me that the people of this province should be alive to the situation so that they may govern themselves accordingly. British Columbia has done noble service in man-power in this war and will continue to do so," proceeded Mr. Pattullo. "The last figure I saw showed that British Columbia has relatively done better than any other portion of the Dominion. Every loyal British Columbian thrills with pride at our record of service to the Empire. But does our duty end there? Have we no duty to take stock of what the future holds in store for us?"

B.C.'s Big Burden.

"Is it right," he went on, "that while contributing relatively more largely in man-power than any other portion of the Dominion, that the enormous business incident to the war should relatively go much more largely to the other provinces of the Dominion than to British Columbia?" Mr. Pattullo calls attention to the facts insofar as they apply to population depletion in British Columbia in contrast to other sections of the Dominion. He points to the fact that the population of this province is proportionately more decimated than any other province in Canada, while at the same time British Columbia does less business resultant from the war than any other province. In addition to that he emphasizes the fact that by reason of British Columbia's large proportionate enlistment and her extremely favorable climatic conditions she will be called upon to contribute to a greater proportion towards the rehabilitation of the brave boys who come back from the front.

Even Distribution Wanted.

"All that we do, we do with a generous heart," continued the Minister, "but does not a duty devolve upon us to see that our brothers do not less than we? We do not need one whit to relax our own efforts, but we owe a duty to our province to see to it that we do not fall behind in the economic race. If we emerge from this war relatively weaker than our sister provinces we shall have to pay tribute where we should be upon an equal footing. There is great safety in economic independence and while we are ready to pledge the last man and the last dollar," said Mr. Pattullo in conclusion, "we nevertheless owe a duty to ourselves and to our children to see to it that the returns from this terrible conflict are evenly distributed."

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1918

POLITICIANS TURN THEIR THOUGHTS TO EARLY BY-ELECTION

Victoria Vacancy Will Be Filled
Soon After Completion
of Session

Present indications point to the holding of the by-election, occasioned by the untimely death of the Hon. H. C. Brewster, almost immediately following the prorogation of the Legislature towards the end of the present month. While no definite announcement is expected from the Government on the subject for the time being, it may be taken for granted that no undue delay will be permitted since all members of the Cabinet have a great many matters to attend to just as soon as the session closes, and by-election atmosphere is not conducive to undivided attention to departmental duties. For this, if for no other reason, it goes without saying that Premier Oliver will ring up the curtain in the very near future.

Possible Candidate.

With no public declarations for legislative honors from either Liberal or Conservative, well-defined rumor suggests the probability of a contest despite a very general wish that an acclamatory return would be possible in view of the extremely sad circumstances which encompassed the demise of the late Premier. It is no secret that Dr. Lewis Hall, who has faithfully filled the office of President of the Liberal Association for some time past, has signified his intention of allowing his name to go before the forthcoming convention as a prospective candidate.

A Second Run.

That there will be a second Dr. Hall in the running is almost a foregone conclusion since Dr. Ernest Hall, inspired by his close run against the Hon. John Hart last summer is almost converted to the necessity of flying the independent flag, by his supporters—many of whom, by the way, are numbered in the newly-admitted electorate. Rumor hath it, however, that in spite of the fact that Dr. Hall would claim support as more or less of a free lance, if elected, he would take his seat in the Legislature seventy-five per cent. Liberal in sympathy and twenty-five per cent. Independent. Just what sort of a campaign would be waged by a straight Liberal and Dr. Ernest Hall against a flat-footed Conservative is difficult at the moment to gauge. The name of F. J. Stackpole, K.C., has also been mooted as a straight Liberal with the Unionist vote solid in his support.

A Woman?

While the mere male spurs for a position the women folk are also looking out for a champion, since to be outdone by Vancouver so far as representation on the floor of the House is concerned is not to be tolerated indefinitely. The name of Mrs. Spofford appears to be the favorite so far. Her work for the common weal and her oft-displayed ability on many public matters is common knowledge.

Chances for Acclamation.

So far as can be gathered no official action has been taken by the Conservatives in the matter of selecting a candidate and there appears to be a tendency on the part of both political parties to wait until the fair sex has made its choice. In the event of there being a lady aspirant for the vacant seat the suggestion has been made that her election by acclamation would be possible. On the other hand there exists a doubt about this latter course. A straight woman Liberal or straight woman Conservative would, it is considered, result in a contest; but for a woman without a "political past" taking a platform of straight woman policy, irrespective of political leaning, there appears to be a smooth path to the Legislature.

OKANAGAN MEMBER WANTS MORE WATER

Government Ownership Only
Cure for Irrigation Sys-
tems, He Says

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 2.

The adjourned debate on the second reading of the Water Act was continued this afternoon by J. W. Jones, Conservative member for South Okanagan, who spoke for more than an hour, with irrigation in all its phases as his text. He told of the sixteen millions of dollars invested in orchard lands in the Okanagan Valley and how any legislation passed by the Government would naturally affect the whole of that huge investment. The virtues of the Okanagan apple were extolled—at which not a member in the House would cavil since each desk has already been decorated on several occasions with rosy-cheeked specimens from Dry Belt orchards.

Government Ownership.

The whole tenor of Mr. Jones's remarks centred around his belief that no other plan outside of Government ownership of irrigation concerns would adequately meet the situation and protect the localities dependent upon unlimited water supply for the production of their crops. In fact, he averred that when the late Premier and the ex-Attorney-General had toured the interior subsequent to the return of the Liberal party to power. It had transpired their promise had been Government ownership however, and much to the dismay of the member for South Okanagan, that the Minister of Lands was not prepared to go that far in the bill before the House.

Failed to Consult Users.

Mr. Jones appealed to members of the House to take a trip to the Okanagan so that each one could see for himself how very serious was the condition and how very necessary ample corrective measures were if the Okanagan Valley was to keep its proud record and contribute to the general revenue of the province by its increased output of orchard produce. The question, he said, was not a political question and the only way out of the difficulty lay in the path of Government ownership. In other words, Mr. Jones asked right out that the old Water Act be scrapped and a new and more liberal one drafted. He upbraided the Minister of Lands for not having gone to the water users of the Dry Belt in order to afford them an opportunity to discuss the proposed measure prior to its introduction to the Legislature, although he did not attempt to dilate upon the consequences that would attend legislation were the general principle of his suggestion to be followed as a rule.

Tourist Associations.

One of the means by which some relief could be secured would be for the Government to build more dams and amalgamate some of the paralleling water-carrying systems. Apparently mindful of the outlay necessary even for this procedure, Mr. Jones deprecated the granting of financial assistance to tourist associations by the Government while projects in the Okanagan Valley, directed to increase production and aid the agricultural development of the province, were starving for the want of capital outlay.

F. W. Anderson, member for the Dry Belt constituency of Kamloops, adjourned the debate.

Bills Committed.

The following measures were given their second reading and committed: The Administration Act, The Legal Professions Act, The Supreme Court Act, and The Bills of Sale Act—amendments to the original statute in each case. An Act to amend the British Columbia Fire Insurance Act received its third reading and was passed by the House.

CALLS LAND POLICY OF GOVERNMENT ONLY TRUCK GARDEN PLAN

Mr. Pattullo's Measure Not at
All to Liking of
Mr. Ross

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 2.

Taking up the adjourned debate on the second reading of the amendment to the Land Act, as introduced by the Minister of Lands and already referred to at length in these columns, W. R. Ross, member for Fort George, failed to find very much to recommend it. The people of the province had been told in pre-election days that all they had to do was to return the Liberals to power and there would be land legislation that would cure all the ills and ailments of the body politic of the Conservative Administration. Mr. Ross however had come to the conclusion that the bill as introduced to the House by his successor in office was more directly aimed against the progress of the country than in its interests.

The Election Dole.

So much was this condition in the bill evident to the member for Fort George that he read into its provisions a direct endeavor on the part of Mr. Pattullo to cater to his own friends near the coastline at the expense of the people in the other sections of the province. To the charge of the Minister that it had been the custom of the late Government to dole out appropriations for road work to the isolated settler at a convenient date before an election, Mr. Ross proceeded to show that all the elections since 1903 had been held in the winter months with chance of appropriations too far removed from the time when they could have any effect on the vote.

No Grazing Policy.

Although the Minister of Lands had said that thousands of pre-emptors had left their holdings the member for Fort George had failed to hear the Minister give the reasons. Mr. Ross averred that many of those selfsame homesteaders had answered their country's call and were at this time fighting on the battlefields of France. To the mind of Mr. Ross, and following a general castigation of the Government's land policy in general, the present method resembled a truck garden policy rather than an aggressive farming plan. The Government was also sadly at fault by its failure to adopt a grazing policy. No such move had been made and yet throughout the length and breadth of the province there were millions of acres particularly adaptable for sheep grazing. He would advocate the leasing of such acres free, if only to encourage the sheep industry and in consequence increase the production of more mutton. That, to his way of thinking, would be a good policy for the Minister of Lands to bring down.

Board a Failure.

The Land Settlement Board was included in Mr. Ross's indictment. It had been a failure. He recommended that it be taken away from the Department of Agriculture and placed under the wing of the Minister of Lands, where, he said, it rightly belonged. "Clean out the whole works and appoint a new crowd" was the somewhat "forceful" advice of the member for Fort George as he proceeded to name the member for Chilliwack for a post of honor in this connection. Having dismissed the proposed measure of the Minister of Lands in general terms as no good, the member for Fort George took his seat and Alec Manson, member for Omineca, adjourned the debate.

LIVELY PROCEEDINGS AT COUNCIL MEETING ABOUT ASSESSMENT

Mayor's Action in Changing
Figures in City's Private
Bill Criticized

There was a lively tilt in the City Council last night between Alderman Fullerton and the Mayor, the former declaring that the alteration of certain figures in the City's private bill by the latter was an insult to the Council. So pointed was the language of Alderman Fullerton that the Mayor threatened to use the power conferred upon him by the Act to keep order.

The trouble was over the proposal to have the total assessment of the City set between \$45,000,000 and \$44,000,000, but the bill as reprinted showed the variation between \$41,000,000 and \$40,000,000.

Changes Opinion.

Mayor Todd now wrote that he had instituted the change after having given the matter full consideration since Tuesday week. He had decided it would be impossible to give the Court of Revision proper opportunity to readjust semi-business property on the small margin between \$45,000,000 (the 1918 assessment), and \$44,000,000. Therefore he had informed the Solicitor to have the change made. He had to add that unless the Council could see fit to agree with him, he would have to go before the Private Bills Committee and urge the alteration, or that the land assessment clauses be struck out of the bill entirely.

Supplementing the letter verbally, the Mayor stated that it was wrong to mislead the investing public by fictitious values and in other words the City was obtaining money by false pretences. He was confident that unless some change was made the readjustment of business property was impossible.

Aldermen Surprised.

Alderman Andros expressed his astonishment that after the Mayor had appealed to them to stand united behind the bill and sink their differences in the various compromises that the Mayor should be the first to break from the undertaking. The assessment figures recommended and approved by the Council had the sanction and confidence of the fiscal agents and therefore deserved retention. Personally, he rather favored a higher assessment, but having settled on that figure, they should stay by it.

Then Alderman Fullerton attacked the Mayor. "You have no right to put this in the bill," he said. "People who live in glass houses should not throw stones; you report officials to us for small matters and then this occurs. You are treating this Council like dirt, in a contemptible manner, and I do not intend to stand for it."

Alderman Fullerton indicated that it was not the first time the Mayor had treated them in this manner and it would perhaps be a good thing if someone would go before the Private Bills Committee and tell the whole facts about this bill, why it had taken the present form and in whose interests it was planned. He concluded by a regret at the way in which it has been manipulated. "I am sick of the whole thing," he declared.

Alderman Porter said he agreed with the last speaker.

Alderman Fullerton: "You cannot express it too strongly."

Alderman Porter thought the Mayor had acted wrongly in asking the Council to change the assessment, and pointed out that the Council had held back from a real attempt to revise the assessment by the injury which would happen to the borrowing powers if the assessment was cut down to actual realty values. The Mayor's promised action to go and oppose the clauses before the Legislative Committee was, in his opinion, childish.

Two Much Fireworks.

Alderman Peden said they could not hope to agree on every detail of the bill. If he desired to break from the understanding there were numerous parts of the bill which he would only too gladly tackle in the House. He thought, however, they should stay by the compromise.

Alderman Walker was against tinkering with the bill. The Mayor intervened to state there had been too much fireworks and he hoped they would discuss the principle involved.

Alderman Andros moved that the clause should stand as originally approved by the Council.

The Mayor said the alteration had been hastily made in order that it could appear in the printed bill, and he had so instructed the Solicitor.

A Breeze.

Alderman Fullerton: "What authority had you to override this Council? Four days ago I knew those changes were to be made. You can't keep things quiet in the City Hall."

Alderman Andros suggested dropping the personalities.

"Let the Mayor act like a man," continued Alderman Fullerton.

"You're out of order, Alderman Fullerton," declared the Mayor. "I've referred to my powers in the Municipal Act before during this meeting and I won't hesitate to apply them to you," he added.

After calm was secured Alderman Cameron pointed to the difficulty of attempted arbitrary limitations of assessment.

Voted Down.

The Aldermen then unanimously voted against the Mayor's alteration and adopted Alderman Andros's suggestion to leave the figures unchanged at \$44,000,000 and \$45,000,000 respectively.

"There were some remarks to the effect that the Private Bills Committee should know certain facts as to why these changes were made," said the Mayor in conclusion. "I think it is the duty of whoever stated that to see that the Private Bills Committee gets those facts."

Then the Mayor appointed Aldermen Andros and Harvey to express the views of the majority to the Private Bills Committee. Alderman Sargent will also be present as chairman of the Legislative Committee.

CITY BILL HAVING TROUBLESOME TIME

Much Argument but Little Progress is Made This Morning

The City's Relief Bill is still in the cradle stage and was subjected to a little more rocking this morning before the Private Bills Committee. The proceedings opened with a statement from His Worship the Mayor, who declared that despite all his persuasive eloquence with the Council he had been totally unsuccessful in getting his colleagues of the Aldermanic bench to see eye to eye with him and agree upon a forty or forty-one million dollar assessment.

"I am, personally, absolutely determined that forty or forty-one millions are the proper figures and unless we can come together I am afraid it will lead to complications," observed the Mayor during the course of his general remarks dealing with the situation as he saw it.

Alderman Andros spoke at considerable length but the kernel of his argument brought out his belief that the assessment should be allowed to remain at \$45,000,000 as provided for in the original bill. The demand of the fiscal agents that a fifty million dollar assessment was necessary to ensure the sale of the city's bonds was rolled upon by the exponents of the higher figure gospel.

J. J. Shallcross pointed to the fact that the subject was due for solution in three particular connections. A new assessment was the only cure for the three. First of all there was the inequality of assessment; secondly, accumulations of back taxes which were so ancient that a large part were totally unrealizable; thirdly, the expropriations in some parts of the city. In general there was the inequality which had led to the present deadlock.

Chairman Jackson observed before the committee rose, with no further progress with the Bill made: "Dismiss the question of morality or immorality of allowing an arbitrary value to go abroad, I think then that we can exercise a parental control and dictate to you a new assessment."

The Committee rose at 1.20.

LEGISLATURE O. K.'S HALL'S RESOLUTION

Attorney-General Defends His Terms and Believes It Timely

THREE LIBERALS VOTE AGAINST GOVERNMENT

Farris Says Stage is Set for M. and M's. Final Get-Away

Legislative Press Gallery, April 2.

Several days ago the Attorney-General adjourned the debate on the question of the Hall resolution and the Anderson amendment relative to the affairs of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway and more specifically the defaulted covenants insofar as they affect uncompleted branch lines in this province. At the time of the adjournment, in addition to the junior member for Victoria's resolution in its original form, the House had before it an amendment from F. W. Anderson, the member for Kamloops, more or less putting the brakes on the more quickly moving wheels of the Hall resolution and generally urging moderation.

Urged Resolution's Passage.

M. B. Jackson, member for the Islands, on that occasion held no brief for the Mackenzie and Mann concern and failed to see how the passage of the resolution would have any disastrous effect on the action of the Arbitration Board now in session or in any way materially embarrass the Union Government. Mr. Farris admitted that on the adjournment of the debate by him he had not given the matter any particular consideration insofar as the terms of the resolution might affect the general position. More mature thought during the interim had, however, brought him to the conclusion that the House should support the terms in the original form and pass the resolution proposed by the member for Victoria.

Railroad Exploiters.

At the outset of his remarks this afternoon the Attorney-General was inclined to agree that the claim of Mackenzie and Mann in the matter of their reputation of railroad builders was by no means a misnomer. But he had a qualification to offer. In the first place he said that if they were railroad builders they were assuredly

railroad exploiters. And he explained this by paying tribute to their genius in that they possessed the happy knack of being able to build railroads without their own money. The genius and financial capacity of Mackenzie and Mann to construct railroads at the expense of the people and their ability to skim off the cream of the profits was a game which had been brought to the highest state of perfection by Sir William and Sir Donald. With a dip into the past and a clear exposition of the historical side of the enterprise in British Columbia, Mr. Farris alluded to the stage now set by the sitting of the Arbitration Board from which Mackenzie and Mann were doubtless hoping to make their final get-away.

The Only Excuse.

The Attorney-General did not weary the House with the full list of the railway company's shortcomings in the matter of its defaulted obligations; it was notorious that the province, however, was suffering acutely from failure on the part of the company to carry out its contracts. He proceeded to dissect the liability of Provincial and Dominion Governments in respect of transcontinental road construction. The only excuse that could be tendered on behalf of the late Administration in its defence for pledging the credit of the province in respect of the British Columbia section of the trunk road, was on the distinct understanding that the branch lines would be completed in order that development of those sections of the province intended to be tapped by the various lines could yield a revenue commensurate with the outlay guaranteed. Alas! Victoria and those same sections of the interior were obliged to contemplate the trunk line complete and in operation backed by provincial credit from which full advantage was for the time being impossible.

Directed To Government.

The position to-day, continued the Attorney-General, was a Mackenzie and Mann stage setting, with the "division of the lemon" likely to go thus: Obligations to the Government and the money to Mackenzie and Mann. From this point on Mr. Farris proceeded to analyze the resolution clause by clause and for the life of him he failed to detect any section of it which could in any way influence the action of the Board or embarrass the Government. Furthermore he wished to be understood—the resolution was not directed to the Commission but to the Dominion Government in an endeavor to prevent the handing out of the people's money, in return for the acquisition of the capital stock of the company, without reserve until the obligations contracted in British Columbia had been satisfactorily provided for. He merely ridiculed the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition hinting at the shock the commissioners would receive as they took their morning papers and read the Hall resolution in cold print. The resolution was a good one in the opinion of the Attorney-General in that it would show to the Dominion Government that the Legislature and people of British Columbia—and particularly the people of Victoria and the interior sections most concerned—were unequivocally behind its terms. It was a good thing to get the matter before the Government and by all means before Mackenzie and Mann cashed in those shares.

They Wouldn't Wash.

Mr. Farris was unable to reconcile the arguments of wartime exigency advanced by Mr. Bowser, because if ten million dollars were paid out as the valuation on those shares and the uncompleted obligations were allowed to go by the board as far as the company was concerned, the people of Canada would be that much poorer and the Government would still be faced sooner or later with the necessity to ask the people for more money to do what the company should have done. Therefore, Mr. Farris urged the House to adopt the Hall resolution and give the Government a chance to deal with it in its present terms, which ask that no moneys be paid out to shareholders of the company until such time as the obligations shall be assured of completion; then at a later stage the more modified terms of the member for Kamloops' amendment as between the province and the Dominion Government could have their

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chance. Mr. Farris was anxious, however, in the first place to put a heavy rope around the share valuation money.

Reiterates Arguments.

Very briefly and in reply to those speakers who favored the passage of the Hall resolution, Mr. Bowser said that his side of the House had made its position clear in the matter of objection. He and his colleagues were fully alive to the situation and appreciated how very desirable it would be to have the various branch lines complete and in operation and such representations towards that end should be made to the Government at the proper time. At the moment, however, there was a war on and the finances of the nation should have first call for the prosecution of the country's war work, with railway construction playing second fiddle. He felt that the original resolution would be interpreted as coming from an enemy of the Union Government and that it would place the province in an invidious position. For those reasons he and his party would take pleasure in supporting the amendment proposed by Mr. Anderson.

Votes For Both.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite, member for Newcastle, could see so little difference between the resolution proposed by Mr. Hall and the amendment by Mr. Anderson that he felt he could vote for both without disturbing either his own or the country's equilibrium.

Taking the opportunity of the last word, H. C. Hall junior member for Victoria and sponsor of the resolution, believed that its passing would have a good deal of weight with the Dominion Government and go a long way towards protecting the interests of the province. It should, he said, prevent the paying out of the share valuation to Mackenzie and Mann, a course which would impose an additional burden on the people of Canada when it came to make good their defaulted covenants, which would of necessity have to follow sooner or later.

The Division.

On the division, Messrs. Bowser, Wallis, McDonald, Jones, Schofield, Ross, Rose and Mackenzie, Conservatives; Hawthornthwaite, Labor; Anderson, Thompson and Weart, Liberals, voted for the amendment and against the resolution. Lieut. Mackenzie, the soldier member who took his seat this afternoon, did not vote, while Mr. Hawthornthwaite—as he said he would—voted for amendment and resolution. The resolution passed with a substantial majority and will find its way to Ottawa in due form.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1918

MINING COMMITTEE HEARS TAX DISCUSSED

Government Asked to Appoint Special Committee; Surtax Proposed

Legislative Press Gallery, April 4.

Representatives of the larger mining companies met the select mining committee of the House this morning following up the conference of last evening, with the result that a resolution was passed asking the Government to appoint a special committee of the House to co-operate with a committee of mining men in an endeavor to bring in a solution of the mining taxation difficulty, along the lines of a tax upon net profits as outlined by J. W. Weart. It is the intention to have the proposition as presented printed and circulated throughout the mining districts of the Province in order that it may be fully considered by next session.

In the meantime, for this year, it was agreed that a substitution would be put into effect whereby the two per cent royalty tax on ore would be retained and to it would be added a special tax not exceeding two per cent, additional on all properties where the output exceeded fifty thousand dollars per year according to smelter returns. The resolution was presented to Hon. John Hart to-day and is receiving his consideration.

It will be noted that the committee recommendation does away with the ten per cent income tax to which the miners had taken great exception.

The committee asked this morning that if the Government decided not to accept its suggestions for the retention of the two per cent tax with a two per cent, surtax, that consideration be given to the proposals advanced by J. E. Sears last evening for further exemptions from the ten per cent income tax so as to make it virtually a net profit tax and to set it as alternative to the two per cent royalty, levying whichever was the greater.

HOUSE OBJECTS TO SYSTEM OF PENSION

Officers and Men Should Get Same Recompense for Disabilities

GAME ACT EXPLAINED BY ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Legislative Press Gallery, April 3.

That the pensions system of Canada intended to be operative in respect of the members of the Dominion's emergency army should be remodelled on the principle of equality of recompense for equality of injury irrespective of rank—was the substance of a resolution moved by J. S. Cowper, and seconded by Mrs. Ralph Smith, fifth and sixth members for Vancouver respectively, this afternoon.

Mr. Cowper's remarks in support of his resolution were warmly received and demonstrated a likemindedness on the part of the Legislature to drive a nail in the coffin of class procedure as applied to the system of military pensions for disabled warriors. To attempt to apply one scale for the disability of the officer and another grade for that of the humble private, insofar as Canada's erstwhile fighting men were concerned, would, he said, be setting out on a straight road to undermine those democratic ideals upon which she depended for the maintenance of her democratic institutions in the future.

Away With Class Distinction.

To adopt the scheme of the Mother Country was impossible for Canada. The old army of Great Britain was popularly regarded as composed of the two social extremes. The officer was invariably of the moneyed, leisured, and landed class, while the Tommy was usually recruited from the un-moneyed and unlanded strata of society. But it had been the boast of the Dominion that her men had gone at the call from every walk of life, while some had chosen to take their share in the great adventure as rankers and others had chosen to take out commissions. But every man came from a country where all were workers, and the only class distinction in Canada was that which divided the brain worker from the brawn worker. With each Canadian soldier a "scratch man" at the start, anything which would give an ultimate advantage in the way of pension to an erstwhile superior in rank, when each had suffered in the same cause and to a like extent, would not only constitute an injustice, but would also be contrary to the democratic ideals of the country and tantamount to an acquiescence in a principle of a now almost by-gone age.

The Resolution.

The following is the resolution which the House passed unanimously:

"That whereas Canada is a nation of democratic ideals, in which class distinctions founded on social differences are repugnant and inimical to the national welfare:

"And whereas, in response to the call for men to defend the Empire, thousands of Canadian men entered the ranks of the Canadian Army without regard to rank or social position, and in that service have endured wounds and disabilities:

"And whereas, the Dominion Government has adopted a scheme of pensions for disabled soldiers whereby the men who volunteered for service in the ranks are to receive less compensation for similar disabilities than those men who sought service as commissioned officers:

"And whereas, such a system is opposed to natural justice and to the democratic ideals of the people of Canada:

"Now, be it therefore Resolved, That this Legislature places itself on record as being opposed to a class system of pensions for soldiers and in favor of the equalization of war pensions for disabled soldiers.

"And be it further Resolved,

That an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that a copy of the Preamble and Resolution hereinbefore set out be transmitted to the Honourable Secretary of State (or other proper officer) at Ottawa."

Game Act Amendment.

In speaking to the second reading of the Bill to amend the Game Act the Attorney-General offered a brief explanation of the measure which legislates some forty Game Wardens and the head of that Department out of the Provincial service, transferring their duties at one fell swoop on to the shoulders of the Provincial Policemen. While economies by the abolition of a much duplicated officialdom had been found to be necessary Mr. Farris was not attempting to justify the change under review on the strength of economy alone, for if he had the shadow of a doubt that the change would result in less effective game protection he would count his amendment to the statute as false economy in the extreme. With a due appreciation of the value to British Columbia of her game, however, he felt confident in telling the House that under the proposed new plan that protection would not be impaired in any one particular.

Ample Safeguards.

While the general scheme embodied in the Bill has been dealt with in the news columns of The Times on several occasions, it should be mentioned that the legislation now before the House provides for the appointment of a Game Conservation Board, which will act in an honorary and advisory capacity and deal generally with matters pertaining to the game of the Province—a safeguard at the outset. There is also to be a Chief Game Inspector—not independent of the Chief of the Provincial Police as was the case under the old Act—but answerable to him. And, explained the Attorney-General, the man who would fill that office would be a game expert and his duties would be to see that the Game Laws were enforced to the letter. So that the change of policy in the broad sense was a way to economy in the public service without endangering efficiency. So far as the Provincial Police was concerned a complete reorganization was foreshadowed with possibly an increase of pay to its members—little enough at present, he said, in view of the increased cost of living—as recompense for the additional service required of them.

The Leader of the Opposition adjourned the debate.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF PROVINCE IS NOW BEFORE LEGISLATURE

Mr. Hart's First Budget Speech Appreciates Responsibility Cast Upon Government by Heyday of Indiscretion; Straight Business Talk; No Fulsome Verbiage

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 4.

Following the placing of the Estimates before the Legislature this afternoon, the Hon. J. M. Hart, Minister of Finance, delivered his first Budget speech. He reviewed the finances of the Province as disclosed in the Public Accounts for 1916-17, the accounts for the year which terminated on Sunday last, and the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the fiscal year of 1918-19. For the former period, whose estimates were, of course, prepared by the late Government, the Minister showed that there was a deficit of \$2,172,534, thus increasing the aggregate of deficits of the McBride-Bowser Governments to over \$18,000,000.

Mr. Hart reminded the House that the late regime had run through a surplus of eight and a half millions of dollars accumulated up to 1911, and had since increased the public debt by some twelve million dollars.

The Minister placed the estimated revenue of the province for the ensuing twelve months at \$9,909,055.13 and the estimated expenditure at \$11,611,694.08, of which \$9,653,254.08 is on account and \$1,958,440 on capital account. He alluded to the fact that the financing of the late Government had compelled the present administration to set aside no less a sum than \$2,111,868—about one-quarter of the revenue—to pay interest and sinking funds on the public debt, whereas as recently as five years ago the sum required for the same application did not exceed \$520,000.

Good News For Farmers.

The Minister reiterates the pledge of the Government that the burden of taxation shall be fairly apportioned on the whole people. Farm improvements will be exempt from taxation up to an amount which will appear in the bill shortly to be brought down. A complete new assessment of the real property coming under provincial taxation is to be made during the near future, on which the 1919 rolls will be based.

Mines will be taxed either on income or the two per cent mineral tax, whichever is the greater, and some deductions which are considered fair will be allowed from the taxable value for income-tax purposes. The tax on banks as raised by the surtax of last year will continue, \$2,000 on chief offices and \$500 on each branch.

The estimated revenue from income tax for the year 1918-19 is \$2,215,000, from real property tax \$1,000,000, from poll tax \$300,000, and from personal property tax \$560,000. The amusements tax is expected to bring in \$220,000.

MINISTER OF FINANCE MAKES BUDGET SPEECH TO-DAY; HON. J. HART



Mr. Hart's Speech.

Following a sincere tribute to his late chief and friend, congratulation to Mr. Speaker on his election to that exalted office and a graceful compliment to the lady member for Vancouver, Mr. Hart delved directly into the theme before him. He was fully appreciative of the fact that the task before the Government was a serious one, calling for the exercise of foresight and sound constructive policy. While the financial situation had of necessity to be regarded as serious, a solution of the problem was by no means impossible.

The Minister had perforce to admit that there was no hope of immediate relief from increased taxation. He very naturally alluded to the financial situation of the province as recently as the year 1911, when the Conservative Government had accumulated an aggregate surplus of over eight million dollars, largely derived from the disposal of capital resources. Succeeding years had seen that fund dwindle like snow before a Chinook wind, resulting in deficit after deficit. Loans to the amount of twelve million dollars, continued the Minister, were secured, the fixed charges on account of which now constituted the uncontrollable sum which the present Administration had to find.

A Wasted Surplus.

Mr. Hart recapitulated the financial obligations of the province in respect of the Canadian Northern Pacific and Pacific Great Eastern Railways and in particular the interest liability to the tune of a million dollars a year payable by the province every year as interest on the bonds of the latter. "A wasted surplus and a public debt increased to twenty-three millions of dollars; over twenty millions spent in a few short years and nothing to show for it except increased taxation," exclaimed the Minister. "The result has been to increase enormously the proportion of the revenue which has to be paid out for purposes over which the Government has no control, a proportion closely approximating fifty per cent. for the fiscal year we have just entered upon. In 1913-14 interest on sinking fund charges on account of the public debt required the appropriation of \$518,798.60 out of a net revenue of \$10,479,000, a little less than ten per cent. For 1918-19 we have asked the House to vote four times more than was needed five years earlier, no less than \$2,111,868, which means inroads on the amount which normally mate as the revenue for the next months. In little more than four years our predecessors increased the debt from \$12,251,646 to \$23,153,100.

Expenses Increased—Revenue

"With this reckless spending and borrowing there went a corresponding revenue. Between 1913 and 1918 the revenue was cut in two exactly, but in the latter year as compared with 1913, it was only \$2,510,000 five years previous. It is not more than this, it shows where the responsibility lies. It is the imposition of increased taxation, and to expose the shallowness of the criticism of our action which comes from those upon whom that responsibility should rest."

Taxation Amendments.

Passing on to a reference to the Budget speech of the late Premier last year, Mr. Hart touched upon the promise made by Mr. Brewster at that time regarding taxation investigation. This led the Minister to the events which followed: the appointment of the Taxation Board and its work. He was also mindful of the services in that connection rendered by the late J. B. McKilligan, to whose sterling worth he paid eloquent tribute. The result of investigation by the Board, aided by the views expounded by delegations representative of practically every branch of industry, in the province, amendments to the Taxation Act would be submitted to the Legislature calculated to correct errors which hurried legislation last session failed to detect. This was the more obvious in the case of taxation of mines and industrial plants. Mr. Hart in emphasis said that it was the policy of the Government to foster production, to foster capital and general development of the province's great natural resources.

New Assessment of Real Property.

"Improvements will be effected in the taxation laws as they affect the farming community," continued the Minister. "In the system of assessment of real property there are glaring inequalities and injustices, instances of which come to my attention almost daily, and the farmer undoubtedly has a very real grievance there. Most, if not all, the complaint about increased taxation is due to his conviction that his farm is assessed at an unjust and in many cases an absurdly inflated figure. We plan to have a complete new assessment of all real property coming under provincial taxation made during the next few months, on which the 1919 rolls will be based. This work will be done by men competent and experienced in each district and an amount has been placed in the estimates to meet the cost.

Improvements To Be Exempted.

"It is further the intention of the Government to exempt from taxation improvements on farm lands up to a certain value and an amendment to this effect will be included in the Taxation Act amending bill," said the Minister amid applause. "As was stated by the Premier last year," he continued, "a surtax doubling the amount payable by banks was imposed for 1917 but no change was made in the rate of taxation for this year, the banks offering to submit proposals which would, it was claimed, bring in the same amount of revenue from this source as the Government planned to obtain but would levy it more fairly upon the various banking institutions. However, the banks have not been able to implement this promise, and we intend to introduce an amendment which will place the rate of bank taxation at \$5,000 for one office or branch of a bank and \$500 each for any other branches in the province.

Will Hold Tax Sale.

The Minister said that the policy of appointing special collectors for the purpose of getting in the large amount of arrears owing to the public exchequer had justified itself by results and the good work would continue. In view of the fact that outstanding taxes reached a large amount Mr. Hart told the House that it was the intention of the Government to hold a tax sale during the present year. Since nearly five million dollars were still outstanding special attention would continue to be paid to arrears collection. Cited figures to show that at the last general taxes outstanding amounted to \$4,776,408.12, in addition to which the arrears of school taxes amounted to \$168,402.99. Returns from assessors in all but the few districts showed that during the year were collected arrears amounting to \$343,511.83. The arrears for every year...

Not Grumbling.

"Circumstances into consideration went on, 'I think the payment of current taxes was fairly satisfactory in 1917. Especially do I wish to say a word as to the manner in which the farmers of the Province are meeting the increased demands upon them. In spite of the attempts made by our friends opposite to convince them that they were being badly used, and in spite of the fact that owing to extravagantly high assessments in many cases men had to pay out of proportion to their just share, the farmers are bearing their burden of extra taxation without grumbling. With a revision of the assessment on farm lands and the exemption of improvements the amount which we will have estimate in 1919 from this source will be as large as it is this year. As far as the farm taxpayers of 1918 are concerned, but I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that we can expect such an increase in agricultural population that the Minister of Finance will not have to provide for any shortage of revenue."

What the Accounts Show.

Coming to the public accounts for the fiscal year 1916-17, the estimates for 1916-17 prepared by the late Government showed that the actual revenue of \$5,944,000...

015.13. The chief items in which the estimate was below the actual amount received were those of timber licenses, where there was \$208,000 more received than was foreseen by the Minister of Finance of the day; mineral tax, where the excess was \$187,000; succession duty, \$127,000; and real property tax, which was greater by \$82,000. On the other hand the actual net expenditure was \$9,079,317.70, as compared with the estimate of \$11,301,374.86. The net result of the year was a deficit of \$2,172,584, which rolled up the grand total of the deficits which the late Government accumulated in five years to \$18,358,751.

Funded Debt.

In further reference to the Public Accounts tabled by the Minister at the opening of the session, Mr. Hart explained the new form of presentation and said that some criticism was voiced in regard to the capitalization of the subsidies the Province received under the Terms of Union, placed at \$12,462,701.40. "As we receive interest at five per cent. every year from the Dominion on this amount," he went on, "I fail to see why we should not deal with it as an income-producing capital asset, particularly since the first of the group of items which go to make up the total, \$588,021.40, has been carried as an asset in every balance sheet since 1885. We are simply consistent enough to capitalize the remainder of the subsidies, as should have been done long ago.

"The total funded debt of the Province as at March 31st, 1917, is shown under the head of capital liabilities to be \$29,158,146. We have sinking funds invested to a total of \$3,429,135.37 for the redemption of our stock and debentures, so that the net funded debt at the date mentioned was \$19,724,010.63. In calculating the net debt it has been customary to take the funded debt and deduct the amount invested in sinking funds for its redemption. I think the more candid and businesslike mode is to take the sum of the funded and unfunded debts, less the amount in sinking funds, and then from this deduct the cash which the Province has on hand, in bank or in the form of balances in the hands of Government Agents and the Departments.

Interesting Table.

"This method," proceeded the Minister, "would show the net debt as at March 31, 1917, to be \$20,946,949.98. It is a method which offers no consolation to my honorable friend opposite, who at one time was himself Minister of Finance, but rather places in a black light the financing of the administration of which he was a member." The Minister went on to remind the House of the great capital that was made up of the 1911 surplus and proceeded to show how that surplus had given place to ever-increasing deficits under the late Government departmental office in 1916, leaving the deficit approximately \$21,000,000. The following table, compiled by the Minister, gives at a glance a comparison of the net debt for the past ten years:

Year	Estimated	Actual	Net Debt
1908	\$ 4,468,000.00	\$ 3,302,340.33	\$ 6,045,766.33
1909	4,200,000.00	4,182,388.01	5,025,208.24
1910	5,900,777.13	6,508,816.35	2,460,960.78
1911	5,771,594.73	8,768,530.85	8,083.89
1912	8,692,352.43	8,339,586.49	255,416.14
1913	8,376,229.30	5,005,385.91	3,371,533.19
1914	9,506,229.03	1,161,284.46	8,345,945.16
1915	17,949,375.38	5,011,187.37	12,938,088.01
1916	18,176,483.28	1,756,420.89	16,420,012.39
1917	21,818,899.80	871,749.82	20,946,949.98

B. C. House.

"Besides the debt," Mr. Hart continued, "the only other capital liability is the mortgage of \$274,125 on B. C. House, London, so that the excess of capital assets over liabilities is \$16,135,272.96. In addition to these direct liabilities there are contingent liabilities incurred by the guarantee by the province of principal and interest on railway and other securities. In the case of the P.G.E., as I have already said, we are being called upon to meet the interest payments.

"Since 1894 we have been paying interest on the bonds of the Nakusp and Slocan railway. Towards this we receive 40 per cent. of the gross earnings of the line, but irrespective of that we had to find \$240,000 more to meet in-

terest. The bonds, to the value of \$647,072, mature on July 1st next, and the province will in all probability have to pay the principal sum. Provision is being made," Mr. Hart said, "for a renewal of the bonds in which case the mortgage would be foreclosed and ownership of the line would be vested in the Government. I am not yet in a position to state what disposition would be made by us of the line, but the matter is receiving the consideration which its importance merits."

Current assets were given as including cash balances in the hands of Government agents and collectors, advances to departments and rural school trustees, accounts receivable, live stock, stores and equipment, and special deposits on trust accounts, the whole totalling \$8,047,264. Current liabilities amount to \$9,475,846, showing an adverse balance of \$1,428,582.

Unfunded Debt.

"The unfunded public debt, shown as temporary loans, amounts to \$2,094,689.17. Under the Loan Act of 1916 a Treasury Bill for \$500,000 was issued, due June 30, 1918, and still outstanding. There are overdrafts shown at the Canadian Bank of Commerce of \$594,689.17 on current account and \$1,000,000 on special overdraft account. With regard to the former amount it may be explained that the Supply Act provides that expenditures incurred before the close of a fiscal year and paid within three months after shall be charged to the appropriations of that year. Special provision was made last year that the expenditures on account of legislation in connection with the adjourned session in August were to be charged back to the fiscal year in which the session began. "I may mention in passing that this is the first time in the history of the province that the total known liabilities at March 31 have been disclosed in the balance sheet," said the Minister.

Deferred Assets.

"Under the head of deferred assets are shown certain items, the ultimate realization of which cannot be determined at this date. While there is no desire to swell the figures of our assets by any which are of a doubtful nature, we have thought it right to include such payments as those on account of interest on behalf of the Nakusp and Slocan and the Pacific Great Eastern, the loan to the latter by authority of the Loan Act of 1916, and the special deposit in the Bank of Vancouver, now in liquidation, and these will be retained on our books until such time as the items in question are finally disposed of. They are, however, referred to in the balance sheet as merely book values. There are no deferred liabilities.

Nine Months' Revenue.

Passing now to the revenue and expenditure for the year which closed on Sunday, March 31, Mr. Hart said it would be found that the net revenue for the nine months ending with December 31 amounted to \$6,794,871.30, against which there was a net expenditure chargeable to income of \$5,544,889.03. "Unfortunately, however, obligations for which this administration is not responsible, account for a further expenditure of \$2,365,576.12," he went on. "This is made up of \$708,472.64 invested in sinking funds, \$381,219 applied to the redemption of the 1887 loan, \$1,251,847.92 on account of loan to and interest paid on account of the Pacific Great Eastern, and \$24,045.56 paid out in interest on behalf of the Nakusp and Slocan. In addition to this we have made advances to the Land Settlement Board amounting to the sum of \$74,994.09.

Further Borrowings.

"These latter items have necessitated the borrowing of \$2,350,000, of which \$1,000,000 was in the form of a special overdraft at the Canadian Bank of Commerce; \$800,000 in a Treasury Bill issued under the Loan Act, 1916, and under the Loan Act, 1917; \$300,000 in a debenture issue and \$250,000 in a Treasury Bill. It will thus be seen that in spite of the net expenditure chargeable to income being kept within the net revenue the very heavy capital expenditures and sinking funds investments which we have had to provide

have compelled us to resort to further borrowings, which will in turn further reduce the revenue at our disposal for future years unless steps be taken to correspondingly increase the revenue.

"Without the complete figures for the year" he said, "it is not possible to say accurately how these compare with the estimates presented a year ago, but the indications are that the revenue will on the whole be well up to the amount which was then expected and that the expenditures will be considerably under the estimated sum which was appropriated by the Legislature. The redemption of the 1887 loan, which took place during the recent fiscal year, was met by providing \$169,552.73 out of current revenue and the balance, \$211,657.27, out of uninvested sinking fund appropriations and dividends on account of that loan and the inscribed stock loans. The sinking fund of the loan, amounting to \$399,170.94, which was all invested in British Columbia three per cent. stock, was transferred to the sinking funds of the inscribed stock loans."

Did Well to Wait.

The Minister explained that when he took office ten months ago it was necessary to go on the market to obtain four millions for the requirements of the province; 7 1/2 per cent as the best rate, however, dampened Mr. Hart's ardor and he counselled the Executive to wait a more favorable opportunity. "Through doing so," he proceeded, "the Government profited to approximately two hundred thousand dollars in the saving which it has effected in interest charges. The matter of our financial needs was taken up with the Dominion Government by the late Premier of his last visit to Ottawa, and the Federal authorities have agreed to loan us three million dollars at 6 1/2 per cent. We have been fortunate in securing a further million at a rate a little over 6 1/4 per cent."

Mr. Hart contended that success of negotiations for this loan answered effectively the Opposition Leader's charge that the bonds of the province were not good security. The Minister then proceeded to a survey of the changes made in the auditing system of the province as recommended by the firm of Price, Waterhouse and Company. The consummation of the plan involved led him to hope for still greater economies without in any way impairing the efficiency of the public service.

The Estimates.

Then the Minister of Finance dealt with the estimates for the year, full details concerning which are reported in full in another section of this issue.

COMMISSIONERS GET THANKS FROM HOUSE

Service of Pauline, Whiteside and Nelson Overseas Duly Appreciated

MINIMUM WAGE BILL GENERALLY FAVORED

Slocan Mining Situation is Subject of House Resolution

Legislative Press Gallery, April 3.

Arlsing out of the situation in the Slocan country alleged to have been brought about by a new schedule of prices to be paid for ore treatment by the Trall Smelter, Charles F. Nelson, member for Slocan, moved the following resolution this afternoon:

"Whereas the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, of Canada, Ltd., have recently imposed a new and much higher schedule of rates for the treatment of lead and zinc ores carrying silver:

"And whereas the mine operators claim that said schedule is unfair and excessive, and that the effect will be to greatly curtail shipments, and in many cases cause the closing-down of mines:

"And whereas the management of the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company state that this schedule is based on the actual cost plus a minimum of profit:

"And whereas the Associated Boards of Trade, in convention at Nelson, appointed a committee to investigate the matters referred to:

"And whereas the Federal Government has recognized said committee and are assisting in said investigation to the extent of appointing a metallurgist to act in conjunction with them:

"And whereas the mining interests of this province are seriously affected by this unsettled condition:

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that an order of this House be passed instructing the Standing Committee on Mining to take up the several allegations made and report its findings to the House forthwith."

Wines Shutting Down.

Mr. Nelson recounted the facts of the case as understood by himself and as complained of by the people of the constituency he represents as well as adjacent communities where silver lead mining comprises the chief pursuit. He explained that many properties had already closed down by reason of the higher smelter charges, while a number of others were very likely to follow suit. During the course of his remarks dealing with the seriousness of the situation, the details of which he referred to more than once in his columns, Mr. Nelson was mindful of the fact that many measures had already been brought down of a more or less radical nature, acknowledging in principle that the needs of the State were paramount. And by the same token he would like action on similar lines with regard to the conditions obtaining in the Slocan country.

Wanted Royal Commission.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite, member for Newcastle, said the matter was important from the standpoint of labor and likewise from that of necessary development work in that section of the Province. He regretted that legislation of some nature had not been introduced dealing with corporations of this character, since smelters were in that position that made it easy for them to dictate to any one mine owner, always with an eye on the main chance of getting his mine following a period of discriminatory treatment. He would offer an amendment urging the advisability of appointing a Royal Commission, for he was apprehensive lest the matter would be merely shelved by Committee action.

Premier, after adjourning the debate.

Prohibition Commission.

It was a foregone conclusion that there would be no amendments to the following resolution proposed by Alec M. Manson, member for Omineca, and seconded by Fred W. Anderson, member for Kamloops:

"Whereas it appears from the answers of the Hon. the Minister of Finance to questions upon the order paper as to the expense of the Commission appointed under the "Prohibition Overseas Vote Investigation Act" that the members of the said Commission gave their services gratis in connection with the said Commission at very considerable personal inconvenience and peril, and at the sacrifice of almost three months of their time:

"And whereas the members of the said Commission performed their duties in a most creditable, thorough, and painstaking manner, and put beyond doubt the facts in question that formed the subject-matter of the said inquiry:

"Therefore be it resolved, That the thanks and gratitude of this House be tendered to Messrs. David Whiteside, F. A. Pauline, and C. F. Nelson, members of this House, for their excellent services in the aforementioned connection."

Mr. Manson supplemented the resolution with a general, but none the less sincere, eulogy of the three commissioners, to which George Bell, second member for Victoria, added like comment. F. A. Pauline, member for Saanich, in the absence of David Whiteside, who was chairman of the Commission, suitably acknowledged the fragrance of the bouquet so ably presented by the member for Omineca.

Tuberculosis.

The committee stage of the Hospital Act, sponsored by the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education, was provocative of a lengthy discussion, somewhat off the straight track of the Bill at times. Boiled down the argument centred round the provision of the proposed measure recommending compulsory inspection of tubercular subjects in British Columbia by the Government Inspector. Reference has already been made in these columns to the object of the measure, which is directed towards a more intelligent and effective war on the ravages of the great White Plague. It is intended to remove the advanced cases from the institution at Tranquille to the hospitals throughout the Province, made possible by the provision of an extra per capita grant in respect of such cases, so that Tranquille and the proposed additional institution for that some locality may confine themselves to the treatment by the ever-increasing list of incipient cases. The Committee rose and reported progress with an apparent balance of opinion in favor of the compulsory clause.

Minimum Wage for Women.

G. G. McGeer, member for Richmond, continued the debate on the second reading of the Bill to provide a minimum wage for women introduced by the Attorney-General as a Government measure and now in the hands of the lady member for Vancouver. Mr. McGeer had nothing but commendation for the Bill since it went a long way to provide a broad outlook to buttress the position of the women worker against the day when that bright era of industrial development should strike the Province. A hopeful inference that Mr. McGeer felt sure would eventually justify itself. He would offer but one criticism: the Bill did not go far enough. And here the member for Richmond followed the line of argument adopted by J. W. Wear, member for South Vancouver, in his advocacy that the Minimum Wage Board provided for in the measure should also be endowed with powers to take remedial action in the matter of working conditions and hours of toil for women workers.

The Barking Dog.

J. S. Cowper, fifth member for Vancouver, was also a warm supporter of the Bill and he complimented the Government and Mrs. Smith on its introduction. While the row of an independent member in the House was a difficult one to hoe and somewhat resembled the dog barking at the passing train with the great engine rolling on oblivious to all appeals, he could nevertheless put up both hands for the Bill. He proceeded to allude to the beneficial results which had attended the operation of similar measures in the United States.

A. I. Fiser, member for Fernie, adjourned the debate.

Minister of Finance Explains Estimates

Hon. John Hart Points Out That Requirements for Public Services Are More Than Covered by Revenue; Capital Expenditures Are Drain

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 4.

Full details of the Budget speech delivered in the Legislature this afternoon by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, are recorded elsewhere in this issue, while the following constitutes the Minister's presentation to the House of the estimates for the year 1918-1919 as summarized by him from the actual document duly tabled in accordance with legal custom. The Minister stated at the outset, that the arrangement and classification of the estimates in question and the necessity for showing the appropriation under subheads, had been given very careful attention as the plan was intended to give that more detailed information which he felt was desirable.

The New System.
"It will be found by honorable gentlemen that the document now placed before the House of which will have appealed to them at first sight, presents a new system of the coming year on a basis, clear and standardized setting forth the expenditures which will require to be made in each of the several Departments and their branches. In the past this has not been done, as it has been possible for anyone to tamper with the system prevail. I ascertain from either the Estimates or the Public Accounts the exact expenditure of any particular office or Department.

"Detailed estimates prepared in the form presented, together with the Public Accounts submitted on a similar basis, will afford more direct control over the expenditure of public money, will enable members more intelligently to discuss the Government's budget, and tend to more efficient and economical administration. It will also be observed that the capital expenditures have been segregated from those chargeable to income, which has never been done before in the body of the Estimates."

Requirements and Revenue.
The requirements of the public service for the year, which are chargeable to income amount to \$9,658,254.08, and the Minister estimates that the revenue will be \$9,900,055.13. There would thus be a surplus, he said of \$241,801.05 over the expenditure, chargeable to current account, but as there are in addition expenditures on capital account amounting to \$1,855,440, the net result is that there will be an apparent deficit of \$1,711,638.95 on the financial operations of the year.

It was worth noting, however, continued Mr. Hart, that three of the items of capital outlay which had to be provided for—sinking fund, Pacific Great Eastern interest and interest on the mortgage on British Columbia House—practically balance this deficit, so that he was able to present to the House and the country a budget in which expenditure on current account and that chargeable to capital, not a direct outcome of the mismanagement of the Government's predecessors, was brought within income. It had been a long time since such an achievement was known in this Province.

Departmental Figures.
"I have already dealt with the tremendous increase in the amount which has to be provided out of current account to take care of the interest on our public debt," he went on. "For this year the sum required for this purpose is \$1,409,678.08. The other heads of expenditure chargeable to revenue are these: Legislation, \$100,000; Premier's Office, \$12,750; Agriculture, \$219,684; Attorney-General, \$205,776; Education, \$1,777,290; Finance Department, \$692,604; Fisheries, \$17,176; Labor Department, \$16,170; Lands Department, \$687,608; Mines Department,

\$335,504; Provincial Secretary, \$1,638,345; Public Works, \$1,794,940; Railway Department, \$41,730."

Capital Account.
The expenditures which will have to be made on capital account are the following: Sinking Funds, \$718,940; Nakusp & Slocan, Int. on Bonds, \$11,500; P.G.E. Ry. Interest \$907,200; Wellington Colliery Co., \$15,000; B. House Mortgage, \$9,750; Songhees Reserve Works, \$50,000; Essondale Hospital, \$10,700; Colony Farm, \$4,000; Roads, Streets, Bridges, Wharves \$208,650; Ferries, \$17,700.

Mr. Hart went on: "The whole which we ask the House to vote on the new fiscal year is thus \$11,811,694.08. In framing these estimates, do not think I need assure this House, the members of the administration have been animated by the desire to eliminate all unnecessary expenditures and reduce our outlays to the lowest point consistent with efficient service and the maintenance of all needful operations. I have no doubt that our opponents, who never allowed considerations of revenue or the means of the taxpayers to foot the bills to interfere with their extravagance, will criticize us for paring all expenditure to the bone, but I have just as little doubt, Mr. Speaker, that we will receive the commendation of the people at large for doing what I will admit required some courage.

Economy With Efficiency.
"We recognize," he proceeded, "that the people of this country, in common with their kin throughout the Empire, have a heavy strain put upon their resources to meet their share of the cost of the war and we do not feel that we would be justified in making any further demands upon them in the way of taxation so long as we can, by wise economies, keep our expenditures as close to our revenue as is possible.

"With the early peace which we hope for from a decisive victory for the Allied arms, and with the return of prosperity generally, we look to larger revenue from present sources, and consequent ability to devote more wherever the requirements of the Province call for it. Nevertheless, I would reiterate that at no point have we starved any branch of Governmental activity, and that there will be no impairment of service because the Departments are being compelled to conduct business along ordinary business lines and at a minimum of expense. The revenue for the coming twelve months, as I have said, is estimated to amount to \$9,900,055.13, practically the same sum as was anticipated would be got in during 1917-1918.

Revenues Expected.
"Two-thirds of the total revenue is collected through the Treasury, and the Department of Lands is the next largest channel by which the Provincial income flows in. Of the Departments through which various fees and license payments are collected, that of the Attorney-General is naturally the chief, and there we look for a revenue in 1918-19 of \$514,360. Under the different classes we have estimated for

substantially the same revenue as our Estimates of last year called for, these being borne out by the receipts for nine months. The same is true of the revenue which is derived through the Provincial Secretary's Department with the exception that we expect a much increased amount from the Printing Office. The cost of all printing materials and supplies has gone up and we must advance our prices in this connection.

Lands Department.
"Under the head of public debt," continued Mr. Hart, "we estimate that, against the heavy outlays we have to make on that account, we will receive \$209,000 as interest on the investment of our sinking funds and interest in connection with the Dyking Assessment Act. The amount we have invested in this way will be increased so greatly this year that the sum receivable in interest will also be larger. The total revenue which we look for through the Lands Department is \$2,203,050. From timber licenses we estimate we will get \$1,200,000; from timber leases, \$74,000; from timber royalties, \$550,000, and from timber sales, \$125,000. In view of the steadily falling receipts from land sales we do not think it wise to put this source down for more than \$50,000, but on the other hand the legislation which my Honorable friend, the Minister of Lands, has brought down this session, justifies us in looking for a somewhat larger income from water rentals.

Treasury.
"This brings me to the Treasury Department, through which it is estimated that \$5,700,000 will be collected during the next year. The principal item here is that of income tax, from which source we expect \$2,215,000. This is double what we estimated as the revenue from that tax in the year just closed, the reason being that we will this year be collecting from mines on their income for last year as well as the present. We propose that mines

shall be taxed either two per cent. on the assessed value of ore removed, as in the past, or on income, whichever is the larger. There is no doubt that in the greater number of cases the amount payable on income will exceed what would be collectable as mineral tax, and therefore we are certain of a considerable revenue there. On the other hand the sum likely to come in mineral tax will be much less than hitherto, and we place the estimate at \$35,000. For the past couple of years this tax has yielded about \$285,000 annually. With closer collection of income-tax generally, I think the figure at which we have placed our estimate is a safe one.

Real Property Tax.
"Basing our estimate upon the manner in which the taxes came in up to the end of December, I consider that we can quite reasonably expect for the coming year to derive \$1,600,000 from the real property tax, \$600,000 from the personal property tax, and \$700,000 from the tax on wild, coal and timber lands. The poll-tax ought to bring in \$300,000, as the activity in industrial enterprises will attract many workers from outside, who will become liable for the tax as soon as they have been one month in the Province. The tax on patrons of places of amusement is working very smoothly and is expected to produce \$220,000. The amount received from this source so far shows the accuracy of the estimate of last session, which was based on the probability of the tax being in force for five months of the fiscal year. From succession duties," concluded the Minister, "we may look for \$300,000, and several smaller items of revenue make up the total which is set out under the head of the Treasury Department."

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1918

REVIEW OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PROGRESS FOR 1917

Agriculture Still Healthy Says Minister of Finance; Outlook Hopeful

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 4.

Since the mining, lumbering, fishing and farming industries comprise the backbone of the natural resources it was only natural that the Hon. John Hart should make passing reference to them and their yields in cold coin to the treasury of British Columbia. This he did following his observations on the estimates for the year. Dealing with agriculture first, he touched upon land development as allied to the urgent needs brought about by the conflagration in Europe and war's effect in general on the farming population in the province. Despite the army's demand on the manhood of British Columbia increases were recorded in nearly every line of farm production. The aggregate actual increase in value as compared with 1916 was \$6,478,935, an increase of 17.02 per cent. The total value of all products for 1917 was \$37,861,850. In addition to this there were agricultural products imported to the extent of \$19,786,206, this being an amount 15 per cent. in excess of the imports of 1916. Mr. Hart paid tribute to women's work in connection with agricultural production.

Minerals.

Passing on to mineral production the Minister cited the approximate value for 1917 as \$37,182,570, a decrease over the previous year due to causes already referred to in these columns. He placed the value of the output of the metalliferous mines at \$27,563,788, serious decreases being noted in the production of gold, copper and zinc. Silver increased during the year by \$359,000. The net coal production showed a small gain in tonnage but a decrease in value over 1916. Vancouver Island collieries made a new record with 1,698,235 tons, or nearly a quarter of a million tons more than the previous year.

Forest Industry.

The forest industries of the province last year turned out a production about thirty-eight per cent. greater than the year before in value, the total for 1917 being \$48,913,115 as compared with \$35,528,000 in 1916. The most notable increase is in the manufacture of pulp, and large increases are recorded in lumber and shingles. During the year the manufacture of paper amounted to almost eighty thousand tons, an increase of 22½ per cent. over 1916. The forest revenue reflected this striking improvement in the industry by increasing eighteen per cent. to a total of \$2,162,170. This includes \$809,000 paid as royalty on cut logs, a figure exceeding 1916 collections by sixty per cent.

Fisheries.

British Columbia again leads all the provinces in the value of her fisheries harvest, which amounted in 1917 to \$15,311,954, or nearly forty per cent. of the entire products of the sea for the whole Dominion. She exceeded the output of Nova Scotia, second of the provinces in this regard, by \$5,219,042, and the value of her fisheries was in excess of that of all the other provinces combined by over a million and a half dollars.

Salmon accounts for two-thirds of the catch in value, and halibut, owing to a greatly increased market price, more than doubled the figure of 1916. The salmon pack for the year totalled 1,557,485 cases, the largest in the history of the canning industry. The pack was 271,848 cases greater than

1916. Vancouver Island waters producing a pack of 377,884 cases as compared with 145,763 a year previously. Owing to the increase in price of all varieties the pack of 1917 is very much greater in value than in any former year.

ENGINEERING BILL BEFORE COMMITTEE

Fate of Measure Undecided After Warm and Lengthy Discussion

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 5.

The Private Bills Committee spent most of the morning hearing arguments pro and con in connection with the B. C. Institute of Engineers' Bill. While judgment deciding the fate of the Bill was withheld there was a free expression by the members of the proposed institute to waive any powers which would conflict with existing land surveyors' organizations, and also an expressed desire to work in co-operation with all engineering bodies for better protection of the technical professions. Officers and organizers of the proposed institute were frank in stating that the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers was not as active as it should be and one aim of this new body was to rectify this lack of activity.

Warm Discussion.

The discussion grew warm as it proceeded, members of the Canadian organization strongly opposing the provisions of the Bill, but in no instance did it reach acrimony. The institute was represented by lawyers, the president and several members, while the opposition comprised the B. C. Land Surveyors, Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and Canadian Institute of Architects.

Rattling Dry Bones.

F. J. Stacpoole, K. C., who appeared to plead the cause of the Bill outlined its aims and stated that the organization was willing to alter such clauses in the proposed measure as the Committee believed would give it power to forbid any person to practice. The object of the organization was the betterment of the engineering profession and the protection of the public. "I represent live wires, if I may be permitted to say so, and if we do nothing else we will have caused a rattling of 'dry bones,'" said Mr. Stacpoole in speaking of the alleged inaction of the Canadian Society of Engineers.

Forty Per Cent With C. E. F.

E. C. Mayers speaking for the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers declared the bill was dangerous, as presented, and that it practically provided a new department of the Government. He said it sought dangerous powers tending toward the establishment of a closed corporation. Speaking of the reference made to the lack of animation in the society he said forty per cent of the members in B. C. were in the C. E. F.

No Interference.

H. A. McLean, K. C., appeared for the B. C. Land Surveyors. He protested against the powers the institute asked, and was later assured by President Robertson of the institute that the organization did not wish to interfere with the B. C. Land Surveyors at all. This, Mr. McLean said, would be satisfactory to his clients if carried out.

SHORT SESSION FOR CITY'S RELIEF BILL

A. McDiarmid Commenced Argument on Local Improvement Section

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 5.

The time of the Private Bills Committee until 12.40 to-day was taken up with the Engineering Institute Incorporation Bill and a minor matter in connection with the Vancouver Charter amendments, so that by the time the City's Relief Bill came up for discussion there remained but twenty minutes in which to deal with one of the important phases of the measure.

With the matter of the figure for the minimum assessment left to the judgment of the Committee itself, F. A. McDiarmid, solicitor for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and appearing on behalf of clients who would be likely to suffer under the local improvement section of the Bill, took up practically the whole of the time at the Committee's disposal.

Mr. McDiarmid dealt exhaustively with the possible effect the Bill would have on those property owners suffering under noncompleted improvements, since there would be nothing to prevent a Commission—in the event of one being appointed—imposing a tax on the improvement, despite the fact that such improvements remained a chimera. The right of appeal in such cases was also problematical with the Bill in its present form, he said.

He was emphatic in his opinion that Oak Bay Avenue and Denman Street should be specifically excluded, and that on the other hand those streets which would be tackled should be clearly defined in order to prevent the possibility of a situation such as he had mentioned. Mr. McDiarmid also had a rooted objection to the time set for the hearing of reports from the Commissioners, fixing July 15 next as the latest date. There should be an extension, he said. He would also favor the Board only, the Local Improvement Adjustment Board.

FACTORY INSPECTION VERY MUCH EXTENDED

Wide Variety of New Industries Brought Within Scope of Act

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 5.

Because a number of new and other industries are not included in that section of the Factory Act relating to inspection and on account of this fact having been expressed upon the Minister of Public Works by labor representatives recently, the Hon. Dr. King announces that an Order-in-Council completed at this morning's sitting of the Provincial Executive now provides for the necessary inspection by the Inspector of Factories in respect of the following trades:

Axle and spring factories, blacking factories, boat and canoe factories, bolt and nut factories, brick yards, button factories, canning factories, cement works, coal-hoisting plants, coffin factories, cold storage plants, concentrators, condensing cream and milk factories, creosoting works, drop forging factories, evaporator factories, excelsior factories, fish canneries, fruit desiccating factories, gas and electric light works, glove factories, iron bridge works, jewelry factories, kelp factories, leather goods, nail works, oil refineries, paper and pulp mills, refineries, repair shops, rivet works, rolling mills, saw factories, ship yards, smelters, stove factories, steel works, sugar refineries, syrup factories, tobacco factories, toy factories, varnish works, veneer factories, wood pipe works, wood pulley factories, white lead factories, powder works.

MRS. SMITH'S BILL READ SECOND TIME

Opposition Members Have Maintained Complete Silence Throughout the Debate

FERNIE MEMBER WANTS PROBE ON LIVING COST

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 4.

The only objection—if it can be called an objection—so far offered to Mrs. Ralph Smith's Minimum Wage Bill is that it does not go far enough. General approval of the principle, however, has marked all discussion so far and to-day's sitting saw its second reading, thus ensuring kind treatment for the rest of its legislative journey. It has already been suggested, both by the member for South Vancouver and the member for Richmond, that the Minimum Wage Board provided for in the measure should be endowed with powers to include within its jurisdiction the privilege of investigating not only wage conditions but also general working conditions.

Cost of Living.

Still another phase of the question was advanced by the member for Fernie, Alex. I. Fisher, this afternoon, when he saw an urgent need for the State to step in and do something towards regulating the cost of living for, to his way of thinking, living cost was a very vital factor in the determination of a minimum wage for the woman worker. Mr. Hawthornthwaite, as well as the member for Fernie, held the floor for a considerable time and each in turn wandered far from the theme, drifting hopelessly into a sociological discussion, supporting the bill nevertheless.

Relative Not Absolute.

Mr. Fisher persisted in his contention that living costs were indissolubly linked up with the question of the minimum wage and he took his cue from first hand experience in the Crow's Nest country, where it has been found necessary to hold periodical sittings of a commission which concerns itself with the adjustment of wages to the continually changing living conditions. While he was intent on supporting the bill, he felt that the measure was not absolute but merely relative in its effect. If, he said, under the law of supply and demand women were not getting a fair living wage, then the Government was justified in lending its assistance by way of legislation.

Not Curative.

The measure appeared to him, however, to be merely ameliorative for the time being and in no wise curative or remedial, because failure on the part of the Government to interfere in those matters affecting the cost of living would mean that much less effect for the measure under review. He saw trouble when the bill became the law of the land for the simple reason that there would be a tendency on the part of the employers to subject their products to an attack of aeroplanitis as a set-off against the forced increase of wage. It had also to be remembered that the minimum wage in the final analysis would be burdened upon the people unless the State scotched at the outset the tendency to which he had made reference.

"Awful Picture."

J. H. Hawthornthwaite, member for Newcastle, was somewhat horrified at the "awful picture" painted by the member for Fernie. He was going to take Mr. Fisher's assertion that the

law of supply and demand determined the wage of the worker with a little grain of salt, however. It did no such thing, because, said Mr. Hawthornthwaite, the wages of the worker the world over were based solely upon the cost of production. And here the member for Newcastle took a long flight to the heights by knows so well, alighting again on the member for Fernie with the reminder that he (Mr. Fisher) had become hopelessly mixed up in his argument. The measure was satisfactory to Mr. Hawthornthwaite because it was aimed to cure that flaw in the industrial world which permitted the wage of the worker to drop below the cost of production—an inhumanity palpably obvious. To Mrs. Smith the credit for the bill belonged, said he.

What of the Opposition?

Although only speaking briefly on the subject, but wholly sympathetic towards the bill, M. A. Macdonald, who followed, suggested to the House that with the exception of the member for Newcastle the Opposition members had maintained a complete silence on the measure. Surely, he said, that silence could not be interpreted to mean that even one of the honorable members opposite would possess the hardihood to object to the Bill's passage, any possible reluctance to accept a measure favoring too much of the "taint" of moral reform notwithstanding. Neither was there any need to wander into a morass of argument on remote possibilities. He quite agreed that the measure was a radical one and one which perhaps did to some extent interfere with the right of contract between employer and employee; but it had also to be remembered that there was the humanitarian side of the question as well as the cold material view to be considered. Therefore the bill should be weighed solely on its merits.

Aimed at Labor Exploiter.

The employer who paid fair wages had nothing to fear from the operation of the bill, while the exploiter would, in the ordinary course of events, be forcibly reminded that the time was past when he could put the blind eye to unfair hiring prices. Exclusive credit for the bill belonged to Mrs. Smith and he was glad to see the measure accepted by the Government, because its effect would be extremely helpful towards the improvement of general working conditions among the women folk, who were not so well off as the men in their possession of protective machinery such as trade unions and the like. He was also glad to see in the House a member who would give first attention to social problems.

The bill was read a second time and will be committed at the next sitting of the House.

PROGRESSING WELL WITH LEGISLATION

A Number of Measures Reaching Final Stages; Seed Bill Complete

GAME ACT AMENDMENT IS FRIDAY'S DEBATE

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 4.

The Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, was warmly congratulated on his first Budget speech this afternoon, a full report of which, together with the Minister's summary of the estimates for the year, has already appeared in these columns. Mr. Hart was well received and left an excellent impression. With the decks cleared for debate on the Budget, J. W. Weart, member for South Vancouver, moved the adjournment and will take the floor to-morrow afternoon.

Reported For Third Reading.

With the acceptance by the Government of a suggestion made a day or two ago by Mr. Hawthornthwaite, the Bill for the Protection of Seed Grain

went through committee this afternoon and is now reported for third reading. The amendment briefly provides that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may establish and define one or more seed grain production areas within which the legislation is to apply. This will save other districts of the province from the operation of the proposed Act, which provides that all seed growers must obtain license from the Department of Agriculture, whether their seed is for commercial purposes or not. This had been the chief complaint against the bill and is now removed by the new amendment which Premier Oliver submitted this afternoon.

How Many and Where.

Mr. Bowser asked how many seed grain districts would be created and was informed by the Premier that there would probably not be more than two this year. Mr. MacKenzie, of Similkameen, was anxious to know where they would be located. "There will be no seed grain area except in a locality where seed is to be grown for distribution," explained the Premier. "It is quite possible that this year the seed growers' operations may be confined to the production of tubers and roots for the seed crop of next year. In this event it may not be necessary to set apart any particular areas this season."

Other Bills.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite presented for second reading his Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act in order to have miners' consumption and hernia included in the compensation casualty list, which at present covers only accidents, industrial diseases being omitted. Attorney-General Farris adjourned the debate.

The Hospital Act amendment, which gives hospitals an extra fifty cents per day for each tubercular patient cared for, went through committee stage. The only amendment made was one proposed by Dr. Sutherland, member for Revelstoke, to modify the clause dealing with the compulsory inspection of tubercular patients in hospitals by a provincial medical health officer. Dr. Sutherland's change called for "supervision" instead of "inspection," his intention being that the work of the provincial officer will not comprise personal inspection of the patient, possibly against the patient's will, but instead will consist of a survey of the conditions under which the victim of white plague is cared for at the hospital.

Settled Estates Act.

The Settled Estates Act amendment was given third reading, the Infants' Act amendment and Ditches and Watercourses Act amendment going through the same process. The Statutes and Journals Act amendment was committed, with also the amendment to the Administration Act and that to the Burnaby-New Westminster Sewer Act. All three passed through committee without debate and the Burnaby-New Westminster Act amendment was given third reading.

That Friday Talk.

Mr. Bowser was to have spoken on the Game Act amendment which puts the Game Department under the Provincial Police, but it was 5.30 when the bill was reached on the order paper and the Opposition Leader promptly pleaded a headache and suggested that the debate be delayed until Friday. In view of Attorney-General Farris' frequent references to the habit of the Opposition Leader of speaking on Friday in order to get into the Saturday papers, Mr. Bowser's jocular appeal to the Government not to force him to go on with his speech at half-past five created a general smile. Hon. Mr. Oliver said that in view of the modesty of the Opposition Leader the request would be granted. Mr. Bowser will therefore deal with the Game Act amendment to-morrow.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

At the very best the way of a Finance Minister in these trying times is hard; but when, like the Finance Minister of British Columbia, he has to carry a crushing burden bequeathed by a reckless and incompetent administration such as that which led this Province to the abyss of bankruptcy up to September, 1916, it becomes a veritable parched desert. In 1911 British Columbia, as Mr. Hart showed in his lucid, businesslike speech yesterday, had a surplus of over \$8,500,000. In five years that balance had disappeared and the provincial debt had arisen to \$23,000,000. In 1913-14 the interest and sinking fund charges were only \$518,798, or less than five per cent. of the revenue. Now, in consequence of the mal-administration of the group of credit wreckers who preceded the present Government, these same charges are \$2,111,868, over twenty per cent. of the revenue. If to these we add the annual liability arising from the P. G. E. monstrosity we have a burden equal to one-third of the Provincial revenue. In two years alone the debt was increased by over \$11,000,000. And with all this went unlicensed trafficking and gambling with the bases of the country's wealth, its natural resources, including the alienation of agricultural land for which at one time there were \$15,000,000 of arrears.

If the late administration had been only a shade more worthy of the public trust and confidence than it was, Mr. Hart to-day would not have to announce a current deficit or frankly forecast one for 1917-18. Even as it is, it may be possible through the present taxation measures, the new system of audit and tax collection and the curtailment of expenditure below the estimate, to make both ends meet. Stern retrenchment must be practised at all costs. Apart altogether from the exigencies arising from past mal-administration, world conditions demand the utmost economy. In every department of the public service, constituencies will suffer from this, it is true, but the whole world is suffering and hosts of men are daily sacrificing their all that our institutions may continue to be nourished in the soil of freedom. Furthermore, many portions of the Province for political purposes have been financed in other years out of all proportion to their reasonable requirements. This cannot be continued, no matter how important may be their representatives. Whether it be good politics or bad politics, is aside from the question. It would be a thousand times better for a Government to suffer politically in doing the right thing than to do the wrong thing for the sake of a little ephemeral popularity. Our expenditure should be productive, and such as to justify itself beyond question in increasing the provincial wealth and thereby begetting more revenue.

Mr. Hart's references to the necessity of the fresh taxation adopted by the Government will be appreciated in the main by all reasonable people. Cut the expenditure though we may we cannot hope to escape new taxes, for there is an immediate limit below which we cannot retrench without suf-

fering economic paralysis and we cannot repudiate our fixed charges. The agricultural population will be gratified to note, however, that there is to be a revision of the assessment of farm lands and exemption for improvements which probably will remove the unpleasant taste left by the surtax. We cannot encourage production by unduly burdening the producer, and increased production is one of the most vital needs of the times.

We observe in the Minister's speech a reference to the British Columbia House in London. Is it not possible to make this monument of extravagance carry itself in some way? A suite of offices centrally situated, such as the other Provinces have, would answer all requirements just as well as the palatial quarters which, just now, particularly, cannot convey a complimentary impression of our judgment and taste. Display and ostentation in establishments of this kind are as much out of harmony with the spirit of the time as a feudal castle with moat and portcullis is. Perhaps during the budget debate we shall have some enlightenment on this source of expenditure inherited by the present Government from the tom-tom regime which went before.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1918

LOT CONSCRIPTION BILL DOWN MONDAY

Sponsored by Premier; Amendment to Election Act by Mr. Bowser

Legislative Press Gallery, April 6.

In accordance with his promise of consideration to the deputation which waited upon him recently in the interests of vacant lot cultivation, Premier Oliver intends to ask leave of the Legislature on Monday next to introduce a Bill intitled "An Act conferring upon Municipal Councils the power to make available for food production purposes any unused arable lands lying within Municipal Boundaries." The point of the measure, as the title implies, virtually legalizes vacant lot conscription, while the provisions very naturally offer all reasonable protection to owners and with a modified system of permits misuse of the privileges are duly safeguarded.

Useful Effect Locally.

It is anticipated that the passage of the Bill will have an immediate effect in Victoria itself, since it is common knowledge that under the volunteer method of yielding land for "war garden" purposes, while successful to a large measure, upwards of one hundred vacant lots within the city limits have been denied a part in the patriotic work. With the Act the law of the land all but satisfactory reasons for refusal will be of no avail.

To Amend Elections Act.

Similarly at Monday's sitting of the House the Leader of the Opposition will ask leave to introduce a Bill intitled "An Act to amend the Provin-

cial Elections Act." This will be a small Bill directed to apply to soldiers, sailors and nurses, who may be returning from overseas, intending to relieve them of the necessity to wait for a Court Revision before their inclusion on the voters' list. That is to say, if a soldier returns to this city within three days—the limit fixed—of an election, he may, upon proof to the registrar that he possesses the customary qualifications, be entitled to a vote. Passage of the Bill would entitle many more men to vote at the forthcoming bye-election should such be necessary to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Brewster.

Local Questions.

Among the questions for Monday's order paper appear inquiries from Dr. Sutherland, member for Revelstoke, to the Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance. The Revelstoke member wants to know how many fidelity bonds on civil servants, in connection with the service, are held with or written by the firm Gillespie, Hart & Co., Limited, to November 23, 1916, and how many under the same conditions and prior to the same date with the firm of Green and Burdick Brothers, Ltd. He also asks how many bonds given in connection with succession duty prior to the same date were placed with or written by the last named firm. If any are in default, how long and for what amount, are other queries in the same connection. Dr. Sutherland wants information as to whether the Hon. John Hart was a member of the firm of Gillespie, Hart and Co., Limited, prior to November 23, 1916; likewise R. F. Green, M. P., with Green and Burdick Brothers, Limited.

E. & N. Mineral Belt.

The question of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway and the minerals in that belt is a familiar topic on Vancouver Island, and in connection with the present somewhat unsatisfactory situation the Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, will move the following resolution at Monday's sitting of the Legislature:

"That it is in the public interest that an arrangement should be made by the Department of Mines with the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Belt on Vancouver Island whereby the minerals in the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Belt on Vancouver Island may be more satisfactorily administered than under the present general method of company regulations, and the 'Mineral Act,' and that legislation be introduced ratifying such agreement, or otherwise remedying existing difficulties."

IRRIGATION MATTERS AGAIN DILATED UPON

Member for Kamloops Answers Conservative Dry Belt Water Critic

Legislative Press Gallery, April 5.

Frederick W. Anderson, member for Kamloops, continued the debate on the second reading of the Water Act this afternoon and took occasion to reply to the observations of J. W. Jones, member for South Okanagan, on the subject. He objected at first to the apparent slur cast upon the Government by the Minister of Lands, who said was merely tinkering with an unworkable Act. This was the more astounding to the member for Kamloops in view of the fact that the 1914 Water Act was the creation of W. R. Ross, member for Fort George, at that time Minister of Lands.

While Mr. Anderson was in a mood to compliment the Government for the legislation in question he felt bound to pay tribute to an ex-Minister of Lands for the Province, and a member of the Union Government of the person of F. J. Fulton, K. C., of Kam-

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loops, whose Water Act of 1909 was the initiatory attempt to place water matters on a sound basis. However, the Ross measure, although an attempt under proper administration, sadly lacked machinery for the creation of administrative powers.

Government Ownership.

The general complaint Mr. Jones had to make was that under the proposed legislation bond holders in the various water carrying companies would not be sufficiently protected and the only way he could see out of the present dilemma was a suggestion amounting practically to Government ownership. On the other hand Mr. Anderson pointed out to the Okanagan member that people usually invested in irrigation concerns with their eyes open, while the fundamental principle promoting the Government now was its first and foremost duty of protecting the tiller of the soil.

To the argument advanced by Mr. Jones that the company was responsible for the financial condition of the company, the member for Kamloops, one or two where the argument could not be maintained. For instance there was the Kelowna Irrigation Company in the late manager of the defunct Dominion Trust Company took a good deal of interest. The failure of the trust took with it to oblivion a large sum representing the sinking fund for the bond floated by the Kelowna Irrigation Company and very similar fate had attended the Columbia Valley Orchard Company Limited.

Different Circumstances.

The member for Kamloops suggested that Mr. Jones' supporting argument for Government ownership recruited from the policies adopted in Egypt and India was weak, because in the countries referred to it was not to be expected that the Ethiopian would be capable of instituting the modern method of irrigation. In consequence, primitive methods had to be supplanted and Government action was the only feasible procedure, since the possibility of private enterprise was remote in the extreme.

On the subject of water communities Mr. Anderson was able to speak with authority since he had the honor of filling the post of first President of the Hefley Creek Water Users' Association, which took in a large watershed tributary to the North Thompson River, near Kamloops.

In closing the up-country member expressed the hope that some move would be made to more intensely cultivate the rich Indian Reserve land adjacent to transcontinental railway systems; and here he alluded to the "infamous report" of the Indian Commission and its huge cost to the country.

J. E. W. Thompson, member for Grand Forks, adjourned the debate until the evening session of Monday next.

OMINECA MEMBER IS IN ACCORD WITH ACT

Defends Land Policy as Outlined in Mr. Pattullo's New Measure

Legislative Press Gallery.

April 5.

For some considerable time this afternoon A. M. Manson, member for Omineca, dealt with the Bill to amend the Land Act introduced by the member for Fort George. He said at the commencement that he was afraid Mr. Ross had spoken more from a sense of political duty than from any very keen sense of appreciation of the merits of the proposed measure. To the suggestion that the exodus of settlers from the Province during the last year was accounted for by the war, Mr. Manson would agree only partly. He was fully convinced that the war had taken their departure by reason of the late Government's neglect. That fact alone made it all the more difficult for those who stayed.

The Railway Mania.

The member for Omineca was by no means at a loss for shot and shell with which to pound the member for Fort George, and the major part of his address dwelt on the "historical" phase of the land situation; at the same time his observations were warmly commendatory of the measure introduced by the Hon. Mr. Pattullo. Going back a decade, Mr. Manson said that it was not perhaps the fault of the member for Fort George that the lands of the Province were unsurveyed ten years ago and that no systematic care for the settler in the way of roads, trails, and schools, existed. The Minister himself, that time been surrounded by colleagues, possessed of the railway idea and who were railway mad. Exploitation and not development had been the slogan of the day.

No Danger.

Mr. Manson reminded the House that there were hundreds of thousands of acres of surveyed lands both in the Omineca and Cariboo regions waiting settlement—a fact in itself, he said, refuting the claim of the member for Fort George that withdrawal for pre-emption of surveyed lands would mean the frustration of settlement in the Peace River section. All that was required in the two sections named was the arrangement of making the lands available at reasonable cost. On the other hand, it could be depended upon that the Government would see that when the railway reached the Peace River Country there would be no waiting for the surveyor. Mr. Manson similarly defended the policy of small leaseholders advocated by the Minister of Lands since it proved to him that Mr. Pattullo was carefully shepherding the producing class—a very necessary matter at the moment particularly.

Mr. Yonston, member for Cariboo, adjourned the debate and the Bill still remains in Committee.

TOO PALATIAL HOME FOR PRINTING SHOP

While Mineral Exhibit Languishes in Back Street, Says Mr. Weart

ADVOCATES TRANSLATION AT THE EARLIEST MOMENT

Legislative Press Gallery.

April 5.

Practically the whole gamut of the public service in British Columbia was included in an excellent ninety-minute exposition of detail wizardry this afternoon, when J. W. Weart, the member for South Vancouver, opened the debate on the Budget. And in his concern for the conduct of the public business of the province the South Vancouver member was neither stingy in his bestowal of credit in cases where he considered credit was rightly deserved, nor did he mince words in airing his views on matters which had failed to captivate his entire approval.

Special Praise.

To the Minister of Finance on his able presentation of the financial position and requirements of the province, and to the Comptroller-General, whom he had known years ago, there was a special word of praise. The same could not be said of the statistical branch of the Department of Agriculture and if Mr. Weart could have his way there would doubtless be changes here in one connection at least.

Would Remove Printing Works.

Among the many things touched upon he came out with the suggestion that it would be better business on the part of the Government to translate the Printing Department to some less palatial home than it at present

occupied and in its room display to the world the mining exhibit, which had for some years past almost apologized for its existence in an obscure building at the rear of the main pile. This was hiding one of the province's brightest lights under a bushel with a vengeance, said he.

Mining Taxation.

Commencing first with taxation matters, Mr. Weart dealt with the impost on the mining industry and iterated his belief that the two per cent. royalty tax basis was unfair and inequitable. He would advocate a fair allowance for exhaustion, for depreciation, for interest on borrowed capital and for development. He would also advocate that after paying a profit of seven per cent., all surplus profits should be divided between the Crown and the owners on fair rates, twenty to fifty per cent. going to the Crown. From this point the member for South Vancouver departed from the particular and dwelt at considerable length on the general situation as far as provincial taxation is concerned. At the outset, however, he wished to go on record as favorably commending the Finance Minister for his able presentation in this special connection.

Tax on Banks.

Taking first of all the revenue from the banks, he said that cash received from this source during the last fiscal year was \$116,500. These sources of revenue were 16 head offices and 167 branches of banks, which had now been reduced, with indications of further reductions. This tax revenue received was based upon the old tax plus the surtax and would equal the present proposed tax providing for \$2,000 tax levy on main offices and

\$500 for bank branches. Mr. Hart in his Budget speech had referred to the alternate statement to be made by the banks last year. Most of the banks, it was said, preferred a tax levied upon deposits, but this would fail to satisfy the larger banks and the tax as levied bore more heavily on the smaller banks, upon the volume of business done. Mr. Weart pointed out that one-quarter of one per cent. of the bank deposits of British Columbia would net \$200,000 or more as there were more than \$80,000,000 on deposit in this province.

Glad To See It.

Of particular interest to Mr. Weart was the proposed revision of the land taxes. "The total of real property taxable by the province is \$181,694,000, and of this \$25,000,000 is classed as 'wild property,'" he said. Quoting further, Mr. Weart said that the total (districts) municipal tax on the returns of 1916 was \$130,694,000, while the total (city) municipal tax was \$266,842,000, or double the amount of the provincial tax—then it was apparent that the total reality of this province had a value of over \$529,000,000. "An astounding condition of affairs has existed for a number of years past owing to the large number of small parcels of land assessed by the Crown. In this province," said the South Vancouver member, "there are 10,341 parcels paying twenty-five cents per annum, 6,368 paying from twenty-five to fifty cents, 9,419 paying from fifty to seventy-five cents and 13,765 paying from seventy-five cents to one dollar per annum." He also ventured to state that it cost more money to collect from the 16,709 parcels in the first two classifications than the actual tax revenue amounted to. "Surely," he said, "Section 52 of the Assessment Act should be amended, making a minimum of one dollar per annum on any and all parcels of land."

Printing Cost.

Following his allusion to the advisability of removing the quarters of the Printing Department, Mr. Weart said that he had observed the new estimates called for an expense for printing amounting to \$153,000. He was not in a position to analyze this amount, but concluded that under the efficient management of the King's Printer and the able supervision of the Provincial Secretary, that economy would be practised. He raised the question then of removing the printing plant from its quarters in the handsome frontal wing of Parliament Buildings. "This printing department," he said, "is housed in the most expensive printing office premises in the world—while

one of the best mineral exhibits in the world is lying unknown and rarely visited in inadequate premises upon the back streets. Either this exhibit should be closed up or should be given equal prominence with the provincial museum," he said, advising Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, that he take whatever steps were necessary in conjunction with the Provincial Secretary toward having the printing plant removed, using its present abode for Mr. Sloan's office, Department and mineral display.

Figures Awry.

Particular demonstration of his leaning for detail found full play when the South Vancouver member arrived at the Department of Agriculture. Referring to the publicity matter distributed throughout the province, he said that Bulletin No. 18, issued for 1917, accounted for swine in British Columbia to the tune of 37,500 head, as against 275,900 in Alberta; 49,000 dairy cows, as against 325,000 in Alberta—or, in other words, the amount of cattle within this province, including dairy cows, calves, steers, bulls, etc., were given as 240,000, as against 1,535,000 in Alberta. "But," said the speaker, "after looking over these returns and interviewing the statistician of the Agricultural Department, in order to learn the basis of this figuring—I received the most amateurish answer imaginable. I was told that more than 18,000 inquiries were sent out to B. C. farmers, asking them to report and reports were made in 46 per cent. of the cases. Then the totals of cattle, sheep and swine reported was divided by 46 and multiplied by 100—by which process the statistician derived the figures quoted in the bulletin."

Too Much For Him.

The method of calculation was too much for Mr. Weart and he suggested that there were no nineteen thousand farmers in this province. It was, moreover, safe to assume that larger farmers would make the requested return to the Government. "It is safe to say that twenty per cent. of the number who reported would more than equal the gross number of swine, sheep and cattle owned by the remaining fifty-four per cent. who did not make the requested return," said he. Upon this basis, which he thought reasonable or at least not so amateurish, said Mr. Weart, the cattle, sheep and swine of British Columbia would not exceed 140,000 head, or ten per cent. of the figures of Alberta.

Municipal Matters.

Reverting to the question of municipal sinking funds, the speaker said that of twenty-eight district municipalities within the province nine had no debt, ten had no deficit in sinking fund, while nine had a deficit aggregating \$272,000. Of the city municipalities four had no debt, two were not known, thirteen had no deficit and sixteen had a deficit aggregating \$1,300,000. Combined, this municipal sinking fund debt it was \$1,562,000. On December 31, 1916, there was \$4,220,000 to the credit of city municipalities and \$341,000 to the credit of district municipalities, making a total sinking fund account at that date of \$6,131,000.

In this connection Mr. Weart urged that Section 121 of the Municipal Act be amended by making it compulsory for each municipality to deposit sinking funds with the Minister of Finance, who could allow five per cent. on them, giving the municipalities an increase in profit over savings interest of over \$30,000 a year. The province also would save the difference between five and six and a half per cent., or over \$30,000—thus effecting a direct saving of more than \$100,000 a year.

That section of Mr. Weart's speech dealing with banking matters will be found elsewhere in this issue.

STATE SHOULD TAKE BACK ITS PRIVILEGE

J. W. Weart Advocates National and Interprovincial Banking Institutions

WHOLE SYSTEM IS DUE FOR COMPLETE CHANGE

Believes Merger Consequences Will Become Menace Sooner or Later

Legislative Press Gallery, April 5.

The latter part of J. W. Weart's speech in the Legislature this afternoon was confined to an interesting survey of banking conditions as they exist in Canada at the present time. In his opinion the Dominion has arrived at a stage when a change in the whole system is absolutely necessary. He takes the stand that it is time the states stepped in and re-assumed, for the benefit of the people, the rights and privileges it transferred to the banking world under the Bank Act. If some of the vast profits accruing to Banking Institutions to-day were ever to revert to the proletariat there was only one way to ensure it, and that lay in the establishment of a national institution.

Precedent Created.

The fact that Parliament renewed the charters of the existing banks for a period of ten years in 1913 would be no deterrent factor in the annulment of the privilege just in the same way as the permit to the distillery had been set at naught by the Parliament which gave it. He contended that sooner or later Parliament would be forced to accept public opinion in this, as it had done in other matters, and that the quicker it was recognized that any profit resultant of the state's exercise of its powers should be for the benefit of the state, the better it would be for the taxpayers of Canada.

Remove an Injustice.

Proceeding with that train of thought the member for South Vancouver could not bring himself to interpret such legislation as either confiscatory or an infringement of the banks' vested rights. Moreover, he claimed that the rights now enjoyed by the Banks never should have been obtained and legislation would merely recover to the state its rightful privilege and at the same time destroy the unfair advantage held by the bank over commercial institutions. In other words, according to Mr. Weart, it would mean the remedying of a mistake and simultaneously removing an injustice.

National Institution.

A National Institution would be at once the custodian of the forty odd millions now in the Post Office Savings Bank, proceeded the speaker. It would be the custodian of the capital and reserve of the present chartered banks. It would then have the right to issue to the several chartered banks national notes equal to their capital and reserve. It would have the right to loan to the chartered banks an equal amount in national currency at four and one-half per cent., giving to those institutions the use of their capital and reserve, which they now enjoyed and an equal amount in national currency, not issued by themselves at very little above the cost of printing; but at the low rate of four and a half per cent., ample capital, he suggested, for legitimate commercial transactions. It would place them on a par with other Loaning Institutions who were compelled to use their own capital, or the capital of such corporations might obtain from the issue of bonds, except that the

banks would have the advantage of the money they borrowed from the national institution at only four and a half per cent.

Ten Million Profit.

The national institution would make a profit of four and a half per cent. which, taken on the capital and reserve of the banks in 1917, would mean four and a half per cent. on two hundred and twenty-five millions of money, or practically ten millions in the year. It would act as a reserve bank of a discount bank. It would make a profit in loaning to the Dominion—always a borrower. It would make a profit in loaning to the provinces and municipalities and to the many domestic banks which would come into existence, possessing the same powers that the chartered banks would enjoy. It would also have the privilege of making whatever profit it could make, over the interest paid to the depositors in loaning a fair proportion of the depositors money, which, if put at one and one-half per cent., eight hundred millions would give a profit of twelve millions or a total of some twenty-five millions in the year.

Sufficient for National Debt.

Statistics showed, said Mr. Weart, the business of the banking fraternity (that meant the business of the state), that the amount of deposits, capital and reserve, practically doubled in every eight years. If, for the sake of argument, he added, there were no such increase in fifty years the profits of the national institution would be sufficient to pay off Canada's national debt to-day if the increase had had to be maintained, or even maintained, the profits accruing to the national institution would not only pay off Canada's national debt but would enable it to double the pension to the soldiers; it would enable it to take over and operate many institutions to-day in Canada whose operations could be considered as public utilities and as rightfully belonging to the people.

The Wealth of the West.

Mr. Weart referred to the fact that the Union Bank of Canada moved its head office a few years ago from the City of Quebec to the City of Winnipeg and it was the only bank that could be considered in any respect a western bank. The clearing-house returns for 1917 showed that for the whole of Canada the volume of trade was \$12,552,000,000; of that amount almost one-third, or over four millions of dollars, was from the four western provinces. "It cannot be disputed that there is greater potential wealth in the four western provinces than in Eastern Canada," said the speaker with no small amount of pride in the farthest west. Real wealth was flowing from the cultivation of mother earth, from the extraction of metal from the hills, and from the taking from the sea of the wealth therein.

Inter-Provincial Bank.

Convinced of all these things he asked his auditors if it would not be in the interests of the people of Canada, at this time, instead of diminishing the number of competitive banks, to increase that number by the four western provinces joining hands with the Union Bank of Canada or New Bank, incorporating an Inter-Provincial Bank, each province subscribing for at least five million of capital, making the joint capital \$20,000,000. Such an institution would enjoy the privileges that the present institutions enjoy; it would at once have the privilege of issuing paper money; have a capital greater than any two combined banks; be backed by the four provinces; be a stronger institution than all the banks to-day in existence; be at once in control of all of the business of the four provinces appertaining to the provinces, the municipalities, schools and other similar public bodies.

Directors Who Would Understand.

It would at once command its fair share of public confidence in the deposit of the people's savings and by the joint board of directors chosen from the four provinces, all personally acquainted with the requirements of the provinces. Its general manager and assistants would be competent men, who would be at least sympathetic in attitude to any applicant for an advance. There would be no necessity, he said, as at present exists, to submit proposals to Toronto and Montreal.

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The Reasons for Alteration.
 With the chief remedies already referred to it is of interest to note the variety of interesting detail quoted by Mr. Weart during the construction of his remedial arguments. He very naturally sounds the fundamental query by asking whether it is in the best interest of the nation to continue the present banking system leading to a final grabbing of the whole financial fabric by the few, or whether a national institution should be established possessing the power to issue paper money and to take deposits. Starting out on the truism that the present system lends the credit of the nation to the banking institutions, he sought to show how those same institutions were part and parcel with commerce generally of an interlocking of directors fostering a combination in trade which was unquestionably a menace to the people.

Forces Gradually Combining.
 Mr. Weart cited the various mergers and how the process had dwindled the number of banking institutions with every prospect of a still further whittling down. In 1889 forty-one banks were doing business in Canada as against only nineteen in 1918. This latter number he disposed of in two groups, the Montreal, Commerce and Royal, and the second group the remaining sixteen banks. He alluded to the statement made by Sir Thomas White in 1915 in which there sounded the warning that the merger of the Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal would not be in the best interest of Canada. Certainly it could not be considered for a moment, that the merger of British North America should be considered a weak banking system. He said the South American banks were interrogating the position to which the weaker bank as they would, the merger meant purely and simply restraint of trade. He was not agreeing with the figures quoted in the Canada Gazette included in the Bank returns for the fiscal year ending April, 1917, which placed the valued amount of bank premises at \$49,989,000—they would fetch in the open market millions more than that, he said.

Profits Greater Than Capital.
 Dealing with the reserve capital and bank premises Mr. Weart observed that the undistributed excess profits over the dividends paid out have been paid to reserve and invested in bank premises. That was to say the undistributed excess profits were greater to-day than the total capital of the banks and it was impossible to state just how much the bank premises had cost, their value, however represented excess profits. He went on to show that according to the bank clearings for the year 1916, the business of the country aggregated \$10,557,000,000, or some forty-seven times the total capital and reserve of the whole of the banks of Canada.

The Banks' Advantage.
 As a final reference in support of his argument relating to the injustice of the present system and the need for the national institution, Mr. Weart reminded the House that the Dominion had given power under the Bank Act for the banks to take deposits and by the issuing of paper money equalling their capital they had an enormous advantage over any commercial institution. And by the power the banks had received, through the Bank Act, to receive the deposit of the people of Canada, they had been able to gather in 1,346 millions of the people's money in current and savings accounts. That cost the banking institutions, it was said, not more than two and five-eighths per cent. per annum—a large per cent. of which they loaned to commercial institutions at a great profit.

Many Would Close.
 There was also to be considered the fact that, following the establishment of the national institution, the only one possessing the power to issue paper money, to receive deposits and deal with exchange, there would be no necessity for some three thousand branches of chartered banks to remain open. Many of them, he said, were established solely for the purpose of taking deposits while all that would close, or a number of them, could be replaced by the parent institution.

**PROHIBITIONISTS
 MEET GOVERNMENT
 TO DISCUSS ACT**
 Proposed Changes Outlined
 Will Make Law More
 Workable

Legislative Press Gallery,
 April 8.
 Prohibition movement representatives were unsuccessful to-day in their attempts to induce the Government to pass legislation forbidding the sale outside of the province of liquor brewed or distilled within B. C. Under the existing Prohibition Act a brewery or distillery is able to sell liquor to points outside of B. C., from which British Columbians may purchase, the liquor never actually leaving the province, but upon order of the outside firm being delivered direct from the brewery to the home of the ultimate buyer.

The deputation which discussed the question with Attorney-General Farris to-day stated that this was virtually an evasion of the Act and should be eliminated by amendment to the prohibition legislation. They also sought to have the right taken away from B. C. agents of outside firms to take orders for liquor.

In replying the Attorney-General pointed out that the Dominion Order-in-Council did away with both conditions complained of until one year after the war unless extended, that the prohibitionists would be free to bring the situation before the Government at another session. He intimated that the only amendments to the Act this year would be those related to administration, and that it was not intended to alter the principle of the Act this session.

Proposed Amendments.
 Among the amendments to be introduced within the next week will be one covering the curious situation raised by the Murphy judgment, in which Commissioner Findlay was declared not to have any legal status. He will now be given express authority to administer the Act under the Attorney-General. Provision is to be made that manufacturing establishments and captains of vessels may keep a small amount of liquor on hand for emergency purposes, such as accidents. Manufacturers of extracts and perfumes will be given wider latitude to have alcohol for operation on their premises necessary. A clause is to be inserted to the effect that a report from a provincial analyst shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of the strength of any liquor shown as exhibits in court proceedings. Formerly permission given to apartment-house tenants to have liquor applied only to apartment blocks in cities. It is planned now, however, to allow this privilege to all apartment blocks within the meaning of the Act, whether within cities, towns or municipalities, and they will be known hereafter as apartment houses. Power will be given the police authorities to confiscate any liquor illegally kept. Under the present Act confiscation could only take place if the liquor was illegally for sale. In future it need not be necessarily for sale to render it liable for confiscation.

The Deputation.
 This morning's deputation comprised John Nelson, Rev. J. S. Henderson and Cecil Killum. It was introduced by Gerald G. McGeer, M. P. P.

**TWO SITTINGS EACH
 DAY UNTIL THROUGH**

Two Weeks Should See Legislature at End of Its Business

Legislative Press Gallery,
 April 8.
 Commencing to-day the Legislature will speed up the dispatch of its business by holding two sittings per diem. Whether or not the inclusion of the night hours for duty will enable the House to rise before the passing of another two weeks remains to be seen. Many of the measures now before the members are in committee stage while the majority of them are not of a very contentious nature.

The amendments to the Land Act and Water Act will probably require some additional discussion while the Game Act, somewhat drastically affecting Game Protection and Provincial Police services, will doubtless engage a considerable amount of attention from the Leader of the Opposition, who adjourned the debate on the second reading of the Bill.

Taxation Amendments, the City of Victoria Relief Bill and the promised measure ratifying the settlement in connection with the acquisition by the Province of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway will also doubtless be fruitful of discussion.

Lieut. Frank J. MacKenzie, Conservative member for the Delta, who returned from the front last week to take his seat in the House, will continue the debate on the Budget this afternoon while J. E. W. Thompson, member for Grand Forks, will take the floor at this evening's sitting in continuance of the debate on the second reading of the proposed Bill to amend the Water Act. The member for Cariboo, J. Yorston, adjourned the debate on the Land Act following the speech of Alec. Manson, member for Omineca, on Friday afternoon last. He will deal with land conditions in the Cariboo.

Important amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act as already foreshadowed in these columns as well as certain alterations to the British Columbia Prohibition Act, will be introduced by the Attorney-General during the latter part of the present week. The former will be implemented by a provision including within the scope of the Act's operation all employees of the Government, while that section of the "dry law" ruled as ultra vires by the judgment of Mr. Justice Murphy in the recent libel action brought against the Prohibition Commissioner, will be specifically defined insofar as it relates to the appointment and duties of the Commissioner.

GETTING UNDER WAY WITH PLAN FOR SETTLEMENT

Major Ashton of Soldier Settlement Board Meets Premier Oliver

For the purpose of discussing the question of land settlement for returned soldiers, Major E. J. Ashton, of the Federal Soldiers' Settlement Board, waited upon Premier Oliver this morning. The matter was dealt with in more or less of a general manner and it will not be possible for any announcement to be made as to what arrangement will be arrived at between the Provincial and Dominion Governments until after conferences have taken place between the Major and the Provincial Land Settlement Board. Before leaving for Ottawa Major Ashton will again go into the matter with the Premier.

Chatting with a representative of The Times following his interview with the Premier, Major Ashton said that any plan for British Columbia must be regarded at the moment as tentative, since his visit here is concerned with the question of what can be arranged in this province for the returned man. While considerable progress has already been made in respect of the prairie provinces, he says there are still many modifications to be made and alterations necessary to meet varied conditions.

In Southern Saskatchewan and Southern Alberta over \$100,000 are represented in preliminary loans under the plan provided in the Dominion Act passed last session. And in connection with the loaning section of the Act Premier Oliver assured Major Ashton that the Provincial Government was ready and willing to give its hearty co-operation with that of the Dominion and would proceed on the basis of free land and reasonable terms of settlement, utilizing the machinery of the Land Settlement Board. The province, however, would expect to be aided by the Dominion loaning machinery.

With the general programme of co-operation from this province the major was well pleased, but was not in a position to make any specific announcement in particular relation to the Federal Board's programme for British Columbia. Upon his return to Ottawa the major will lay the whole of the data secured before the whole Board, when an announcement will follow.

Major Ashton expects to return eastward over the Grand Trunk and hopes to leave for Prince Rupert on Wednesday next.

CITY'S RELIEF BILL PROGRESSING QUICKER

Considerable Elasticity Let Into Measure at This Morning's Sitting

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 8.

Five out of the six parts of the City's Relief Bill have now been disposed of by the Private Bills Committee. Part five dealing with the Local Improvement section was opened for discussion by F. A. McDiarmid at Friday morning's sitting and arising out of his criticisms of those provisions deemed by him as detrimental to many

owners the spirit of compromise was evident this morning.

One Commission.

Agreement was reached that one commission only should be appointed with its functions to deal with both local improvement and the adjustment of general taxes, thus avoiding a multiplication of bodies more or less treating with different angles of the same subject. That section in the original Bill empowering the commission to differentiate between those who have received compensation for expropriation and those who have not has now been eliminated by mutual consent.

Specific Powers.

The commission will be limited to three members who may subdivide themselves into committees; the members are to be appointed by any Judge of the Supreme Court and the amount of each member's remuneration will be determined by the Court on formal application; no person shall be eligible to sit who has received compensation for land expropriated since 1910; the report of the commission shall be signed by not less than two members; its deliberations shall be public and the commissioners will be bound to take evidence on oath; they shall have power to reconsider and vary the report at any time before adoption by the City Council; there will be no date set within which the commissioners shall render such report; power will also be vested in the City Council to deal with local improvement cases of the more trivial nature.

Many Changes.

The foregoing provisions alter very materially the original draft of the Bill and it will be noticed that the time for report, set previously at July 15 next, has now disappeared, while that section vesting the City Council with the last voice as to those cases which shall or shall not be investigated is also considerably widened. Defining the duties, membership, method of selection and remunerating of the commissioners also appeared to meet with the approval of all parties represented before the committee this morning.

Consideration of part six of the Bill will proceed to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1918

SEVERAL BILLS GET FINAL DISPOSITION

Order Paper is Being Gradually Cleared Up by Prompt Business

Legislative Press Gallery,

Afternoon Sitting, April 8.

Considerable progress was made this afternoon with a number of measures in Committee stage. The Drainage and Dyking Act and the Pre-emptors' Free Grants Act, sponsored by the Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, received third readings and passed through the final stages.

The Committee report on the Provincial Home Act was adopted and the bill will get its third reading at the next sitting of the House. The bill intitled an Act to amend the British Columbia University Site Act was reported complete as amended, Mr. Bowser contributing to the discussion dealing with the lease of some 290 acres given to the University last year.

The Pool Rooms Act, reference to which has already been made in these columns, received its second reading and was committed. The Legal Professions Act was duly reported complete while the Committee rose and reported progress in respect of the Act dealing with proportionate allotment of lands held from the Crown under agreements to purchase.

The Minimum Wage Bill was shelved until the next sitting of the House to enable J. W. Weart, the member for South Vancouver, to include several amendments on the Order Paper. The Hon. T. D. Pattullo's Land Act received its second reading following a commendatory speech from J. Yonston, member for Cariboo.

SUGGESTS INCREASED TAX ON AUTOMOBILES

Hugh Stewart Would Appoint Returned Man to Land Settlement Board

Legislative Press Gallery,

Evening Session, April 8.

With a natural concern for the welfare of his own riding Hugh Stewart, the member for Comox, who continued the debate on supply at this evening's sitting of the House, regretted to see no road appropriation calculated to tap the large tracts of land at the north end of Vancouver Island. But with a realization of the general financial situation he would suggest to the Government that settlers in those localities be told that transportation facilities were not possible—that information with the gentle hint to those most vitally concerned, to get out, would be a more sensible procedure than allowing them to remain in the vain hope of long looked for roads and bridges.

Hopeful Feature.

A hopeful feature of the Budget speech was the announcement that the farmer was to be relieved of his tax liability on farm improvements. He hoped that similar treatment would follow in respect of the personal tax. In reference to roads he suggested that a policy of local improvement tax would be possible of imposition in respect of lands through which such transportation avenues would pass. Once possessed of roads, land at present next door to valueless would be capable of bearing a reasonable local improvement tax commensurate with such enhanced value.

Land Settlement Board.

The member for Comox had arrived at the conclusion that a returned soldier should either be given a seat on the Land Settlement Board or else a specially appointed representative should act in conjunction with and as an auxiliary to the activities of that body. This procedure was the more necessary by reason of the fact that—despite assertions to the contrary—many returned men would choose agricultural pursuits.

Increase Motor Tax.

As one source of increased revenue as a means of providing the wherewithal for roads he would suggest to the Government the advisability of increasing the motor tax. The modern car, he said, was responsible for a great amount of damage to the permanent highway, draining the provincial coffers at the expense of new roads for essential development purposes. He would also like to see Governmental action to the end that agricultural and timber land should be classified for the purposes of taxation. He cited a hypothetical case, showing how he would apply the suggestion to timber lands in particular so as to avoid unequal treatment in cases apparently identical.

Some Difference.

Mr. Stewart directed the attention of the Minister of Finance to the fact that the Government agency at Alberni was costing \$6,297 as against \$4,265 for Cumberland, where the turnover was about three times the volume of Alberni. Either the one was alarmingly overworked or the other was having a good time.

M. A. McDonald, the senior member for Vancouver, adjourned the debate and will take the floor to-morrow afternoon.

SOLDIER MAN NOT VICTIM

Estimates Public what; Public a "Je

Legislative

Throughout the this afternoon it matter for Lieut. to wax enthusiast's policy. On supply, the D vations scarcely original. With a tion apparent in Lieut. Mackenzie Premier will find tagious. And in tion the member Mr. Oliver the due regard to Columbia's wom suggestion follow sixth member for not specific in hinet overhauling. ceded, he said, party in power I suppose that the to the late Mr. upon Mr. Oliver. Delta expressed and strength wou Premier in the ce duties associ of First Minister Watch

However, the st parliamentary standing, he wer House that there relentless critic of Premier Oliver. Minister's proces public platform I public in generi microscope to Premier. He wor much more keen would suppose, c kenzie. In other tion of his new be attended by ti step," as the prv watch the prov ceeding, the men cated the suggest the member for S Mr. Oliver shoul of agriculture. A was not distribu the Premier in line of vision se that point wher appeared on the —"the milch cov according to Liev encouragement; ed imposts had the man of the

Species of A species of Delta member's Protection Act, v by the member amendment inten protection areas. a general diatrit shortcomings, Lie "weary" the Hot constructive idea betterment—had fore the bill pass without any theme, the memb that an amendm Elections Act dir lawful and impos to contribute can parties during th be good business.

The Premier—The remark was audible smile fr

The J Why on earth Comptroller-Gen creased to \$5,000 yond the compre ber for Delta. I that any Ministe to give his O.K. placed in the Es exact amount res be agreed that a

SOLDIER MEMBER IS NOT VERY HOPEFUL

Estimates Puzzle Him Somewhat; Public Works Figure a "Jack-Pot"

Legislative Press Gallery, April 8.

Throughout the whole of his speech this afternoon it was a very difficult matter for Lieut. J. F. A. Mackenzie to wax enthusiastic over the Government's policy. Continuing the debate on supply, the Delta member's observations scarcely savored of the original. With a policy of reconstruction apparent in every Department, Lieut. Mackenzie expects that the Premier will find the procedure contagious. And in a Cabinet reconstruction the member for Delta urged upon Mr. Oliver the desirability of paying due regard to the claims of British Columbia's womanhood. While the suggestion followed a tribute to the sixth member for Vancouver, he was not specific in his reference to Cabinet overhauling. It had to be conceded, he said, that with a Liberal party in power it was only logical to suppose that the choice of a successor to the late Mr. Brewster should fall upon Mr. Oliver. The member for the Delta expressed the hope that health and strength would be vouchsafed the Premier in the carrying out the arduous duties associated with the office of First Minister.

Watch Your Step!

However, the stalwart character and parliamentary experience notwithstanding, he went on to remind the House that there had been no more relentless critic of the late regime than Premier Oliver. Mindful of the First Minister's process of pillory on the public platform in days gone by, the public in general would apply the microscope to every move of the Premier. He would be subjected to a much more keen scrutiny than he would suppose, continued Lieut. Mackenzie. In other words, the assumption of his new responsibilities would be attended by the need to "watch his step," as the proverbial cat would watch the proverbial mouse. Proceeding, the member for Delta deprecated the suggestion from J. W. Weart, the member for South Vancouver, that Mr. Oliver should retain the portfolio of agriculture. And Lieut. Mackenzie was not distributing any bouquets to the Premier in this connection. His line of vision seemed to stop dead at that point where increased taxation appeared on the horizon. The farmer—"the milch cow" of the province—according to Lieut. Mackenzie, had no encouragement; on the contrary, added imposts had been the reward for the man of the soil.

Species of Frightfulness.

A species of frightfulness was the Delta member's epithet for the Seed Protection Act, which had been saved by the member for Newcastle by an amendment intended to limit the seed protection areas. Apart, however, from a general diatribe on its supposed shortcomings, Lieut. Mackenzie did not "weary" the House with any sort of constructive idea of his views for its betterment—had such been in time before the bill passed. At this stage and without any apparent connective theme, the member for Delta observed that an amendment to the Provincial Elections Act directed to make it unlawful and impossible for corporations to contribute campaign funds to both parties during the same election would be good business.

The Premier—"Well that's rich!" The remark was accompanied by an audible snile from Mr. Oliver.

The Estimates.

Why on earth the salary of the Comptroller-General should be increased to \$5,000 per annum was beyond the comprehension of the member for Delta. How could it be said that any Minister was in a position to give his O.K. to any of the amounts placed in the Estimates as being the exact amount required. How could it be agreed that such a sum was right

and how was any Minister in a position to say that this or that civil servant was or was not worthy of his hire. Without giving any specific reason for his process of interrogation, Lieut. Mackenzie came down to the Public Works Department and the estimated amount of \$1,427,040 set down as the figure allocated for road construction and maintenance. Was this merely a "jack-pot" specially created for the Minister of Public Works? Speculation as to how much his own riding would be able to snatch from the trough and his guess that he might get the odd forty dollars took up several minutes of the honorable member's time as he proceeded to rake up that time-worn subject—Patronage.

Heads Dropping in Basket.

In its policy of alleged efficiency coupled with economy Lieut. Mackenzie painted the picture of a basket full of heads. Not only had the general decapitation been confined to the various sections of the province, but the Legislature has gone into the business on a wholesale basis. The member for Delta then proceeded to allude to the Game Act now before the Legislature, by which some forty game wardens are legislated out of the service for reasons already referred to in these columns on more than one occasion. He was more than apprehensive lest the plan foreshadowed by the new measure would impair protection of the game of the province. Since the "feathered friends" were an extremely valuable asset to British Columbia, it was, in his opinion, a great mistake to effect what might turn out to be a false economy.

Sir Richard McBride.

The Delta member made feeling reference to the passing of Mr. Brewster, and he likewise added his tribute to Mr. Speaker Keen and to Premier Oliver. Since he had last taken active part in legislative proceedings Sir Richard McBride, too, had crossed the great divide. In alluding to the splendid service which Sir Richard had always so ungrudgingly shown to British Columbia soldiers in London, by his instrumentality in untying official red tape, he hoped the House would not forget the widow and children of the late Agent-General.

Hugh Stewart, member for Comox, moved the adjournment of the debate.

REGENT STREET'S "WHITE ELEPHANT"

B. C. House, London, Costs 50 Per Cent. More Than Three Provinces

M. A. MACDONALD GIVES STARTLING COMPARISONS

Urges Government to Take Bold Strokes for Increased Development

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 8.

Just how much of a "white elephant" to the Province of British Columbia is the famous B. C. House in London, England, was clearly shown by M. A. Macdonald, the senior member for Vancouver, during the first part of his address on Supply this afternoon. In his reference to the fixed charges required to be met by the Government in connection with the legacy of the late regime he explained to the House how the expenditure of this province on the upkeep of quarters in the Empire's metropolis compared with the Dominion and other Provincial Governments. With an estimated expense for the next twelve months of \$90,854, whether there was a resident Agent-General or not, Mr. Macdonald suggested that the Government appoint another Agent-General. He did not fall in his tribute, however, to the work of the present acting official, but it had to be conceded, he said, that Mr. Turner was familiar with conditions in

British Columbia thirty years ago.

Startling Comparisons.

Proceeding to the comparison of provincial expense with that entailed by the important office of Canadian High Commissioner in London, the senior member for Vancouver said that for the year ending March, 1918, the burden of the latter—including a special allowance to the Acting High Commissioner—did not exceed \$54,134. The Agent-General for Ontario required \$22,112 for his year's work; Alberta, \$20,000; Quebec, \$22,000, while British Columbia House represented about fifty per cent. more of an expense than the cost entailed for the upkeep of Quebec, Ontario and Alberta combined, or \$41,000 more than the expense of the London Agency of the Dominion Department of the Interior, and \$30,000 more than the offices of the Canadian High Commissioner.

Good Bookkeeping.

Passing on to a more specific reference to the estimates now before the House, the senior member for Vancouver was glad to note the satisfactory change in Provincial bookkeeping so that the assets and liabilities of the Province could be presented in a much clearer manner. The items disposed of as "miscellaneous" were a decided improvement on the methods adopted by the late regime since they were made applicable to each department and not lumped into a three or four million figure. Fittless publicity and clearness was the first step in the direction of public economy, because, he said, upon the clearness and simplicity in the setting out of the figures in the estimates, depended the ability of the Legislature to maintain that thorough control of expenditure which was its most important duty.

Frenzied Finance.

The serious state of the Province's finances was the chief reason, continued Mr. Macdonald, for the promotion of industrial enterprises. And while on this subject the Vancouver member took occasion to refer to the general financial condition, starting out with the fundamental reasons for the correction of the present state of affairs—more population and more industries. It was established that the late regime must accept responsibility for the P. G. E. fiasco and it was equally well established that the high taxes necessary to be imposed by the present administration were due in their entirety to the frenzied financing of his friends' opposite. In ten short years there had been developed a deficit of over eighteen millions of dollars and Municipalities had followed with their difficulties, creating a most serious situation.

Must Strike Boldly.

But the very fact that the financial burden was heavy, continued Mr. Macdonald, was all the more reason why the Government should not stand still, but institute a programme of industrial development. A bold stroke on sane lines to support and attract industrial concerns to do business in British Columbia and especially to promote agricultural production was the solution which lay ahead of an admittedly difficult path. The successful prosecution of the war, of course, was the matter of supreme importance said Mr. Macdonald as he proceeded to show how very closely allied to that successful prosecution were the suggestions he had made.

Labor.

"We now have a labor department in this province," he proceeded. "The policy of the Liberal party at all times more closely approximates to the demands and ideals of labor than the reactionary principles of the Conservative party, and this will always continue to be the case. The Liberal party stands for the masses. We sometimes hear of the unjust demands of labor. I venture to say that for every single unjust demand of labor we can point to a hundred instances of men in control of capital and large interests using their power to obtain unjust exactions from the people. Let us, in a spirit of fairness all round, seek to bring about such just conditions of labor in respect to wages and hours of employment that will, if not end, at least lessen the serious disturbances and conflicts which arise from time to time. This is a prime necessity if we are to go on unhampered with a programme of industrial development in this province."

Healthy Growth Gradual.

Mindful of the record of the late Government and the attendant difficulty of solving with any degree of rapidity the question of getting the lands of the province producing their natural due, Mr. Macdonald reminded the House that growth, to be healthy, was always gradual. Artificial aids might stimulate for the moment but they were worse than useless in the end. He said that the present Government had placed a Land Settlement Act on the statutes which should have been there ten years ago and which, to his mind, had only one fault—it did not go far enough. That, however, could be remedied, the details of which he was

not intending to deal with. "I merely say this," he continued. "That the time has arrived; doubly so in view of what I fear may be the almost tragic need for food production, when provision must be made for the compulsory acquisition upon fair terms of crown lands now held by absentees. That is sound policy, and it is not without precedent. It has taken place in New Zealand with splendid results."

Get Your House a Tenant.

Looking into the future Mr. Macdonald waxed apprehensive as to the possibilities of getting settlers under present conditions now or after the war. It was useless to prepare a fine house unless there was a tenant in prospect. "Will the reconstruction needs of Europe after the war absorb all the available labor and population not maimed and broken by this ghastly Kaiser-made war? Will even the United States," he asked, "as well as European countries seek to retain, even by legislation, their own populations? It is not safe to prophesy, but I believe we are justified in believing that we can get a fair share of immigrants for this province. I believe we can attract, if we offer as we should offer, the most general terms to our returned soldiers, not only a fair percentage of our own men from British Columbia, but also a large number of returned men who enlisted from the other provinces in Canada. Climatic conditions in this province should over-balance the advantages of the prairie provinces. I believe we can get many settlers from the Western States if we'll only go after them and not be afraid to spend a little money in establishing agencies at different points, just as Sir Clifford Sifton did after 1896 to bring this about. Certain it is we must prepare for the future."

Tribute to Late Premier.

In conclusion of this section of his speech Mr. Macdonald was anxious to see vigorous action on the part of the Government directed to the encouragement of the stock raising industry. Here again he opined that the machinery of the Land Settlement Board could be utilized to good purpose.

At the outset of his remarks Mr. Macdonald paid an eloquent tribute to the late Mr. Brewster, with whom he had been closely associated both in fair weather and stormy. He alluded to the dead Premier as a man of the highest principles and imbued always with the will and ability to do the right thing. Brevity of allusion was by no means to be interpreted as his wealth of appreciation. Mr. Speaker Koen was suitably complimented on his absolute fairness in decision in the position occupied by him, and Premier Oliver similarly came in for sincere

LOT CONSCRIPTION

BILL INTRODUCED INTO LEGISLATURE

No "Thievery" Permitted Under Land Act, Says Premier Oliver

SOLDIERS' DELEGATION REFERRED TO IN HOUSE

Legislative Press Gallery, Evening Sitting, April 8.

At this evening's sitting of the House, Premier Oliver introduced his Bill entitled the Greater Production Bill, the details of which have already been referred to in these columns. The measure in question is designed to provide municipalities with power to conscript vacant lots suitable for the production of foodstuffs. Proper safeguards are included in the Bill and a system of permits militating against abuse and hardship to owners of lots. The measure received its first reading.

Land Act.
J. W. Weart, the member for South Vancouver, introduced an important change to the proposed Land Act Amendment in its second reading stage. Mr. Weart's alteration is designed to make easier the lot of land pre-emptors in obtaining certificates of improvements in the case of partnerships where one or more of them may abandon his interest. Under the

Weart amendment, instead of cancelling such record only the proportion of land represented by the partners would be eliminated and the record left in good standing. The Minister of Lands was in accord with the amendment and accepted it.

"Thievery."

W. R. Ross, the member for Fort George, wanted to know what was to be done in respect of timber on pre-empted land. Hon. Mr. Pattullo said it was the intention to collect the stumpage. He said he believed much land in the Fort George district had been staked as agricultural land, but really to net the timber thereon. Intimating his belief in the ulterior purpose of such land locations Premier Oliver said it was the Government's plan to put a stop to "this or any other kind of thievery."

Mr. Ross said the men who had staked these lands were still doing business in the old way. The Premier replied that if they were their dealings in the "old way" would have short shrift.

"Of course I suppose that it will depend upon their political color," suggested the member for Fort George.

"Right is right, no matter what the politics," was the retort of Mr. Oliver.

That Delegation.

The member for Newcastle spoke of the forthcoming delegation of returned soldiers who planned a "massed attack" on the Parliament Buildings in an endeavor to impress the Government with their complete dissatisfaction with conditions generally. It was a bad situation, and he feared a serious complexion unless the Government paid a good deal more attention than it appeared to be showing at present.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo interjected that practically every minute of the day for months past had been devoted to the problem. But it was a puzzle bristling with complexities; it nevertheless was assuming shape, and much would be possible.

M. A. Macdonald: "It is difficult on account of the old policy."

George Bell, second member for Victoria, opined that the matter was primarily one in which the Dominion Government would have to lead the way.

The committee rose and reported progress.

FARRIS NO PAL OF ELK, SAYS BOWSER

Deprecates Consolidation Plan for Provincial Police and Game Branches

SAYS DEPARTMENT HAS MADE HANDSOME PROFIT

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 8.

It was a foregone conclusion that the second reading of the bill to amend the Game Act would be provocative of a considerable amount of critical comment from the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Bowser took up the theme at 5.25 this afternoon and had not nearly exhausted his notes when the hands of the clock pointed to six and the adjournment for supper was taken.

Why Abolish a Profit.

One of the outstanding puzzles to the Leader of the Opposition in connection with the matter under debate was the fact that the Government should institute legislation virtually, as he chose to call it, wiping out the Game Department of the province, when the records for the past five years had gone to show that there had been an annual surplus in its administration of \$22,500, or a total profit of \$112,500. Furthermore he contended that the policy foreshadowed in the Attorney-General's bill was a menace to the safety of game in general in British Columbia and in consequence placing a

most important asset in serious jeopardy, to say nothing of the loss to the province in cold cash.

Election Echo.

At the outset of his remarks the Leader of the Opposition alluded to the Attorney-General's proposal as an echo of the general election, although primarily an echo of the 1916 session, when the senior member for Vancouver, M. A. Macdonald, had given voice to the view that such an arrangement as that included in the bill under review should be brought about. However, since the reorganization had formed part of pre-election promises, Mr. Bowser supposed that it was incumbent upon the present Attorney-General to go ahead with the scheme and consolidate Provincial Police with the Game Department. But why, persisted the Opposition Leader, had it not been proposed to amalgamate the duties of the fire wardens with those of the game wardens; that would have been a plan assured of a much more favorable reception among those either directly or indirectly connected with game, he said.

Uniforms: A "Great" Question.

Mr. Bowser naively suggested that the Attorney-General had made much of the "great" question of whether or not the Provincial Police should be uniformed; the point had been labored in newspaper interviews, he said. Apparently, however, that "great" question was still under consideration, continued the Leader of the Opposition with a dash of satire injected into the word "great." He assured the House that he had no objection whatsoever to the plan to reorganize the Provincial Police so long as the process of reconstruction had no damaging effect on the game of the province. The question of co-operation in the protection of game from the members of the Provincial Police force was not original by any means, suggested Mr. Bowser, since he had taken up that very subject during the period in which he had filled the role of Attorney-General; that, however, was purely co-operative in principle and not substitution.

The Defunct Department.

From this point Mr. Bowser took the members back to the time thirteen years ago when Bryan Williams was appointed to the position now intended to be legislated out of existence. At that time the public was scarcely appreciative of the value to the province of its game. While it could not be gainsaid that then funds were a good deal more plentiful, it had also to be recognized that a very efficient Department had been built up. He alluded to the agitation which had preceded the infliction of the gun license. This course of action was largely determined by persistent efforts on the part of game associations as well as the public generally and in 1912 Mr. Bowser himself had the pleasure of introducing an amendment to the Game Act providing a license fee of five dollars for the use of the gun. That action he had never regretted, neither had those members of his party whom he saw on his side of the House to-day.

Why? He Asks.

"Now why bring in legislation threatening to wipe away the Game Department when that very branch of the service has nothing but a good record and a handsome credit balance as the proof of its efficient administration," asked the Opposition Leader with a punch in his voice. Mr. Bowser proceeded to inform the House that he had reason to believe that during the last year it would be found that a surplus of anywhere from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars would accrue to the Treasury in respect of the Game Department. And it had to be remembered that this profit was made at a time when everything that savored of a luxury was yielding to matters more utilitarian.

From Wyoming.

The Leader of the Opposition deprecated the action of Mr. Farris in his alleged lack of interest in the welfare of the Red Deer of the province and he was particularly censorious in the matter of the Attorney-General's alleged lack of appreciation of the value of the elk. Here Mr. Bowser related a story of how some fine specimens of elk had been imported by the late regime from Wyoming in order

to implement the vince. These au- tion of a fine the Attorney-G and because the difficulty in obta about finding a these special "W Elk

The Dominion slow to avail its of getting these price. But here General, he said nance a cent by penses. This he the Vancouver G loath to let the at a time when- jurious to the el- shipping them animals were "But," said Mr. had not the Atto for success whic of the Game Act At this point until 8.30 p.m.

Mr. Bowser 10.55 p. m., and license revenues some states of iterated his be amalgamations Departments m preservation. "has never taken seriously," cont Opposition as h the House how- cials had been r- and replaced by tell me that wit- breath was ren- was Mr. Bowser- couver Liberal- post of Game- fully tabulating the class of ma- ernment relied the Game Act. the Leader of p- habitus of pu- long as he wer- ally sought aft- "I

"Hands off watchword in- tions of the Ac- began to slip- argument, whi- tion for any g- chance to puni- On the subj- ntendent Mr. knew of game- eral. Not en- had the Attor- sary knowledg- far as it shoul- to a proper un- tention.

Drav Mr. Bowser- the vast expan- game reserves- would be to- deprecations- maintain effi- police officer- ing of his par- ter, said the l- was one of th- to the Provin- lief that the- be of serious- the Province- that side of- against the E-

Retrograde Leader of t- apply to the- seat. Frank Mo- adjourned th-

to implement the species in the province. These animals had been sent to Okhalla Prison Farm—without the option of a fine—and lo and behold the Attorney-General had come along and because there had been a little difficulty in obtaining hay he had set about finding a market to get rid of these special "Wyoming" elk.

Elk Rescued.

The Dominion Government was not slow to avail itself of the opportunity of getting these animals at a small price. But here again the Attorney-General, he said, would not countenance a cent by way of shipping expenses. This had got to the ears of the Vancouver Game Association, who loath to let the transaction take place at a time when removal would be injurious to the elk, defrayed the cost of shipping them to Lillooet, where the animals were still "doing well." "But," said Mr. Bowser, "the province had not the Attorney-General to thank for success which attended the efforts of the Game Association."

At this point the House adjourned until 8.30 p.m.

Evening Sitting.

Mr. Bowser resumed his speech at 10.55 p. m., and briefly recounted the license revenues of other provinces and some states of the Union. He again iterated his belief that the proposed amalgamations of Game and Police Departments meant disaster to game preservation. "The Attorney-General has never taken the Game Department seriously," continued the Leader of the Opposition as he proceeded to show to the House how certain efficient officials had been removed from the service and replaced by "good Liberals." "They tell me that when he comes along his breath was reminiscent of a distillery," was Mr. Bowser's description of a Vancouver Liberal Ward 2 appointee to the post of Game Warden. He was carefully tabulating what he described as the class of man upon whom the Government relied for the enforcement of the Game Act. In fact, according to the Leader of the Opposition the bar habitue of pre-prohibition days—so long as he were a Liberal—was generally sought after to fill the bill.

"Hands Off."

"Hands off the Grit" would be the watchword in the matter of infractions of the Act, said Mr. Bowser as he began to slip from the logic of his argument, while he prophesied execution for any game warden who should chance to punish any Liberal worker.

On the subject of the Police Superintendent Mr. Bowser asked what he knew of game in the Province in general. Not enough, he said. Neither had the Attorney-General the necessary knowledge of British Columbia so far as it should be a necessary adjunct to a proper understanding of game protection.

Drawing Long Bow.

Mr. Bowser proceeded to a recital of the vast expenses covered by the great game reserves and how difficult it would be to get proper action on the depredations of the poacher and yet maintain efficient service from the police officer in dual role in the policing of his particular section. The matter, said the Leader of the Opposition, was one of the most vital importance to the Province, and in view of his belief that the Bill under review would be of serious detriment to the game of the Province he and his colleagues on that side of the House would vote against the Bill.

Retrograde.

Retrograde was the qualification the Leader of the Opposition chose to apply to the "move" as he took his seat.

Frank Mobley, member for Atlin, adjourned the debate at 11.30 p. m.

STRAIGHT TALKING ON CAMPAIGN FUND

M. A. Macdonald Says Professional Purist Usually Mantled in Hypocritical Garb

Legislative Press Gallery,
Afternoon Sitting, April 9.

When he resumed the debate on Supply at this afternoon's sitting of the Legislature, M. A. Macdonald, the senior member for Vancouver, dissected his observations and placed them under two distinct headings. The latter part of his address concerned itself with the subject of campaign funds and his part in the alleged C. N. R. incident which aroused a good deal of public attention during the first session of the present Parliament. His observations this afternoon constituted the first public statement from Mr. Macdonald himself, and to use his own words he declared that he was regarded in some quarters as an authority on the subject. The senior Vancouver member left no doubt in the minds of his colleagues as to his opinion of the motives which actuated the expose by the fifth member for Vancouver. He likewise alluded to the Gregory investigation as a travesty of justice and an affront to every principle of decency, with cool calculating chicanery behind every move made by a few false friends. He knew those "friends" very well, however, and was convinced of the fact that the fifth member for Vancouver was merely their servant. Mr. Macdonald's statement made to the House follows in full and his opening remarks on the budget speech are referred to elsewhere in this issue:

Mr. Macdonald's Statement.

"I wish now to deal with another matter not connected with the Budget. You know the old theory still prevails that the Crown must listen to the grievances of its subjects before it can get supply. I have no particular grievance to ventilate, but I wish to take advantage of this occasion to clear up some matters of a more or less personal nature," commenced the Vancouver member. We heard something about campaign funds during the course of this session. You recall that in the debate on the P. G. E. Settlement, several honorable gentlemen referred to that interesting subject. I am sure honorable gentlemen would also like to hear from me as I am regarded in some quarters as an authority on that subject, not from any special qualification, but from force of circumstances.

Not the C. N. R.

"The Leader of the Opposition in the P. G. E. debate, in warding off attacks on himself for his connection with a half million dollars, which was boldly set aside to procure the charter for that railway and to take care of the Conservative party, twitted this side of the House, and myself in particular, with having received for the Liberal party a contribution of \$15,000 from the C. N. R. I interjected at the time to say that it was not Canadian Northern Railway money, to which he replied that the public understood where that money came from.

"Let me say here, Mr. Speaker, what I have said before, that although with the burden chiefly on my shoulders of financing the Liberal party for the past number of years, contributing large sums of money for that purpose for legitimate work and to-day still responsible for large sums, I have never sought nor obtained a contribution

from any railway corporation, not even the B. C. Electric.

Sufficient Reason.

"When the Leader of the Opposition says that \$15,000 came from the C. N. R., I tell him that Dr. McKenzie swore in the most categorical and detailed manner that he did not handle one cent of railway money, but only a personal contribution from R. J. McKenzie. Does my honorable friend suggest that Dr. McKenzie perjured himself? He did not perjure himself—he told the truth because it was understood perfectly that I would not accept a contribution from the C. N. R. I did not seek that contribution—it was accepted not because it was, but because it was not Canadian Northern money.

"I stated specifically at the time that if R. J. McKenzie, as a Liberal, was willing to make a contribution of his own money, not railway money, with no conditions attached, I would accept it for the Liberal party just as other contributions were accepted; otherwise, I would not. Dr. McKenzie's sworn evidence was proof of that. If that statement is not true and it was railway money, then Dr. McKenzie is a perjurer. I am sure he did not perjure himself. I repeat he told the truth when he declared that not one cent of it was railway money, if it was I would not have accepted it for the Liberal party. Let that particular point, therefore, be settled once and for all.

Went Far Afield.

"We had an investigating commission," he continued, "presided over by Mr. Justice Gregory, and the whole scope of the commission was to see if a contribution was obtained from the Canadian Northern Railway. For reasons best known to himself, he saw fit to go outside the scope of that inquiry in breach of the terms of the commission. If he felt he had a roving commission, it should be a general investigation all along the line. If it was an offence to accept this contribution under the conditions it was accepted, who among us in this Legislature or in any other Legislature in Canada, or the Dominion Parliament itself, are not offenders?"

"I am quite sure of this, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. the Premier will bear me out when I say that while I was a member of the Council, in no manner, shape or form, did I ever show favoritism to the C. N. R., although questions arose where their interests were concerned.

Clears Up Point.

In referring to other phases Mr. Macdonald proceeded: "It has been stated many times, either directly or inferentially, that I was criticised not for receiving a contribution for the Liberal party from R. J. Mackenzie, but because it was said I denied receiving it in the House, and thus my veracity has been assailed. Those who say so do not know the facts nor circumstances, and although I have never particularly spoken of it before, I propose to do so now. I was not in the House when a certain member, actuated as you know, by the 'highest and purest' motives, brought this matter up. I only learned from the present Premier in a hurried conversation what he was supposed to have said.

"Now listen to this—the Minister of Railways told me that the charge was made that I received \$25,000 from the C. N. R. at a certain time and place and that I never accounted for it, in other words, put it in my own pocket. That was what he honestly enough told me was charged on that occasion. Do you wonder that I should indignantly deny it? There was not one element of truth in it, in either word, line or syllable, and the base suggestion that I, who far from profiting, spent my own money freely in organization work, diverted campaign funds to my own use, naturally aroused my ire.

Asked for No Statement.

"I was not called upon to go on and give a statement of the campaign contributions the Liberal party did receive through me or anyone else. Had I done so and given a full statement, I can only say that if there was anything wrong with that contribution, there were others just as wrong for which I was not responsible. Because, sir, I yield to no one in the Liberal party with whom I was associated, a higher standard of ethics in this regard than I hold myself, and anyone

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who says differently, knowing the facts as I know the fact, is guilty of brazen hypocrisy of Uriah Heap duplicity. And, yet, although Mr. Speaker, I entered a denial of a statement false in every particular and containing a vile insinuation, I have been repeatedly attacked on this point.

Sinister Purpose.

Alluding to the investigation, Mr. Macdonald says it was designed to effect a sinister purpose, with all its pretence to be in the name of virtue, "an attempt so transparent to secure, not public, but personal ends, that it has deceived no one. Speaking for myself, I would rather by far have a reputation for playing the game decently like a Britisher, than enjoy the emoluments and honor of the best position in the gift of the Crown. Do you think for a moment that it was any honest desire to suppress or expose questionable campaign contributions that led this particular individual to make his charge? Not at all, and I will tell you why. Information later developed of a \$5,000 contribution from the B. C. Electric, a corporation that always has business with this Government and which last session had most important legislation affecting its interests before the House. That information did not come through me—I would scorn to defend myself by a tuteque argument at the expense of those with whom I fought side by side.

Would Leap For It.

"But, now that it is known," he went on, "let me tell you that the fifth member for Vancouver, as well as every other Liberal candidate in Vancouver, had full knowledge of that contribution. Why did he not expose that if he was actuated by an honest desire to suppress questionable campaign contributions? That contribution was obtained by a member of the so-called Purity Squad in the city of Vancouver. The professional purist is usually garbed in the mantle of hypocrisy. Did the fifth member for Vancouver, who knew of that contribution from the B. C. Electric, before the election, or since, raise his breath against it? Not at all. Why if this \$15,000 contribution from R. J. McKenzie had been dangled twenty feet above his head, he would show his usual agility and reach it by a leap in the air.

"Even if it were a straight gift from the Canadian Northern Railway he would never turn it down. Because, Sir, if he would sanction, as he sanctioned by knowing of it and not objecting, a contribution from the B. C. Electric, a corporation which in all my years of looking after the finances of the Liberal party for the province, I never approached directly or indirectly for a contribution, would he not take it straight from the C. N. R.? Why, Sir, would you believe it, another man who was quite satisfied over the receipt of that \$5,000 from the B. C. Electric was the third member for Vancouver (Dr. McIntosh), who publicly pretended to be particularly virtuous in that regard. He was like the fifth member for Vancouver, the very quintessence of fine virtue so far as the public is concerned.

Can't Deny It.

"You say I mention, this fact in his absence. Well, I hope he will soon be back, as I wish him well and it can keep if he wants to deny it; but, he can't deny it. If there was any doubt about the truth of it I would never mention it. I have never found that he or others had much regard for me, and I do not propose any more to be so solicitous for others as I have been. Their charges were made behind my back without any notice to me, and I know of no reason why I should be particularly solicitous about them. If the fifth member for Vancouver had knowledge of parliamentary practice or the decency to follow it he would have given me notice of his intended attack last session so that I might be present and know exactly what he said and not be led into a false position.

Uriah Heap.

"I listened with amusement, not unmixed with contempt," proceeded Mr. Macdonald, "to a dialogue between the Fifth Member for Vancouver and the Member for Newcastle some days ago, when the Member for Newcastle stated that campaign funds have been received from corporations in the past and will be in the future, the Fifth Member for Vancouver with that unctuous air which Uriah Heap could assume, and with that finely trained modulated voice where inflection is of

more importance than substance, said, 'even though that may have been done in the past, that does not say that it was wrong.'

"The assumption was that no matter what others might do, he at all events stood apart as one pure and undefiled, who would sooner lose the modulation of his voice than ever sanction a contribution from a railway corporation. Yet, I have told you of his knowledge and sanction of the B. C. Electric contribution, and far from condemning the man who got the contribution, he was his warm friend and supporter, they were companions in the purity-brigade. And, the man who got it did not consult me before doing so. If he had, I would have advised him to do as I did for years past when looking after provincial finances—never ask them for assistance.

Calculating Chicanery.

"I venture to say Mr. Speaker, that no one surveying that whole situation will come to any other conclusion than that the whole thing was a travesty on justice and an affront to every principle of decency. Cool, calculating chicanery was behind every move made by a few false friends, and I know them very well, the member for Vancouver was only their servant, having one object in view, and that not the good either of the Liberal party nor the public interest. I know I may have made mistakes; I may not have said the right thing, nor adopted the right course in every instance. At all events, there was no treachery nor cut-throat methods behind any errors in judgment I may have made.

"I was consistently and persistently hounded for over a year for political purposes, everyone who was willing to barter his sworn evidence being pressed into the service of an unscrupulous opposition. It might well be that in view of all that I might not do or say the most politic thing in all circumstances when attacked from every quarter that foul ingenuity could suggest.

For Public Information.

"I have taken advantage of this occasion," he went on, "to make for the first time this statement, I have done so because it has been stated to me by friends that the public were not aware of the circumstances as they presented themselves to me at the time. I made the denial in the House, and I felt that I had a right at this stage to state why I was justified in taking the course I did. Of this I am sure, that in spite of the effort made, I have in as full a measure as I ever had, the confidence of my constituents, and I have not the slightest doubt of their support in the future. The public are able to see through a rill fence.

Bowser Saved From Bar.

"But, Mr. Speaker, what have we to say of the Leader of the Opposition, who has the hardihood to taunt me of the Liberal party on the question of campaign funds? Why, sir, he owes it to the generosity of the members on this side of the floor, that he was not haled before the bar of the House last session, like a common culprit, to either give particulars of a campaign contribution given in connection with obtaining a charter for a railroad, in connection with the most nefarious railway deal that was ever foisted on the people of this province, or be committed to the tower!

"The evidence given showed a prima facie case," said Mr. Macdonald, "not of a voluntary contribution from an individual, but of a criminal act, because it is within the code. Individuals whether they are directors of a railroad, or a bank, or a joint stock company, have a perfect right to contribute their own money, but they have no right to give, nor has anyone to take, contributions in consideration of public benefits to be received. What a fortunate man the honorable gentleman is! If such a prima facie case was made out against me, there would have been an investigation ordered before sunset. The Liberal party are scriptural—they love their enemies and chastise their friends.

Stop Procedure.

"I quite admit that it is well to avoid even the appearance of evil, and if both parties are bound by the same rules, it can be done, and thus prevent contributions from anyone connected, however remotely with railway enterprises. One of my first acts as Attorney-General was to prepare under my supervision legislation to cover this

very situation, and although for reasons not necessary now to state, it has not yet been introduced, I believe it will be at a later date and before the next election. The point of importance is that the preparation of that legislation was my act.

"The hon. member from Newcastle," concluded the Vancouver member, "made some sensible remarks free from all cant on this subject. The question is as old as party government. Does anyone imagine that the Union Government at Ottawa carried on the last election without large contributions from wealthy individuals? The member for Newcastle referred to a famous Liberal statesman in England who received £40,000 from Cecil Rhodes, and that at a time when he had gold concessions in South Africa. He did not mention the name, though he might have done so—Mr. Gladstone. You will know that he was probably quite as good a Christian as a certain preacher in Vancouver, whose torism so outran all other considerations, that in the exercise of Christian charity he made me the subject of one of his sermons. He did not hurt me—character, if one has any, cannot be hurt. I make no further comment on that. Unjust attack always carries its own refutation."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1918

SOLDIERS' LAND BILL INTRODUCED BY THE PREMIER

Measure Foreshadows Practical Co-operation Between Dominion and Province

MUCH DISCUSSION IS EXPECTED IN PASSAGE

Legislative Press Gallery, April 9.

The first business of the House this afternoon was the introduction by the Premier of a Bill to provide lands for the use and benefit of returned soldiers, brief reference to which was made in this day's issue of The Times. The measure received its first reading and, judging from the remarks of the member for Fort George, it will be assured of a good deal of discussion in the committee stage.

For some extraordinary reason or other Mr. Ross promptly exhibited a concern and asked the Premier if the introduction of the Bill was intended to stifle discussion on that particular subject.

Mr. Oliver—"I have never attempted to shut off discussion on any subject and this will be no exception."

Mr. Bowser—"Mind you keep to that; we've got you now," this with acidity.

Promises Fulfilled.

Implementing his announcement in the House immediately following his elevation to the Premiership and in keeping with the expressed intention contained in the Speech from the Throne Premier Oliver's Bill suggests the practical demonstration of Provincial and Federal co-operation in the matter of rehabilitating British Columbia soldiers and placing them on British Columbia land. It will be remembered that one of the subjects discussed at the Conference of Provincial Premiers in Ottawa—an event which was attended by such disastrous circumstances to this Province—was this very question and had Premier Brewster lived he would have doubtless introduced the Bill to the Legislature himself as a result of an arranged co-operative plan.

What It Does.

The measure empowers the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to reserve from sale or other disposition, except for the purposes of the Act, any area of Crown lands, and to cancel any

such reserv part. Faci the same p lands suita measure ar therefor ou one Fund of such pay million do sanction of subvide, terms and c advisable, t of soldiers divisions, b gregate 160 cept in su suitable for

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such reserve either in whole or in part. Facility is likewise extended by the same process for the purchase of lands suitable for the design of the measure and to authorize payment therefor out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund so long as the aggregate of such payments do not exceed half a million dollars without the further sanction of the Legislature. Power to subdivide, lease or grant, on such terms and conditions as may be deemed advisable, to any soldier or community of soldiers one or more of such subdivisions, but not exceeding in the aggregate 160 acres to each soldier, except in such cases where lands are suitable for pastoral purposes only.

The Quid Pro Quo.

"The 'co-operative' clause provides an extension in that it creates machinery for the conveyance—free of cost and subject only to reasonable conditions of occupation and improvement—to the Dominion of Canada, for the purpose of enabling the newly-appointed Federal Soldiers' Settlement Board to settle British Columbia soldiers in this Province on such Crown Lands as may be found necessary for such purpose. As a quid pro quo in this connection it is the hope of the Government that the Federal Board will permit the \$2,500 loan under the Dominion Act to be available for each soldier so settled. The duty of administering the Act will be placed in the hands of the Minister of Lands.

Definition of Soldier.

The term "soldier" used in the Act means "any person who, since August 4, 1914, being a resident of British Columbia, has joined or hereafter joins for service in the present war, any of the naval or military forces of His Majesty or of any power being at the time an ally of His Majesty, and who having so joined has been engaged or engages on active service in connection with the said war, either at home or abroad; and, without in any way restricting the generality of the foregoing provisions, shall be deemed to include any person so joining, whether by enlistment or as a volunteer or reservist, or through being commissioned, mobilized, called out, or drafted to such service, and whether in the capacity of officer, seaman, soldier, marine, nurse, or in any capacity whatsoever." The widow of any soldier as defined above comes within the scope of the provisions of the bill.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL

ACCOMMODATION ASKED

Delegation From Saanich Waited Upon Minister of Education To-day

Legislative Press Gallery, April 10.

That the Provincial Government provide the funds for the erection of additional school premises at Cloverdale was the substance of a request directed to the Hon. J. D. McLean, Minister of Education, by a delegation comprised of both sexes, which waited upon him this morning.

The quest of the deputation finds its origin in the fact that the children of Saanich are now denied attendance at the schools in Victoria saying only on the payment of fees, and the desired accommodation is intended as a way of solving the difficulty and the taking care of the Saanich children formerly attending city schools.

The Minister was appreciative of the necessities of the case but he was obliged to tell the delegation that it was somewhat doubtful if present allocations of school estimates would permit of any balance which could be placed for disposal in the manner suggested.

He, however, did not refuse, and has promised to communicate with the delegation again at an early date, when the answer of the Department would be given.

SOLDIER MEASURE IS ASSURED OF SUPPORT

Premier Oliver Receives Congratulations This Morning; Co-operation Promised

Legislative Press Gallery, April 10.

Premier Oliver is the recipient this morning of many congratulations on his Soldiers' Land Bill, introduced and read a first time at yesterday afternoon's sitting of the Legislature. One of the first callers at his office in the Parliament Buildings shortly after 9 o'clock to-day, was Major Ashton, of the Dominion Soldiers' Settlement Board, who is in the city posting himself in connection with the details which will doubtless enter into any co-operative arrangement made between the Dominion and Provincial Governments.

The Premier and the Ottawa representative had a lengthy conference, with the Bill as the text of the conversation, and although Major Ashton was not in a position to make rash promises or in any way commit the Board, of which he is a member, he made it quite clear to Mr. Oliver that sympathetic co-operation could be relied upon.

The Premier has agreed to loan the Land Settlement Board free of all cost for the balance of the present year, so that the machinery will be quite ready as soon as the Dominion body agrees to the proposals of the Provincial Government, both in the Act now before the Legislature and as mentioned from time to time in these columns.

Mr. Oliver is perfectly satisfied that this Government will, on the measure becoming law, be enabled to do business with the Soldiers' Settlement Board, not only of a beneficial nature to British Columbia, but also to the Federal authorities, while a long way will have been traversed towards a solution in respect of settling soldiers on British Columbia lands.

The Premier looks to the wide powers of the Bill to provide a free hand, the elasticity of its provisions to ensure rapidity of action, and the publicity to be given to all rules, regulations and Orders-in-Council passed under the authority of the Act will keep an interested public fully posted upon a question of vital importance.

LET THEM STEW IN THEIR OWN JUICE

Says W. R. Ross of the Issue Between Vancouver Members

SAYS GOVERNMENT NOT ABOLISHED PATRONAGE

Ninety-Minute Speech Was Scarcely of the "Hum-dinger" Type

Legislative Press Gallery, April 9.

Not a single member of the Government could cavil at the speech delivered by the ex-Minister of Lands this afternoon. For more than ninety minutes Mr. Ross maintained the best of humor while he harmlessly tabulated the misdeeds and shortcomings of the present Administration. His chief disappointment was that since the advent of the Liberal party to power there had not been a daily reiteration of its policy to hang, draw and quarter the patronage system. He charged that from the Premier downwards not a single member of the Government had kept faith with the spirit of pre-election promises in this connection. And when George Bell took

his assertion at its face value by quoting a timely instance where during the last twenty-four hours a "real Tory" had thanked him for his good offices in securing him a job at the Parliament Buildings, Mr. Ross retained the same opinion that patronage lived and flourished. The various members of the Cabinet came in for their censure in proportion to their offences as seen by the member for Fort George.

Wanted More.

Commencing with congratulations to the Minister of Finance on the manner in which his Budget speech had portrayed to the House the financial condition of the province, the member for Fort George said it was a matter of regret that Mr. Hart had rung down the curtain after the first act, as it were. He had hoped that it would have been possible for the Finance Minister to have presented to his "audience" something a little more encouraging than the lugubrious picture to which he had confined his attention. However, philosophized the member for Fort George, the Minister of Finance was still young and there would doubtless dawn a day ere long when his duties would not rest so heavily upon his shoulders. Nevertheless, continued Mr. Ross, it was a fact that Mr. Hart had proved by his reasoning that the province after all was the richest gem in the Dominion. For all that, it was, of course, out of the question to expect British Columbia's development to reach fruition under the present regime; he felt convinced about it because so long had been aken in getting a start.

On Weart's Speech.

The Fort George member took a good deal of room for the development of his theme and in the process he devoted his particular attention to the members of the Cabinet. In one or two instances, however, private members came in for attention, although the soft impeachment was invariably administered in the best of good humor. His first reference was to the member for South Vancouver, in whom he had now recognized the ability qualifying Mr. Weart for a seat on the Treasury benches. The latter's exposition of the banking situation and his advocacy of drastic reform in this connection, while strangely similar to the contents of the Stuart Henderson brochure, had diffused a ray of hope that all banking troubles would soon be relegated to the limbo of forgotten things. While not in the mood to allow the South Vancouver member to take all the credit for the theories propounded on Friday last, Mr. Ross dismissed the similarity of the two systems, as advocated by Mr. Henderson and Mr. Weart, with the consolation that the province was the beneficiary in that two prominent men were thinking along the same lines.

Dry Farming.

The experimental farms established by the late Government at Quilchena and at Mile 150, in the Cariboo, in the interests of dry farming were of some concern to the member for Fort George and he had yet to discover in the estimates that any provision had been made for a continuance of the very beneficial work which had been carried on at those two points. In the apparent absence of any tangible proof of material results accruing to the policy of the old Government in this connection, Mr. Ross explained to the House that fully five years were required to get the desired effect. Be that as it might, he was convinced that the plan was worth the fostering. At any rate it had formed a part of the constructive colonization scheme of the regime in which he had held the portfolio of Minister of Lands.

Injured Innocence.

Just why the Hon. Mr. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, had so far forgotten himself as to omit any inquiry of the member for Fort George relative to the needs of the latter's constituency when considering appropriations for the current year was beyond Mr. Ross's comprehension. "He never consulted me in the least particular, not even did he give me a call by telephone," innocently proceeded the member for the northern riding. Nevertheless if the actions of the Minister of Lands did not arouse his enthusiasm, Mr. Ross voiced a particular penchant for the constructive ideas as propounded by the senior member for Vancouver during the preceding speech this afternoon. Mr. Macdonald, continued the member for Fort George, had shown himself to be a man of constructive ideas and it was a matter of regret that details of a more personal nature during the last twelve months had so taken up the Vancouver member's time as to deprive the Government of his valued services and advice.

"Stew In Their Own Juice."

It was suddenly borne in upon the member for Fort George at this point that the Ministers of the Crown, with about one exception, had retired from their seats. However, with a significant and benevolent glance at the Press Gallery Mr. Ross was hopeful that his observations would be duly disseminated to an anxious public. For the moment he preferred to make brief reference to the speech of the senior member for Vancouver already reported in this afternoon's issue of The Times. With the subject of the controversy between two members of the "grand old Liberal party" the Opposition had no particular concern, he said. The members on that side of the House very naturally maintained a complacent men as the two actors in the comedy exchanged pleasantries on the principles involved where campaign funds figured. In the main, however, he was prepared to "let them stew in their own juice." As the sizzle went out of this parting shot Mr. Ross caught the eye of the lady member for Vancouver, whom he reminded that he had seen her self-confessed Liberal leanings gradually become translated from a platform stand of independence to that of straight Liberal.

Patronage.

"What has any one of the party at present in power done to implement those promises?" was an interrogation from the member for Fort George immediately following a general query to the Government as to whether it was still bound to the policy sponsored by the late Premier insofar as it pledged itself to the abolition of patronage. He ventured the charge that from the Premier downwards not one member of the Government had made any reference to the subject during the present session in any form that could be construed as a reiteration of the pledge which had played such a prominent part in the general election. Either the alleged patronage in vogue prior to the general election of 1916 was not as bad as it was painted or the whole programme adopted by the Government to be in that campaign was merely a policy of misrepresentation. With a wealth of newspaper extracts Mr. Ross was at some pains to show how many occasions this fixed purpose of a Liberal Administration in power had been propounded from the public platform.

George Bell Chips In.

George Bell, second member for Victoria, interjected an opportune remark at this juncture which somewhat took the wind out of Mr. Ross's sails. On the way to the House this afternoon Mr. Bell had been stopped by a "real Tory" who offered him thanks for securing him a position at the Parliament Buildings. He further reminded the member for Fort George that Victoria members had been jacked-up by local Liberals for being so loyal "to the old brigade." He was prepared to supply the member for Fort George with the name of the man in question and Mr. Ross expressed the desire to have it, promising it preservation for posterity as one example of where a Conservative had been given a job by the present Liberal Administration.

A Sympathetic Listener.

The member for Fort George read an extract from a speech delivered by the Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works, and followed it with this: "The Public Works Department is more permeated and rotten with political patronage than any other Department of the Government." The Minister of Mines—"my handsome friend from Nanaimo," as he chose to call the Hon. Wm. Sloan—had had twelve months in which to show what he could do, but he had merely lived up to the appellation given to him by the member for Grand Forks, who had assured many audiences last summer that Mr. Sloan would always be found to be a sympathetic listener. "He has done nothing but listen ever since," dryly observed Mr. Ross as he proceeded to detail the journeys of the Minister of Mines "to get acquainted with conditions."

Shipbuilding.

The Department of Lands was not overlooked and if there is one thing causing Mr. Ross more annoyance than any other it is his firm conviction that the Forest Branch has been dismantled. He also makes the charge that the shipbuilding programme, which had originated from the Department over which he presided in the late regime, had been abrogated by the party now in power.

Mr. Oliver—"What does the honorable gentleman mean by his statement that the Government of the day has abrogated the shipbuilding policy of the late Government?"

Mr. Ross—"I mean that you have let it die for the want of nourishment."

Mr. Oliver—"Then am I to believe that it was a policy requiring perpetual nourishment by the usual pampering methods?"

Mr. Ross let it go at that, but asked the Premier if he was aware of the Dominion Government's steel shipbuilding programme and was the Provincial Government doing anything towards its encouragement in British Columbia. Yes, Mr. Oliver said, that knowledge had even penetrated his

density. And since the Prime Minister was absent from the House when the member for Fort George had gone lengthily into the patronage question, he proceeded to ask Mr. Oliver—"what about it?" He directed his question in three ways and the Premier was "not having any" in either. From which Mr. Ross asked if it was to be left to the public to draw its own conclusion.

A Good Answer.

Mr. Oliver—"What the public thinks will depend upon the credence the public places upon the observations of my honorable friend."

Mr. Ross—"Can the Premier tell me when it is intended to bring the Civil Service Act into operation?"

Mr. Oliver—"I will give my friend the stereotyped answer: 'The matter will be taken into serious consideration.'"

The Pacific Great Eastern Railway question and the Land Settlement Board were more or less briefly touched upon by the member for Fort George, who purposely left untouched the returned soldier question pending debate which would follow in connection with the bill introduced by the Premier this afternoon and alluded to in this day's issue of The Times.

The Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, adjourned the debate after a speech from Mr. Ross over one hour and three-quarters.

SECOND READING IS GIVEN TO GAME ACT

Four Speeches Agree on General Principles of the Measure

JOHN BUCKHAM MAKES A PLEA FOR THE GRIZZLY

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Session, April 10.

Four more speeches this afternoon preceded the second reading of the Bill to amend the Game Act. Frank Mobley, the member for Atlin, told the House that had the old system of "preservation" been allowed to continue he could see nothing for it but the extermination of British Columbia game. Richard Wallis, the member for Alberni, came out with the suggestion that pigeons be included in the class of feathery species for special protection, while Mr. Hawthornthwaite, the member for Newcastle, would reduce the gun license to one dollar so that the silent places might be enlivened by the tramp of more hunters in search of recreation under the blue canopy. But it remained for John Buckham to infuse the romance into the debate as he came to the defence of the grizzly. The second reading passed by a vote of twenty-five to nine, and the measure will be committed at the next sitting of the House.

Not Enough Trees.

In particular reference to the great hullabaloo which had been raised over the decapitation of some forty game wardens, Mr. Mobley was by no means doling out sympathy. His only regret was that more were not concerned, and from the trend of his remarks it was not difficult to imagine that he knew whereof he spoke. He said that in the north country there were so many game wardens and fire wardens a short while since, who were more or less ornaments instead of useful officers of the Department, that if a bear had shown its nose out of a thicket there would not have been sufficient trees to accommodate the wardens, so "indomitable" were these political appointees of the late regime. Unless the new Act was going to be an improvement on the old statute there was no use proceeding further with it. So far as he could see, however, it would do all that was expected of it. Mr. Mobley was glad to know that the

pay of the Provincial Police was to be increased, particularly as their duties would now be administrative and not political.

Not because Mr. Wallis was out for special protection of the pigeon, but because many "sportsmen" went out in the woods in the Alberni district with the intention of shooting pigeons, whereas they actually selected Blue Grouse as their prey out of season. Pigeons should be in the protected class. The word contiguous appears in one section of the Bill, and Mr. Wallis suggested that some farmers would not understand its meaning in the light of limitation of radius.

The Grizzly's Friend.

That he came from a happy hunting ground district and was himself an "out-of-doors" sportsman of the first water was demonstrated by John Buckham, the member for Columbia, in a capital contribution to the debate on this question. Mr. Buckham is the sponsor of the amendment to repeal the hundred dollar license and to put it with a sliding scale of tax for each head of game killed. He predicted that the sliding tax system would be followed by an inrush of big game hunters who would naturally limit their kill at twenty-five dollars a head to the State. He urged that only male animals be exposed to the hunter's gun under regulation, and that elk shooting should be prohibited, with the importation of new elk to Columbia district. He told in picturesque fashion of the manner in which the Shuswap and Kootenay Indians have slaughtered big horn and other game animals wholesale for their meat supplies, regarding the paleface game laws as "mere scraps of paper."

Is Inoffensive.

In his plea on behalf of Bruin, the member for Columbia touched the sportsman's instinct and asked that the grizzly be removed from the unprotected list. "Every grizzly at large," he proceeded, "is a valuable asset to this province, both as a lure and as a trophy, hence it is short-sighted policy for B. C. to permit the poisoning, baiting, trapping and shooting of these animals in unlimited quantities," he said. "This animal is treated as though it were the most destructive of beasts, when as a matter of fact it is not only inoffensive to human beings, but harmless to livestock. On the contrary the grizzly keeps well back and high up as a general rule, in out-of-the-way places where it must be sought by strenuous exertion, time and money, and there can be no denying that the grizzly is the prize trophy of the Canadian Rockies. "Just so long as B. C. has grizzlies to make awesome tracks in soft ground or snow, to dig out gophers and rip up great rocks on mountain sides to the danger of all below—just so long will keen sportsmen in all parts of the earth cast their eyes and thoughts toward the Canadian Rockies, for a charming web of romance and adventure surrounds the grizzly, like a halo around the sun."

Makes It a Loss.

Mr. Buckham quoted a wealth of statistical data in which he sought to show that Mr. Bowser's four years of profit had actually been a loss, insofar as it applied to the administration of the Game Department, to the tune of some \$70,000.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite could see no reason why the big game of the province should be so carefully preserved for the sportsmen who came from far and near, unless they were made to pay a good deal more for the pleasure than was the case to-day. As a rule the class of sportsman who came to this section of the Dominion in search of the larger fry came with a fat wallet and could well afford to pay for select treatment. On the general merits of the Bill Mr. Hawthornthwaite was very apprehensive as to whether or not the imposition of game preservation duties onto the shoulders of the Provincial Policeman was wise; he did not think so.

Poor Ball!

In reply to Mr. Buckham's translation of a profit into a loss, Mr. Bowser said that the member for Columbia had not included the amount accrued to the Department in respect of fines; furthermore he had charged bounties against turnover.

Premier Oliver objected to another speech on the same subject by way of explanation from the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Bowser—"You're too late; I'm through."

Mr. Buckham—"What should bounties be charged to?"

Mr. Bowser—"Charge 'em to the P. G. E."

LANDS D COSTING

Minister T and P

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LANDS DEPARTMENT COSTING LESS MONEY

Minister Tells His Difficulties
and Progress He is
Making

NO HIT OR MISS PLAN IS ALLOWED TO EXIST

Legislative Press Gallery,
Afternoon Session, April 10.

So that the general public would be enabled to get some idea of the administrative work of the Department of Lands and see how difficult had been the task to rescue its various branches from the effects of the late Government's policies, the Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, this afternoon indulged in a survey of the activities of his own particular charge. He was taking up the debate on supply and availed himself of the opportunity presented to carry out his intention. He was able to tell the House among other things that in spite of well-earned increases in salary in the case of some members of his staff, there would be a reduction in administrative expense during the coming year. The major part of his address, however, was concerned with a recital of beneficial reforms instituted by him for the more efficient carrying on of the work of the Lands Department, while not a few of his observations were by way of reply to the criticisms of the member for Fort George, who was Minister of Lands in the late regime.

Compliments.
The Minister commenced with remarks of congratulation to Mr. Speaker Keen, to his deputy and to the first lady member to occupy a seat on the floor of the House. To the Minister of Finance Mr. Pattullo had a special note of praise since he considered that Mr. Hart had presented to the House an excellent account of the finances of the province, in form if not in outlook. It was a vastly different matter to deliver a Budget speech and bring down estimates when finances were buoyant and when a thousand dollars by way of expenditure here and there was a mere bagatelle; but when it was a case of almost superhuman ingenuity to make both ends meet the tune lacked its harmony.

Found Disorganization.
Proceeding to a general survey of the Department over which he presides, Mr. Pattullo said he did not believe any defence of its administration was necessary, but for the simple reason that the general public had a right to know something about the affairs which concerned them. He was not intending to launch out into an excursion of recrimination; it was necessary, however, to allude to a little of the past history insofar as it had bearing on the Department of Lands.

And in this connection it had to be conceded that when he stepped into the place vacated by the now member for Fort George he had found a state of disorganization the correction of which was just beginning to assume something like business shape. In passing, however, he wished to assure Mr. Ross that in the early days of his ministrations over the Lands Department there had been traces of an attempt to get down to a sound system in regard to the land and water branches. But the erstwhile Minister of Lands was then travelling in bad company and gradually fell by the wayside with all his good intentions pigeonholed.

Spring Cleaning.
Notwithstanding the fact that the Department vaults were literally filled with matters unsolved and questions unsettled, Mr. Pattullo said that his present staff was busily engaged in the cleaning up process and the prospect of success was quite bright. His first move in connection with the land and water branches was to bring them under the same roof instead of allowing the risk of inefficiency and additional expense to continue. He alluded to the great loss to the province which had followed lax methods, not forgetting the alienation of allegedly agricultural lands when such were straight timber lands. But now, continued the Minister, there existed no hit or miss system; decisions were regulated by policy and governed by an appreciation of the best interests of the people.

Dealing with the Survey Department he said that many problems were under careful consideration to the end that the proper sort of information would be available in respect of surveyed lands. Hitherto the method of supplying advice and information to intending settlers had been conducted more in the nature of a lottery—sometimes you touched lucky but more often not. That was all changed now, however, and a staff of clerks was being kept busy compiling lists and locations of surveyed lands so that Government agents throughout the province could tell at a glance just where and what surveyed lands were available for settlement.

Department Costing Less.

It was a source of satisfaction to the Minister to be able to inform the House, despite the fact that the Estimates presented called for a number of salary increases, the cost of administering the Department would be less this year than last and efficiency would be none the less assured. It was, in fact—with apologies to the member for Fernie—a "simultaneous co-relation of effort" which had made it possible for his Department to weather the storm and emerge from its chaotic state into one promising progress on sane lines. And in his reference to land settlement Mr. Pattullo said it had to be conceded that the policy adopted in the past was responsible for the difficulties of to-day.

The creation of an expensive system in those days was a very difficult phase of the question, because it was only human that the withdrawal of machinery which had been especially run for more than its ordinary function would to some extent arouse the ire of those persons with whom it had been looked upon as a boon. The fact remained, however, that if the system had to continue additional taxes would be a resultant factor and if it were to be withdrawn there would be hardship worked on the people.

Irrigation and Forest Service.

The Minister referred Mr. Ross to legislation of the present session in respect of the latter's reference to a grazing policy. He likewise emphasized what was considered to be common knowledge with regard to water. Upon a conservation scheme the farmers of the Dry Belt depended for their future. Rather than condemnation of the measure before the House there should be every assistance to its passage by reason of the fact that the whole prosperity of the Dry Belt depended upon it.

Passing on to the Forest Service—dismantled and existing only in name according to the ex-Minister of Lands—Mr. Pattullo agreed that its administration was suffering under the handicap of shorthandedness; many men had gone to the front and their places were difficult to fill. But here again the Minister reminded Mr. Ross that even he had had to go to the United States—and he had no quarrel with that—for his staff in normal times, so that it was nothing to be wondered at that the year 1918 should present some difficulties. In the fire protection branch the use of the small automobile had been attended with such excellent results last year that the plan would be considerably implemented during the coming summer and fall.

Market Extension.

Replying to the criticism which had been levelled against the policy adopted by the Department in the matter of market extension, Mr. Pattullo stated that the closing of the Toronto office had been decided upon for the good and sufficient reason that to keep it open would mean no more than the expenditure of the public money of the province, netting in return but the veriest modicum of business. Car shortage and the risk of giving the province a black eye in the non-fulfillment of orders were, however, factors in the matter under reference.

Not a Square Deal.

The Minister repeated his stand on the relation of the Province of British Columbia to the Dominion of Canada as a whole in that he regretted that this province had not benefited to anything like the extent of her deserved share under conditions existing in the Dominion at the present time. It was the duty of British Columbians, he said, to look to the present internal conditions with an eye on the future, since British Columbia had given the largest ratio of men to the nation's fighting forces with no commensurate return by way of war business. At the same time by reason of her salubrious climate this province would eventually have to look after a great many more returned men than had gone from her borders. He alluded also to the fact that just as the south had failed to lend a helping hand to the north in this province, so would the east, now profiting to the full, turn the blind eye to the appeals of the west later. He referred to the fact that a helping hand from the south might have netted for Prince Rupert

the job of building ten steel vessels, mention of which was made in these columns recently.

Hopeful.

Notwithstanding everything, the Minister was of the opinion that the class of legislation brought down during the present session was of the right kind and would go a long way towards piloting the British Columbia ship of state into smooth waters.

SLOCAN MINING

TROUBLE AGAIN

IN LIMELIGHT

Mr. Bowser Calls House Committee's Proposed Action "Sidestepping"

Legislative Press Gallery,
Afternoon Sitting, April 10.

The debate on the resolution moved a few days ago by the member for Slocan, calling for an investigation by the Standing Committee on Mining into certain allegations with regard to the situation created by the issuance of a new schedule of Trail smelter charges, was resumed this afternoon by Premier Oliver. The question involved is whether or not the charges are justifiable, and Mr. Oliver told the House that he had been assured by officers of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, and the mine operators that both their claims were equally possible of justification.

Not Ripe For Commission.

In reply to the amendment offered by the member for Newcastle to the effect that the matter should be referred to a Royal Commissioner the Prime Minister suggested the time was not ripe for that yet. He urged Mr. Hawthornthwaite to withdraw the resolution, and wait for the investigation by the House Committee. This course would be more advisable, he said, in view of the fact that the Dominion Government had taken cognizance of the situation by the loaning of a metallurgist to the committee appointed by the Associated Boards of Trade. The Premier urged the passage of the original resolution for the moment because its findings would be reported to the House, and ample discussion thereon afforded. Upon the nature of their gleanings would then depend the advisability of taking further steps along the lines suggested by the amendment.

Side-Stepping.

The Leader of the Opposition, while not in a position to offer any personal opinion, had gathered from the reports in the press and the airing of the matter in public that a very important point required settlement. If it was established that the prices asked by the smelter were excessive it might very easily have the effect of retarding mining development at a time when expansion was most necessary and for that reason a proper investigation should be instituted. The diversity of opinion between the contestants was so wide that the corrective asked for in the Nelson resolution would be insufficient and nothing short of a side-step. He supposed that in the dying days of the session the plan was to "cool" the parties concerned into the belief that the Government was taking some action to rectify the present situation. To get at the bottom of the whole business he considered that only a proper inquiry with experts and facility to examine the books of the company would effectually meet the case. The right road lay in the appointment of a Royal Commission.

Improper Motives.

Premier Oliver objected to the imputation of improper motives to the mover of the resolution as against the rules of the House and Mr. Speaker suggested that the Leader of the Opposition knew he was out of order. Mr. Bowser was sorry if he had acted in contravention of House rules, but went on to suggest that it would be impossible for the Committee to bring in a report that could be of any use during the present session now only a few

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1918

days to run. Moreover, it was merely passing the matter over to a partizan committee controlled by the Government.

Mr. Oliver—"Surely the honorable gentleman is not serious when he says that the Government is controlling the Mining Committee."

Mr. Bowser—"Nearly all of that Committee is of the same political stripe as the Government, and my friend has only to crack the whip to make them all cackle."

Rebuke From Speaker.

Mr. Speaker—"The honorable gentleman has no right to anticipate the findings of that Committee."

Mr. Oliver—"There has been no communication from me to that Committee during the whole of the session."

Mr. Bowser—"My information is that the matter has been caucused."

Mr. Oliver—"You had better get the dictaphones rearranged."

Mr. Bowser—"The only dictaphone I know of is the one placed in my room on its vacation by myself, and I suppose that was put there so that you could spy on your own colleagues."

The member for Newcastle suggested that it would be fair for the members of the Opposition to take the Premier's assurance that the matter would be taken up at once, and the report of the committee submitted to the House before the end of the session.

The Minister of Mines adjourned the debate.

ALBERNI MEMBER IS GOOD ROADS BOOSTER

Sees Danger in Neglect of
Highways; Would Raise
Auto Tax

Legislative Press Gallery.

Afternoon Session, April 10.

Confessing to his first appearance in public life the member for Alberni asked the indulgence of the House this afternoon while he read his contribution to the debate on supply. Mr. Wallis followed the Minister of Lands and dealt for the most part with the subject of roads and the methods adopted in setting out the appropriations for the coming year. He objected to the lump sum style inasmuch as there was not the slightest indication as to how any single district was going to fare in the matter of new construction or maintenance. He agreed with the member for Delta's designation of "jackpot," as truly descriptive of this section of the estimates. He appealed for a suggestion as to what narrative he would be able to relate to his constituents when asked about work, contemplated in the Alberni riding.

Trunk Roads.

Mr. Wallis tritely referred to the Island section of the Canadian Highway as being in a worse condition at the present time than he had ever known it, and, in view of the fact that the province was doing its level best to encourage tourist traffic, it was the policy of folly to allow the trunk roads of the Island to fall to a standard that would merely mean the discouragement of automobile traffic. The member for Alberni regretted that the Government was still building and maintaining roads with the methods of a by-gone age by the use of horse drawn vehicles—a method absolutely out-of-date. To correct it he knew it meant a good deal of extra expense, and he proceeded to show the Minister of Finance how some additional revenue could be obtained for the purpose suggested.

Increase Auto Taxes.

He agreed with the member for Comox in the suggestion that the tax on automobiles should be increased and the pattern of the Old Country in this connection, said he, might well be followed by British Columbia. That was to say the tax should be imposed on motor vehicles according to horsepower. He had been assured by a large number of car owners that any plan adopted by the Government for

re-adjustment of taxation on the horse-power basis would be agreeable to them on the understanding that such additional revenue would be devoted to expenditure on permanent concrete highway work. Mr. Wallis said that the people of the Island were beginning to resent the destruction of the trunk roads by tourists from whom they believed little benefit was derived, while if the Government was sincere in its desire to encourage the tourists to come here, it must of necessity maintain the standard of the trunk roads.

Blue Ruin.

In conclusion Mr. Wallis was warm in his approval of the Government's intention to relieve the farmer of the burden of taxation on his improvements. He had always been a stout advocate of this, and he felt that the farmers of the province would herald this as the best news received from the Government. The member for Alberni, as a parting exhortation, suggested that the Government should not show quite so much of the white feather and indulge less in the Blue Ruin talk. The province was a wonderful province, possessing wonderful resources, and as a matter of fact, he said, the people generally were by no means as pessimistic as the Government.

PLENTY OF RAILS ARE AVAILABLE FOR C. N. R.

Premier Oliver Hears of One
Hundred and Thirty-
Five Miles

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 11.

While it would be useless to attempt to prophesy the exact date upon which an hourly Canadian Northern train service will run from Victoria to Sooke Harbor it will be of interest to know that a shortage of rails no longer holds good as an argument for the non-completion of the line.

Premier Oliver received a telegram this morning from a large concern in Montreal to the effect that five thousand tons of fifty-six pound rails and ten thousand tons of eighty-pound rails were immediately available. The Minister of Railways was asked if he had any interest in such a subject. Mr. Oliver wired back to say that he was interested but not to the extent of a purchase. He did say, however, that he had knowledge of a certain railway company—by name the Canadian Northern Pacific—who would no doubt be glad to hear the news, since the company in question had many miles of graded road on Vancouver Island merely awaiting rails.

The five thousand tons represent fifty-six miles and ten thousand tons represent eighty miles, so that the whole consignment landed in Victoria would enable the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway to go ahead with its Vancouver Island contract and practically wipe out the obligation which has been the storm centre of platform and dwelling house for many a day in this section of the province.

The Premier was also informed yesterday by telegram that the Arbitration Board was resuming its duties in connection with the determining of Canadian Northern share values, with the inquiry as to when it would be possible for Mr. Oliver to attend for the purpose of placing the case of British Columbia before the Board. He wired back to say that it would be impossible for him to go to Toronto for another three weeks, and unless arrangements could be so made to fit in with that date for B. C.'s hearing he would send along additional documentary data for the guidance of the Commission.

VACANT LOT BILL READ SECOND TIME

Eight-Hour Day Measure for
Mines Similarly Treated
by House

Legislative Press Gallery,

Evening Session, April 10.

Second reading was given at this evening's session to Hon. William Sloan's Bill designed to limit the hours of metalliferous mine workers to eight. The Minister explained that one of the chief objects of the measure was that of preserving the contented mind of the men who toil underground. It was necessary if the output from the mines of the Province was to be maintained and increased to see to it that the conditions under which the men worked were made as easy as possible.

Admittedly there might be some little additional cost in the actual operation of the mines, but he considered that to be infinitesimal when compared with a contented mining fraternity and its attendant assurance of increased output, particularly so at this time. Last year's labor troubles were directly traceable, the Minister asserted, to hours of labor under which the miners of Trall, Rosland and Fernie worked.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite dryly observed that the Minister of Mines had been burning the midnight oil in the preparing of his somewhat lengthy arguments in support of the Bill. Newcastle's member wanted a six-hour's day for the coal miner.

The Bill to amend the Metalliferous Mines Inspection Act was given its second reading, and the debate on the second reading of the Coal Mines Regulation Act was adjourned by A. I. Fisher, the member for Fernie.

Vacant Lots.

Premier Oliver outlined the Vacant Lot Conscriptio Bill, to which reference has already been made in these columns, and the measure was given its second reading. George Bell and H. C. Hall, Victoria members, were warm in their praise for the Bill, and despite the fact that Newcastle's member was torn between two emotions he had to concede that the Government had at last done something in the interests of increased production.

The House adjourned at 11.30.

PROVINCE MUST GIVE OTTAWA ALL SUPPORT

Premier Oliver Receives Soldiers'
Delegation on Alien
Question

RESOLUTION ON CIVIL SERVICE PRESENTED

Declaring it to be the duty of the Provincial authorities to co-operate in every way possible with the Union Government, Premier Oliver, replying to the delegation of returned soldiers and affiliated bodies which waited upon the Minister at the steps of the Parliament Buildings last evening, stated that until the House was made cognizant of the facts that had caused Sir Robert Borden to hesitate in the adoption of the resolutions dealing with the conscription of enemy aliens, the Provincial Government would not be in a position to give their unqualified endorsement.

The parade was a large one. It was led by eight-wheel cars packed with wounded soldiers and followed by the

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THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1918

band of the 5th Regiment that left the quarters of the Great War Veterans' Association shortly after six o'clock, passing by way of Government Street to the steps of the Parliament Buildings, to present resolutions to the Premier respecting the conscription of aliens and the immediate enforcement of the Civil Service Act.

Fully Representative.

Following the band was the Women's Auxiliary of the Great War Veterans' Association, the Great War Next-of-Kin Association, a large representation of the Veterans themselves; a delegation of the Comrades of the Great War, and representatives of the Win-the-War League.

Banners bearing striking mottoes were displayed from all sections of the procession and placed to advantage as the parade took up its position before the steps leading to the Legislative Hall, where Major Monk as spokesman of the delegation was introduced to Premier Oliver and the members of his Cabinet. W. J. Bowser, Leader of the Opposition, and Mrs. Ralph Smith, lady member for Vancouver, were also present.

Resolutions Presented.

Major Monk, addressing the Premier and Ministers, said he considered it an honor to present and ask for the endorsement of resolutions which were in the best interests of Canada. They had been set before the Federal authorities but Sir Robert Borden had hesitated to endorse them. To strengthen his hand, the delegation had waited upon the Provincial Government.

Premier's Reply.

Mr. Oliver in reply said that the matter of dealing with the resolutions was one for consideration by the authorities at Ottawa. The delegation had asked the Government, without deliberation to pass upon them. The speaker was not one to shirk a responsibility, and he would say that "this Government will take these resolutions respecting the conscription of enemy aliens and give to them its careful consideration. If the Government had not acted on this matter in the past it was because of lack of time.

At Ottawa, continued Mr. Oliver, were the representatives of the entire Dominion of Canada. That Government to which the affairs of the country had been entrusted by an overwhelming majority, had refused to take immediate action on the resolutions. Possibly the Federal authorities were in possession of information which justified their attitude. Until the Provincial Government had been advised upon all circumstances it could not be expected to give unqualified endorsement to a matter on which the Federal authorities had hesitated.

Alien Bear Full Share.

"This Government," declared Mr. Oliver, "has been charged with being hostile to the soldiers and the Union Government; but I say to you that the Government which does not co-operate with Ottawa or which unnecessarily opposes that administration is not working in the best interests of Canada. In my opinion the Provincial Government will be able to endorse your demands, and I am confident will go to the limit of its power to make the alien bear his full share of the burden."

Major Monk thanked the Premier for his favorable assurances, at the same time introducing Comrade A. R. Berry, who said he was prepared to submit a matter of strictly Provincial concern. Mr. Berry read the following resolution:

"Whereas the Provincial Legislature, at the last session of the House, passed a statute instituting civil service reform, to be administered by a Commissioner and providing for preference to returned men who are properly qualified to fill vacancies in the Government service, and

"Whereas the appointment of a Commissioner to put the new regulations into effect has not yet been made.

"Therefore this assembly respectfully urges on the Provincial Government the advisability of immediately appointing a Civil Service Commissioner and asks the Premier to announce here and now that such an appointment will be made forthwith."

When the burst of applause which greeted the reading of the resolution subsided Mr. Oliver replied:

Not Studied Bill.

"This bill which you have thus submitted is one of indictment against the Government. It is most unfair not only to those who live but to the memory of the late Premier, whom it accuses of negligence. I will not receive this. The man does not live who can force me to act against my conscience. The Government has been working to the limit of human endurance and time has not been afforded to deal with this matter." It was one, he continued, requiring consideration and personal-ty the speaker had not had the opportunity to study what the Act fully entailed.

Many Interruptions.

At this point the Premier was unable to proceed until a volley of interruptions had subsided. He then added: "When you think this matter over tomorrow you will think more of John Oliver for not being over-ready with 'the glad-hand.'" Continuing, he declared his personal sympathy to rest with the returned man. He was the father of sons who were wearing the uniform.

The delegation, however, expressed its disapproval of the attitude adopted by the Minister and commenced to retire while he was still speaking, bending its course to the Princess Theatre, where a large mass meeting was held.

GOVERNMENTS FLAYED BY MANY SPEAKERS

Soldiers' Meeting Demands Provincial Endorsement of Resolutions

MOTIONS IN RESPECT TO ALIENS ARE DRAFTED

Mrs. Ralph Smith Scores "Come-back" After Interruption

The audience of returned soldiers, members of auxiliary organizations and general public which last evening packed to capacity the Princess Theatre, endorsed by a demonstrative and unanimous vote the resolutions respecting enemy aliens and the enforcement of the Civil Service Act, presented to Premier Oliver, on the steps of the Provincial Parliament Buildings earlier in the evening.

Many of the speakers who addressed the crowded auditorium criticized both the Federal and Provincial Governments on their attitude toward the enemy alien problem, while the Provincial Administration was censured severely for its failure to bring into force the Civil Service Act passed last year.

As a body the meeting decided to urge the Provincial Government to lend its united support endorsing the resolution for the conscription of aliens before the rising of the House.

The Resolution.

In addition, the following resolution was passed by a unanimous standing vote:

"That whereas the present Provincial Government, under the leadership of the late Premier, passed a Civil Service Act, making it obligatory for all civil servants to obtain positions through competitive examinations, and also containing a special clause concerning applications of returned soldiers; and whereas, although this Act is now on the statute books of the Province of British Columbia but is non-operative until a commission or controller is appointed, be it resolved that this meeting here assembled now ask the Hon. John Oliver, in his position as Premier of British Columbia, to put the Act into force."

The meeting responded heartily to most of the speakers, but especially so to Mrs. Ralph Smith, whose right to address the gathering was challenged by Comrade Berry, when Mrs. Smith was called upon by the chairman to speak. The meeting, however, was with the speaker, and when she concluded her audience gave vent to its appreciation of her remarks, with round after round of applause and cries of "Go on."

The Speakers.

The chairman of the evening was Major T. B. Monk, who had acted as spokesman of the deputation, the speakers being Comrades Dorman, H. W. Hart, A. R. Berry and Frank Giotma, of the Great War Veterans' Association; Frank Higgins, Beaumont Boggs, of the Win-the-War League; Gerald Cross, of the Men's Auxiliary of the Great War Veterans' Association; Mrs. Ralph Smith, M. P. P.; Mrs. Thomas Palmer, of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Great War Veterans' Association, and Mrs. Day, president of the Next-of-Kin Association.

The chairman declared the alien enemy question to be the greatest, barring conscription, which Canada has tackled since the war began. If the measures advocated in the resolutions

presented both to the Dominion and Provincial Governments were adopted it would put the alien on the same footing as the Canadian. "If the country is good enough for him to live in it is good enough for him to fight for," declared the speaker. Sir Robert Borden had seen fit to hesitate to enforce the requirements of the resolutions and there was nothing left to be done but to so mass public opinion that the Government would be forced to take action and take it quickly.

Aliens Should Work.

Comrade Dorman said he had no idea that any man could have taken exception to a single clause of the resolutions. The war had affected all in Canada save the alien. It was right that Canadians should do their share of the fighting but it was equally just that the alien should do likewise or in any case work for the same pay. In the speaker's opinion Premier Oliver had answered the delegation to the Provincial Government like a man who did not know there was a war on.

Comrade H. W. Hart, who was one of the delegates from the Great War Veterans' Association to the Dominion conference which interviewed Premier Borden, endorsed fully the resolutions in regard to the steps that were proposed for the controlling of enemy aliens. He said the Government realized the seriousness of the situation, but before it took action it wished to have the endorsement of the public throughout the Dominion. The objection had been raised that the labor party was opposed to the conscription of alien enemies, but the speaker had it on authority that such was not the case.

Only Safe Course.

Continuing, Mr. Hart said it had been mentioned that the matter was one of international law and that if aliens were conscripted Germany would retaliate. So far as he was concerned, he was unaware that Germany recognized any international law. While he was in the east it had been pointed out that aliens employed in munition works had given faithful service. Such a circumstance, however, was no proof that they were not waiting the time to strike the telling blow. Proper control of these peoples was the only safe course. If there was a scarcity of labor why not let the alien clear land for \$1.10 a day.

When it was found that the Federal Government would hesitate to enforce the resolutions, the conference of delegates of the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada decided to hold meetings throughout all Canada to gain public and representative endorsement, he concluded.

Endorsed Policy.

C. T. Cross, President of the Win-the-War League, stated that the organization which he represented, had endorsed the resolution with respect to enemy aliens, and called upon Frank Higgins to state the policy of the league.

"The policy of the Win-the-War League is to do its utmost to insure the utilization of the man-power and resources of Canada to bring this conflict to a successful close," declared Mr. Higgins, "and in addition to secure the right conditions for the returned man." On such a platform was the Union Government elected, and the league would do its utmost to see that the Government carried out that platform.

Great Problems.

Members of the league who could not do much at the front were doing their utmost at home. In the face of the present crisis why was it, asked the speaker, that Canada sent men to the front while aliens were allowed to stay at home. In Canada thousands of aliens were to be found in the internment camps consuming food that should have been sent to the soldiers. These men refused to work and no effort was made to turn them into producers instead of consumers. People often talked for the great problems facing the country, but they were not larger than those which had been successfully met in the past. If the present generation could not deal with them what had become of Canada's manhood. To the speaker it was a catastrophe that the country was thus "held up." Had the proper steps been taken in Quebec the speaker ventured to predict that the regrettable incidents of recent date would have been avoided.

The Premier of Canada had been threatened by a mob in Kitchener, and all because public men in Canada had not employed business but political standards. Graft had been tolerated long enough. The United States taking the lead, had passed a slackers' bill making it necessary for these aliens to work. What a contrast of administration! At Ottawa a code of rules was set up and the people requested to observe it.

Demand Endorsement.

Against Canada's patriots there was a section of the Dominion governed by the alien vote, and if the question was to be viewed for the moment in a political light, it was up to Canadians to show that they were not controlled by that alien vote.

The speaker advocated sending the resolutions to the Provincial Government with the request that after endorsement they be forwarded to Ottawa. If the provincial authorities were not prepared to endorse the resolutions, Mr. Higgins declared that on the last day of the sitting of the House he was prepared to head a body of citizens to wait upon the Government to demand their endorsement.

Women Too.

Mrs. Thomas Palmer, of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Great War Veterans' Association, said the organization she represented was determined to do its utmost to stand behind the men in every just and reasonable demand they might make.

On behalf of the Men's Auxiliary of the Great War Veterans' Association, Mr. Cross wanted to know why it was that if the Government could intern aliens in 1914 it should be necessary to hesitate now. The speaker scored a system that permitted aliens to be employed in shipyards and powder works where there were not even guards for the protection of war industry. Speaking for the Men's Auxiliary of the Veterans' Association he demanded that the alien be interned and forced to work.

Bible Students.

Mr. Cross stated that in his opinion the spreading of German propaganda was by no means confined to the actual alien. In no uncertain tone he flayed the International Bible Students' Association. The speaker was not one to quarrel with any man's religion, but when a body of people saturated their literature with enemy propaganda it was high time that such matter should be banned.

In conclusion he asserted that if the Government did not do its duty in the matter of endorsing the resolutions he was prepared to tell the authorities that the people had put them in and would also put them out.

Thought Not Correct.

Beaumont Boggs asserted that it was not within the power of the Premier of British Columbia to say immediately his Government would endorse the resolutions respecting aliens, but he could have declared himself ready to enforce the Civil Service Act. With respect to this matter Mr. Boggs felt that the Premier had not adopted the correct attitude.

If the Government was working overtime, Mr. Boggs felt they should be glad to do so. "When I looked around and saw those men who had fought in the horror of the trenches, the mothers and wives of fallen soldiers who are struggling in poverty because of the sacrifices they have made, I felt the Premier might have felt fortunate in having four sons left and that he might well work overtime even for nothing. I supported the old Government until I felt it was time for a change, and now I feel it is time for a change again. But we don't want the old regime; we don't want a Bowser or a Hawthornthwaite; we want a representative of the men who have been in the trenches. In the by-election that is approaching the candidate who opposes the returned soldier will insult not only them but their wives."

Square Deal.

Mrs. R. S. Day, President of the Great War Next-of-Kin Association, said the body she represented fully recognized its duties to the boys on sea, land and also to those who were returning. The Veterans might count on the Next-of-Kin for support in all reasonable plans. The speaker had voted for the Union Government in order that the boys might have a fighting chance and those who had returned home a square deal. The women she represented were going to stand behind those resolutions to see to it that the fighting chance and the square deal were forthcoming.

An incident which threatened for a few moments to divide the sentiment of a previously harmonious meeting occurred when the chairman called upon Mrs. Ralph Smith, lady member for Vancouver in the Provincial Government, to address the assemblage, but the hearty welcome and applause which greeted Mrs. Smith did not deter Comrade Berry raising a protest on the ground that the meeting would be a political one. Undaunted by the interruption, which it was evident had created a difference of opinion in the audience, Mrs. Smith waited for quietness.

No Fear.

"I have no fear for either man or devil. I stand here to know whether, after I have been asked to speak at this meeting, you wish to hear me." There was a sustained chorus of "We do."

"I have been termed a politician," said Mrs. Smith, "and you have declared that I opposed a returned soldier candidate. Let me say that the people of Vancouver sent me to the

Legislature by a not uncertain majority. To the electorate I am a soldier's mother, and so long as God lends me breath I will work for the best interests of the returned man. Do you still wish me to speak?"

Tribute of Approval.

Supported by the unanimous tribute of approval the speaker continued. "I was born under the British flag and under it I intend to die. You say, you do not want a politician, and I answer that my life's work has been in the interests of womanhood. What our boys are fighting for to-day are the principles that I have not and will not forsake."

The speaker made an eloquent appeal for united action. The common cause of the boys demanded unity on the part of both men and women. With respect to her attitude on the enemy alien question Mrs. Smith referred back to a period several months ago when addressing a Toronto gathering she had declared herself in favor of interning all aliens. Every one of them should have been turned out under Government supervision, at the point of the bayonet if necessary, to produce. "What of the call for food from the Motherland?" queried the speaker.

Three weeks after the Union Government was elected to power it would have been possible for it to discuss the entire alien problem with the Provincial Premiers. Nothing had been done, nor was likely to be done until the men and women of Canada, as a body, demanded that the alien should be conscripted.

Why Trivialities?

Why was it that trivialities engaged the attention of the Government? Why did it not say that profiteering was to stop; that rich and poor should be rationed alike? The speaker would have appreciated the opportunity of being food controller for a few days, for she questioned the loyalty of the man or woman who was not prepared to make sacrifices in a time like the present. The returned man might rest assured that she would not cease to labor in his interests. The resolutions which were aimed directly at the conscription of the alien were not going to lie idly on the table. She advised that they be forwarded immediately to Ottawa while she herself was willing to talk in their favor on the floor of the Legislature.

In conclusion Mrs. Smith said:

"I am not a politician, I am a woman. I have had but one desire: to do a kindness, to perform my duty. I will do my utmost; it may be but little, but whatever it is you will know I am sincere."

Civil Service Act.

Declaring that "Honest John Oliver" had not been sincere with himself in respect to the Civil Service Act, Comrade Berry denounced an attitude of the Provincial Government which he said was antagonistic to the returned soldier. He claimed the Government had made excuse after excuse in respect to its attitude to the returned man and his employment in the civil service. "Honest John and his clique don't intend the returned man to get anything."

Comrade Frank Giolma declared the Premier had "lied." "When he told us he had not studied the civil service question he knew that there had been meetings on the subject and that our resolutions had been flouted. The Premier hates the sight of a returned man," concluded the speaker, adding that he took the opportunity of asking Mrs. Smith to bring the resolution respecting the enforcement of the Civil Service Act to the attention of the House to-morrow.

PLEADS THE CASE OF STRUGGLING FARMER

F. A. Pauline is Friend of the Unorganized Districts

STRONGLY FAVORING PERMANENT HIGHWAYS

Legislative Press Gallery,

Evening Sitting, April 10.

Continuing the debate on the Budget at this evening's sitting of the House, F. A. Pauline, the member for Saanich, took up the cudgels in behalf of the farmers of the unorganized districts along the lines set forth in a petition

already presented to the House by the honorable gentleman. In brief the petition asks for relief from taxation, revision of the system of the valuation of land, exemption of improvements, for a Court of Revision better acquainted with the varied local conditions and such other remedial measures as the Government might deem advisable.

Weighty Petition.

The Saanich member was of the opinion that every member of the House would be struck by the reasonableness of the requests contained in the petition to which he had made reference. There was no doubt that the argument for relief was sound and reasonable and the presentation most moderate under the circumstances. As evidence of the weight of the document presented to the House Mr. Pauline said that it contained no less than 2,100 signatures, representing probably ten thousand people who were earning their living directly from the land and engaged in the all essential process of producing more food-stuffs.

Straining the Truth.

"On the one hand," Mr. Pauline went on, "we urge upon the farmer the duty he owes to the Empire to increase food production, yet on the other hand we impose taxes upon him such as tend to discourage production and lessen his will to make more improvements and clear more land. The Minister of Finance," he iterated, "says that the farmers are not grumbling; but the farmers as a class are long suffering and to say that the farmers of the unorganized districts are satisfied would be to strain the truth." Mr. Pauline alluded to the fact that the question of exempting farm improvements was an old one. It was dealt with by the Royal Commission of 1911, and the following observations culled from the report were worth quoting:

Royal Commissions.

"Further, it has been argued again as a matter of principle, that improvement on lands should be exempt from taxation altogether, and that the basis of valuation for the purpose of taxation should be the reasonable sale price of the land in a state of nature, due regard being had in fixing the price to all the conditions as to location, facility of access, fertility, and so on, that would influence a purchaser . . . that this true value should be the selling value of the land subject to deduction for the present value of the improvements thereon. . . . It has been urged that the taxation of personal property, would be a penalization of thrift and energy, and ought to be abolished in a community whose chief aims are progress and the development of all kinds of industry."

"Finally, it has been maintained that the exemption of improvements from taxation would more especially relieve the farmers and the agricultural classes generally, who in the judgment of your Commissioners, should be especially encouraged, the prosperity of no other class being so essential to the best interests of the Province at large."

Still Another.

Again the Royal Commission on Taxation appointed in the year 1912, said Mr. Pauline, had the following observations to make in the report completed and issued in 1914:

"We found everywhere in the province a very strong feeling that farm improvements should be exempted from taxation, and we are convinced that their inclusion for taxation purposes is a penalty on progressive farming. We understand that this view is already held by your Government, and that it is its declared intention to exempt improvements from taxation, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Taxation. We would urge that this be done at the earliest possible moment, making the basis of valuation of land for taxation purposes as nearly as possible the price that a willing purchaser would pay if the land were in the state of nature. . . . We therefore recommend: (1) That, at as early a date as possible, improvements on farm lands be exempted from taxation, and that the basis of valuation of land for taxation purposes be made as nearly as possible the price that a willing purchaser would pay if the land were in a state of nature."

No Result.

No result and nothing done, said Mr.

Pauline, followed by the Government, a large cost. "at that time?" Saanich as he figures of the since during the sions were sitted net debt of \$252,416.14 in nearly touching mark in 1917, almost at a loss loved himself that during th of the province the recommer Commission b unsympathetic Some Considerable sue, however, ister's announ farm improve lifted, the fact at a time w province were withstanding, vision of the a upon an equit erment would towards grant the petitione pleading, said

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Pauline, following those reports compiled for the Government of the day at a large cost. "What was the situation at that time?" queried the member for Saanich as he proceeded to quote the figures of the net debt of the province during the years those Commissions were sitting. Freezing on to the net debt of \$3,033.88 in 1911 and \$252,416.14 in 1912, and so on until nearly touching the twenty-one million mark in 1917, Mr. Pauline said he was almost at a loss for words when he allowed himself to contemplate the fact that during the period when the debt of the province was at its lowest point, the recommendation of that Royal Commission had fallen on deaf and unsympathetic ears.

Some of the Way.

Considerable satisfaction would ensue, however, as a result of the Minister's announcement that taxation on farm improvements had at last been lifted, the fact that it had to be done at a time when the finances of the province were at the lowest ebb, notwithstanding. Add to this step the revision of the assessment on farm lands upon an equitable basis and the Government would have gone a long way towards granting the relief asked for the petitioners in whose behalf he was pleading, said Mr. Pauline.

Concrete Roads Wanted.

Passing on to the question of roads as advocated by the member for Alberni, Mr. Pauline said Mr. Wallace was on firm ground when he advocated permanent cement paving by way of substitution to the ordinary macadam. The latter had been shown to be exceedingly expensive to maintain, especially upon those highway sections over which heavy motor traffic was constantly passing.

While concrete would naturally mean a good deal more initial expense he contended that in the long run it would be a policy of economy. He thought the Government might very well consider a policy of permanent roads and he proceeded to make feeling reference to that section of the Island Highway near Colwood—the bane of all motorists. Here was an opportunity for the Government to take a trial trip with a cement road. In any case cement road making, so far as the Island was concerned, had the advantage over asphalt for the simple reason that it was not necessary to import the material.

F. W. Anderson, member for Kamloops, continued the debate and his remarks are recorded elsewhere in this issue.

DOES NOT FAVOR HOPE TO PRINCETON SCHEME

F. W. Anderson Talks Roads; Civil Service Superannuation Advocated

Legislative Press Gallery, Evening Sitting, April 10.

The most confirmed roads enthusiast could scarcely complain that the subject has been neglected by the members of the Legislature, for although the interest of some members centres not upon the quality of the road there are others who have the keen eye for the automobiling tourist and are advocates of concrete paving by the league. When F. W. Anderson, the member for Kamloops, rose to continue the debate on the Budget tonight it was obvious that his "road observations" would not be confined to any measly stretch of a few miles. He launched at once into the much discussed but still unrealized inter-provincial highway.

The Two Routes.

Mr. Anderson is a firm believer that a trans-provincial highway should take the Fraser river route to Kamloops instead of the aeroplane route via Hope and Princeton. He says that the almost unsurmountable height of the southern route, with its July snowballs, must be an obstacle to consummation, and that the only logical way lies along the more northern route to Kamloops, thence through the North Thompson Valley and the Yellowhead to its Alberta outlet.

The member for Kamloops claims that while \$200,000 had already been spent on the section between Silver Creek and Hope with an estimate for \$600,000 to obtain completion to Princeton it was likely that the total cost of finishing the road between Hope and

Princeton would run over a million. He said the road between Hope and Princeton would climb an altitude of five thousand feet where snowballs would be found in July, and where winter traffic was impossible. The Fraser and Thompson river route would not be expensive, would give a longer transportation season, would serve the agricultural districts of Yale, Kamloops and Omenca and Fort George through connecting roads.

"We cannot build a highway of any kind for joy riding alone," he declared in referring to the scenic advantages claimed for the southern route.

Shylocks of Society.

Financial matters followed and in reference to the Weart banking speech.

Mr. Anderson said that Mr. Weart might well have gone further in order to include a criticism of the money lenders. He gave an instance of "note shaving," where the borrower got only \$800 on a loan of \$1,000 for three months. The interest worked out at sixty per cent. These money lenders, whom he called the Shylocks of society, should be licensed, and also prohibited from charging more than a reasonable rate of interest. Mr. Anderson said he was against the practice of banks levying compound interest, a course which he claimed was illegal.

Civil Servants Superannuation.

Among other things advocated by the Chief Whip was an inventory of Provincial farm lands, since he thought they should be classified, and each farmer required to put in a certain percentage of foodstuffs most required by the state for war purposes. He advocated the adoption of a superannuation scheme for civil servants and suggested that the public would be benefited by a uniform law relating to the incorporation and administration of companies throughout the Dominion.

J. S. Cowper, adjourned the debate.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1918

TO INSURE ACTION IN RESPECT OF THE SLOCAN SITUATION

Government Will Appoint Representative to Assist Nelson Committee

ROYAL COMMISSION TO FOLLOW IF NECESSARY

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting April 11.

The Leader of the Opposition was perfectly satisfied to vote for an amendment to the Nelson resolution this afternoon as introduced by the Minister of Mines. It provided that in the pending investigation of the silver lead mining situation in the Slocan the Government should be represented by a competent official, who could watch the interests of the province and at the same time be of some assistance to the Committee.

His support to the change, however, was mainly on account of the amendment's further provision that if the facts adduced by the Committee entrusted with the probe went to show that the Trail Smelter people were in the wrong and that persistence in enforcing the new schedule was calculated to work hardship to the mining fraternity, then the Government would be empowered to ask the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to appoint a Royal Commission or to take such other steps as might be necessary to cope with and settle the trouble.

Afraid Of It.

Reference has already been made to this question many times in these columns and more lengthily in this day's issue, when Mr. Bowser signified his intention of voting for the Hawthorthwaite resolution calling at once for the Royal Commission. The Leader of the Opposition had little faith in the Associated Boards of Trade Committee now taking care of the case with the aid of a Federal appointee in the person of a renowned metal-

lurgist, and was apprehensive lest the report would either savor of politics or lack honesty of purpose.

He was reminded by the Minister of Mines this afternoon that it was a rather unfortunate imputation to put on the ultimate findings of the Committee, because the ex-Minister of Mines, Lorne Campbell, chanced to be one of its number. While Mr. Sloan had to confess that Mr. Campbell had been guilty of a very grave mistake once in his life, by joining the Government of his friend opposite, he scarcely felt that the error of his ways in that connection would have any bearing—as a man of wide mining knowledge—on the issue under review. The Minister of Mines recounted for the benefit of the House the genesis of the present trouble and the temporary alleviation made possible by representations to Ottawa late last year by the late Premier Brewster.

Arbiter of Morals.

It was the suggestion of a distorted, partisan or dishonest report and the general slur both upon the standing mining committee of the House, as well as the Associated Boards of Trade Committee that brought the member for Slocan and the sponsor of the original resolution to his feet. "Not presuming to pose as the superman of parliamentary procedure in this House, it may be that in the course of time and by drinking at the fountain of wisdom which flows so liberally from the self-constituted controller of the destinies of this House that I shall learn," came from Mr. Nelson's chest with commendable ease as he donned his armor and proceeded to let drive at Mr. Bowser for daring to pose as the arbiter of morals. "Honest, forthright" exclaimed the Boundary member with disdain and to the accompaniment of roars of laughter.

Mining Camouflage.

While Mr. Bowser regretted that Mr. Nelson's "baby attempt" at a resolution had become stranded at the end of the recital, he felt bound to say to the House that the original terms were merely a species of camouflage—mining camouflage—interjected into the House during the dying days of the session. And so puzzling had been Mr. Nelson's arguments that the Leader of the Opposition had been doubtful as to which way the Slocan member had intended to vote.

Realizing by this time that Mr. Bowser was coasting in indefinable waters and getting further out all the time, Mr. Farris became inquisitive as to the manner of Mr. Bowser's vote; whereupon the Leader of the Opposition said he was getting round to that. He did and supported the Sloan amendment closing the debate.

J. S. COWPER COMES BACK WITH DEFENCE

Says M. A. Macdonald is a Young Man With Lots to Learn

RELUCTANT TO STIR UP MUDDIED WATERS

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Session, April 11.

A challenge for any Liberal member of the House to admit that he had shared in the \$15,000 which M. A. Macdonald, senior member for Vancouver, received a year ago from R. J. Mackenzie was flung at the House yesterday afternoon by J. S. Cowper, fifth member for Vancouver, in speaking on the Budget debate and in reply to the attack made on himself and Dr. McIntosh by their senior colleague.

The Vancouver member, who said that he was reluctant to stir up the muddied waters of a year ago but for the fact that Mr. Macdonald's attack left him no option but to reply, said that his answer to Mr. Macdonald was to why he had selected him and his \$15,000 contribution for exposure and had not attacked the B. C. E. R. contribution would be short and pointed. It was that the B. C. E. R. contribution, which had been accepted without his knowledge and had been spent in the legitimate campaign, whereas the \$15,000 contribution from Mr. Mackenzie had never been accounted for in any official fund.

A Young Man.

"I will not follow my friend in his ridicule and abuse of myself. I will

merely deal with the public aspects of my friend's attack," said Mr. Cowper, who agreed with Mr. S. S. Taylor's plea on behalf of his client at the close of the Gregory enquiry: "He is a young man who has lots to learn in his career as a politician."

"My friend now says he was taken by surprise and led into making a denial of the charge through a misleading verbal report from the present Premier," said the Vancouver member. "The hon. gentleman is twelve months too late and many years too soon in making that discovery. Hon. members will recall that the words I used and which formed the basis of my friend's denial were on motion of the House taken down in writing, were printed in the press and in the records of the House. My friend had time to write out an elaborate written denial. Two days later when I discovered the error I had made in the excitement and changed the figure twenty-five to fifteen, the hon. gentleman repeated his previous denial. He cannot claim to have been taken by surprise in his denial."

The Investigation.

"His second ground of complaint is that he had been tricked into an investigation which he describes as a travesty of justice and an affront of every principle of decency. Well, I ask, who ordered and arranged the investigation. I did not. It was my friend who demanded it, who drew up the Order-in-Council, selected the Commissioner and doubtless saw to it that no Crown counsel was appointed to press the case against himself. It was his own enquiry, so to speak, and if he has suffered by it he has been merely hoist with his own petard. His attack on the learned judge does not display that sense of 'British decency' which he pointed out and applauded in himself."

"Then my friend takes great comfort in the evidence of Dr. Mackenzie; that it was not C. N. R. money. How Dr. Mackenzie, who professed extreme ignorance even of the fact that his kinsman was a director of the C. N. R. knew it was not C. N. R. money is not clear. But it is common knowledge that railway directors of the predatory type are all highly philanthropic and public-spirited citizens. They always insist on giving their own private money."

Who is R. J. Mackenzie?"

Mr. Cowper warmly criticized the former Attorney-General for his attack on the Commission, quoting from the evidence to show that far from conducting a roving commission Mr. Justice Gregory had held the reins exceedingly tight, refusing to allow Dr. Mackenzie to be asked such an obvious question as "Who is R. J. Mackenzie?" and informing the witness that if he wished to refuse to answer any questions put to him that he would not be punished for contempt. Mr. Cowper suggested that as he had felt aggrieved at the rigid interpretation his lordship had placed on his instruction that probably it was a proof that the Commission had dealt out even-handed justice.

"My hon. friend puts the question up to me bluntly as to why I did not, when I learned of the B. C. Electric contribution, try and create trouble over it. I will answer just as plainly," continued the Vancouver member. "At that time I was engaged in trying to find out where the funds had come from which paid for the elaborate and expensive scheme of personation which a parliamentary committee and a commission of judges have both found had been practised on my friend's behalf. I learned that the B. C. E. R. contribution had been paid over to the official funds of the party and been spent on legitimate purposes. The \$15,000 paid by this C. N. R. director to my hon. friend never reached any official fund of the Liberal party."

We Don't Care a Hang.

"Liberal members and Liberals throughout the country have a right to know what becomes of moneys solicited and received in their names," declared the speaker, who said that Hon. Mr. Macdonald's attitude towards the public was voiced at the inquiry through his counsel, S. S. Taylor, who said: "We don't care a hang for the public. The public will only find out what it is entitled to know and no more" and ridiculed the idea of the official party treasurer knowing anything about the real finances of the party, saying "Everybody knows that the real campaign funds never pass through the regulation channels." "That may be my hon. friend's idea of public morals; but it is not mine and I am satisfied that it is not the ideal of the majority of the members of this House. When that coldly brazen code is adopted by the Liberal party, then one loyal member at least will step outside of its ranks," declared the speaker.

Mr. Cowper protested that he had not been actuated by any animosity towards his colleague. He stated that he had pledged his own credit to help raise funds for his colleague's first

election in Vancouver, had worked for his return, had refused to testify against him at the inquiry into which the Attorney-General had forced him, and after it was over had successfully interceded on his behalf with a delegation of Vancouver Liberals who had come to the Capital to demand his expulsion from the House.

OPPOSITION LEADER EXPLAINS HIS BILL

Moves Second Reading of Amendment to Provincial Election Act

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Session, April 11.

With a point of procedure respecting private members' day settled by Mr. Speaker Keen in his favor, the Leader of the Opposition moved that the bill sponsored by himself and intitled an Act to amend the Provincial Elections Act be read a second time this afternoon. A brief recital of the provisions of the proposed measure by Mr. Bowser preceded the adjournment of the debate by the Premier.

Soldiers, Sailors, Nurses.

As already mentioned in these columns the amendment to the existing statute has specific application in respect of soldiers, sailors and nurses who have served overseas and are not on the voters' lists. Mr. Bowser explained that men were constantly returning and would, of course, continue to return, whose names in some cases had been removed from the lists for various causes. Others, he said, had gone away under age for admission to the electorate and not a few were fully qualified but had failed to avail themselves of the franchise.

Mr. Bowser contended, and he felt sure that each member of the House would agree with him, that every soldier, sailor or nurse with active service to his or her credit should be enabled to exercise the franchise. But it is to prevent the customary wait for the semi-annual sitting of the Court of Revision towards which the Act is intended to be specific in its application.

It provides that applicants entitled to the vote shall give the necessary proof of service to the registrar within five days of any election and that the registrar shall give such name to the returning officers within three days of an election, thus enabling the soldier, sailor or nurse to get a ballot paper on polling day.

USEFUL AMENDMENT

Discoverers of Timber for Pulp Purposes Will Now Be Protected.

Legislative Press Gallery,

The benefits of this Session's amendment to the Forest Act, by which discoverers of timber for pulp purposes are to be protected insofar as their costs of location are concerned, will now be extended to all discoverers of any timber areas, according to a second amendment offered by Hugh Stewart, of Comox, and accepted by the Legislature.

Under the old Act, when the locator of timber limits applied to the Minister of Lands for license to cut on the property, the Minister cruised it and advertised for tenders. In many cases the discoverer was obliged, and thus lost his time and money spent on locating. The Minister's amendment provided that in connection with pulp timber licenses the discoverer would be repaid his expenses out of funds put up by the successful tenderer.

Mr. Stewart presented a clause applying this concession to all timber, so that the original locator might receive a reasonable sum, within the discretion of the Minister, but not to exceed the cruising cost incurred by the Government. The intention of the Comox member in successfully introducing this amendment was to protect the interest of the small locator who would therefore not lose money in case he was not fortunate enough to obtain the license at the time of auction.

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DOLEFUL FALL

South Okana lows His R

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Mr. Jones ft procedure of c set and after Finance "good allow his "emo every Departm vice, damning and condemnin hydra-headed ramage was led all its camou polished for th ray of hope in of the province to note that st agriculturally, rosy, but he h the drop in m

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WILL DROP POLITICS FOR SOCK KNITTING

Legislature Adjourned at Three a. m. To-day With One Sock Completed

STRICT ATTENTION TO BUSINESS IS NEW PLAN

Legislative Press Gallery, Evening Sitting, April 11.

Knit two, purl two; knit two, purl two; and so on ad lib. was the rhythmic instruction wafted to the ears of the Minister of Finance by the lady member for Vancouver as her deft fingers guided his needle into the wool. The scene was the Legislative Hall and the hour one a. m. to-day. The Leader of the Opposition was repeating his speech delivered during the debate on the address—with a little arithmetic added. Enough members of the Government were in their places to protect the "brute majority." Some of them were dozing—others merely reclining and betting with themselves as to whether Mr. Bowser would be through before daylight.

A Ray of Hope.

There was an air of suspense—a wondering whether or not an all-night session would after all have any material effect on the great struggle now being waged in France. The member for South Okanagan, who earlier in the evening had the floor for nearly three hours, appeared to believe that the irrigation systems in Egypt, in India and in Australia, were necessary to be understood so that the needs of his dry belt constituency could be appreciated in true perspective. The Leader of the Opposition displayed commendable apprehension lest Sir Douglas Haig should not get all the details of the Cobble Hill farm—the conduct and general arrangement concerning which came in for criticism; it was indeed a white elephant, said he.

John Hart Drops a Stitch.

"There, now you've dropped a stitch," was the sotto voce observation from the lady member for Vancouver, which brought the House back to earth. The Hon. John Hart was still knitting socks for soldiers. The Kitchener toe was causing him a good deal of anxiety but an expert tutor and a willing pupil usually insure the surmounting of obstacles more formidable even than this knitting-needle problem. The toe was finished and as the lady member hekl up the Minister's handiwork the glow of pride which lighted up her countenance was visible from the Press Gallery. Just a small lump on the heel perhaps and the tiniest kink in the toe were the only blemishes. But what of that?

"I say you have borrowed \$5,444,000 in two years to make up your deficits." Thus was the proud contemplation of the sock rudely interrupted by the Leader of the Opposition. Kindly always, however, Premier Oliver reminded Mr. Bowser that Mr. Hart should be allowed to proceed with his knitting. "He would do better at that than at finance," retorted the soldiers' champion.

One Sock Up!

But the good seed had been planted. The lady member for Vancouver will pat herself on the back when she comes to a full realization of the inestimable benefit of that knitting lesson. When Mr. Bowser had finished his verbal drive, which lasted from 12.23 until 2.43, the Chief Whip is alleged to have called a caucus on the spot. It was necessary. Disquieting murmurs were abroad that revolt threatened unless each member of the Government were guaranteed tuition in a calling that was really practical.

The Debate on the Budget was closed and the formal resolution on the first vote for public debt passed. What else mattered with the Minister of Finance one sock up and another to play? Informal though the caucus was, an agreement—perfectly unanimous—was reached placing the mem-

bers of the House on record in favor of knitting lessons. The stand was taken by several members that by the adoption of business methods it would be possible to dispatch the public business of the province in five days and devote the rest of a limited period to knitting.

Unofficial.

While the Press was denied entrance to this epoch-making gathering the representative of The Times is credibly informed that Mr. Bowser himself was so overcome with the idea that he relented for having made so slighting a reference to the Finance Minister's newly-found avocation. Not to be outdone by a Grit he will attempt to console himself that his three-hour speeches after all contribute very little to the shaping of the nation's destiny, while the knitting of one pair of socks adds very materially to the comfort of one British Columbian who is offering his body as a rampart to protect civilization in France. At the time of going to press so popular had the new movement become that a plan was afoot to introduce a resolution to the House suggesting the advisability in the public interest of dropping for the period of the war at least all political speeches.

While his argument was unpopular at the commencement of the caucus gathering one Minister—now in possession of the key to a new existence—gradually brought the other members round to this way of thinking. Business debates with the public good as the chief aim was decided upon and each member will be required to attend with wool and knitting needles. To insure salutary treatment for any member daring to revert to the now obsolete tactics, a fine of five thousand dollars payable to the Consolidated Revenue Fund will be imposed.

The Sock Did It.

While no official statement has been given out by the Chairman of the Caucus one gentleman remarked on leaving the members' room at 3:10 this morning as follows: "Yes, it's quite true we have taken a tumble; that sock of Jack Hart's did it."

**DOLEFUL WORDS
FALL FROM LIPS
OF J. W. JONES**

South Okanagan Member Allows His "Emotions" to Run Riot

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 11.

That the member for South Okanagan had gone to a good deal of trouble to prepare his speech on the Budget—"Fishpond Budget" as he preferred to call it—was obvious from the "co-relation of subject" which characterized his observations. If the quality of his remarks, with the debate beginning to pall, lacked substance, quantity there was in abundance. He rose in his place soon after five o'clock and when the hour of six arrived he was still going strong, but faced with the necessity to take meat and drink and continue at the evening session. This he did.

"Emotions" Run Riot.

Mr. Jones followed the customary procedure of compliments at the outset and after wishing the Minister of Finance "good luck" he proceeded to allow his "emotions" to run riot with every Department of the public service, damming with faint praise here and condemning wholesale there. The hydra-headed slimy monster of patronage was led out into the open with all its camouflaged trappings well polished for the occasion. He saw a ray of hope in the lumbering business of the province and it was satisfactory to note that she was holding her own agriculturally. Fisheries, too, were rosy, but he had a word of regret for the drop in mining expectations.

Courage Wanted.

He took a sly dig at the remarks of the Premier made in connection with the tardy application of the Civil Service Act last night. He reviewed the finances of the province and despite an earnest endeavor to unload the responsibility of the present chaotic condition on to the present Administration, he felt bound to agree that something was wrong in the state of

Denmark and that courage—plenty of it—was necessary. Mr. Jones felt convinced of the advisability of making revenue and expenditure meet, but was in a dilemma as to how in the world the present system of taxation would be of any very great avail. He saw dozens of officials being added to the civil service and a virtual presentation of demand notes on the farmers for the payment of their salaries.

Woe Is Me.

The fact that Canada is to go on rations in July brought Mr. Jones to a realization that something needed to be done to grapple with the problem of food production. But he said that development was being badly retarded by high taxation and, furthermore, the quiescent attitude towards labor conditions manifested by the Government would only land the Administration in trouble. The Land Settlement Board came in for the same sort of abuse that has been levelled at it by other members of the Opposition, the salaries of its officials and their political stripe being included in the same fire.

Look at the situation as he would, throughout the whole of his observations the Okanagan member could not bring himself to the belief that much good would come out of the verdict of the people as pronounced in such certain terms on September 14, 1916.

W. A. Mackenzie, member for Similkameen, continued the debate and dealt with the Hope-Princeton Road and the war on tuberculosis.

**WITH SUBSTANTIAL BOUNTY
PROVINCE WILL ENCOURAGE
MANUFACTURE OF PIG IRON**

Legislative Press Gallery,

April 12.

With Ottawa under close-range bombardment from a British Columbia "iron" delegation and with every section of the province virtually talking and thinking iron, the bill introduced by the Hon. William Sloan this afternoon will have especial significance. It will be heralded as a most opportune measure with its chief aim the fostering of the iron industry of British Columbia in a manner the like of which has never before been attempted here.

Three Dollar Bounty.

The main provision of the bill, which is intitled the "Iron Bounties Act," empowers the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to enter into agreements with persons or corporations and make payments out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund in respect of bounties on pig iron when manufactured in the province. For pig iron manufactured from ore, on the proportion produced from ore mined in the province, a bounty not to exceed three dollars per ton of two thousand pounds. One dollar and fifty cents will be paid in respect of pig iron manufactured from ore, on the proportion produced from ore mined outside the province.

Five-Year Period.

A similar bounty as on pig iron under this Act may also be paid upon the molten iron from iron ore which in the electric furnace, Bessemer, or other furnace enters into the manufacture of steel by the process employed in such furnace; the weight of such iron to be ascertained from the weight of the steel so manufactured. It is also further provided in the bill that no bounty shall be paid under the provisions of the proposed Act in respect of iron or steel manufactured after December 31, 1923. The Act will be administered by the Minister of Mines.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1918

WAITING DECISION

Copper Mountain Railway Extension Depends Upon Taxation Relief.

Legislative Press Gallery,

April 13.

It is understood that construction of the fourteen-mile branch line from Princeton on the Kettle Valley Railway to Copper Mountain, the scene of considerable mining activity and prospective developments, is held up pending the decision of the Government with regard to the income tax on mines.

This contract has been let to W. P. Tierney and involves the expenditure of considerably more than a million dollars. Mr. Tierney is a well-known railway contractor of Vancouver whose outfit, laid up for some time at Nelson, is being moved to the new work.

Another large undertaking in connection with mining plans on Copper Mountain is the extension of the power transmission line from Greenwood, a distance of about 150 miles. This is also said to depend on what the Government decides to do in the way of granting taxation relief to the mining industry.

**LEGISLATURE HAS
A BUSY AFTERNOON**

**Time Taken Up With the
Discussion of Bills in
Committee**

Legislative Press Gallery,

April 12.

Political camouflage was almost eliminated from the business of the Legislature this afternoon, both sides appearing to be in the mood for work. From the hour of opening the sitting until 6 o'clock the time of the House was taken up exclusively with various measures in the Committee stage. For more than two hours the Bill to amend the Game Act came in for the major part of the discussion. The Attorney-General's amendment designed to permit farmers to shoot over lands adjoining their holding without the payment of a fee met with general favor, the conservative member for the Delta pronouncing it as a sensible change.

F. A. Pauline, the member for Saanich, suggested that the clause in the

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1918

original Act debarring the big game hunter from fishing under his big game license should be eased somewhat for he argued that the catching of a few trout would in no way affect the fish supply in the out-of-the-way districts. Mr. Pauline, however, was in no wise carried away by the romantic appeal of Mr. Buckham on behalf of the grizzly for, said he, this "genial animal" was notorious, and its predatory habits and capabilities for damage to flocks suggested to his mind free license for its slaughter rather than a bounty.

Mr. Yorston would like to see total prohibition of sale and permission given to the settlers of the north to shoot for their own use without fee. Mr. Barrow would limit a day's duck shoot to twelve or fifteen, and Mr. Schofield would go further and make a season's limit fifty at the most; there still remained the game hog as well as the sportman, he said.

The Land Act and Forest Act were dealt with, and well advanced for early passage.

**IRON BOUNTIES BILL
WARMLY COMMENDED**

**Minister of Mines Congratulated;
Legislature in Session
This Afternoon**

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 13.

The time of the Legislature absorbed by the member for South Okanagan and the Leader of the Opposition on Thursday evening and the first three hours of yesterday morning will be replaced to-day by an afternoon session and as likely as not the business of the House will be continued after supper. With the Budget out of the way and the majority of the Bills already brought down well on in the Committee stage, it is possible that the major portion of the legislation will be more or less disposed of to-day, and way made for discussion of the estimates at Monday afternoon's sitting.

General satisfaction was expressed in the corridors yesterday afternoon by a number of prominent business men, not unconnected with the Island movement directed to the development of her iron resources, on the Bounties Bill introduced by the Minister of Mines. Members of the Committee who have devoted a good deal of time to the subject recently are particularly pleased since they recognize an earnest endeavor on the part of the Government generally and the Minister of Mines particularly to go as far as is humanly possible in support of a policy with such far reaching possibilities.

It is more than likely that when Mr. Sloan speaks to the second reading of the Bill next week he will make a further announcement of the programme which the Government intends to follow in connection with iron development. Many discussions have taken place between the Island Committee and the Minister and on all occasions Mr. Sloan has manifested the keenest possible practical interest so that the maximum amount of machinery might be set in motion from Legislation introduced and passed during the present session.

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1918

A ROUND-TABLE CHAT DIFFUSES OPTIMISM

Lumbering and Shipbuilding Interests Meet Cabinet for Useful Discussion

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 15.

By the time the deputation comprised of lumbering and shipbuilding interests had fully discussed the general business situation, as affecting the two industries, with the members of the Provincial Executive this morning, there was a considerably more hopeful outlook manifest.

From information placed before the Government by the two interests represented there appears to be a healthy future for the lumber of the Province, while the somewhat dubious prospect ahead for wooden ships was shown to be after all contingent upon the cost of labor and material entering into their construction and not upon even the semblance of discriminatory manoeuvring.

From inquiries made at Ottawa in respect of contracts to construct vessels for allied and neutral registry in British Columbia yards, it was shown to the Government this morning that an extremely energetic building programme was in prospect. While there still remains the question of labor to be tackled either by an international arrangement or a programme confined to this Dominion alone, after an exhaustive discussion with the Cabinet, taking in practically every phase of the two subjects mentioned, the delegation went away with a far from pessimistic concern for the future.

Since the continuance of a market for lumber is more or less dependent upon the availability of bottoms it goes without saying that the two branches of industry will combine efforts towards a solution of the problem of labor, both as to its scarcity and its cost, so that ships may be constructed in British Columbia and that crews may be found to man them, the latter phase presenting at the moment considerable difficulty.

VANCOUVER DELEGATION

Voices Strong Protest to the Attorney-General Regarding Proposed Business Tax.

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 15.

Taking the stand that the proposed imposition of a business tax as foreshadowed by the Private Bill amending the Vancouver Charter, representatives of the Vancouver Charter was grossly unfair, representatives of wholesale and retail interests from the Terminal City waited upon the Attorney-General this morning and registered a strong protest.

The delegation advanced the claim that the powers intended to be bestowed upon the City were unwarranted and unjustifiable and calculated to work considerable hardship on the majority of those coming within its application.

Mr. Farris was, of course, unable to offer any sort of consolation beyond reminding the deputation that the Bill had yet to be introduced to the Legislature when its provisions would be fully discussed.

Both the question of a business tax and prohibitory powers with regard to the jitney traffic will doubtless be fruitful of much argument during the progress of the measure in Committee.

ROAD WORK BASED UPON REQUIREMENTS

Minister of Public Works Will Follow Sensible Business Policy

OPPOSITION CRITICISM IS MERELY CAMOUFLAGE

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 15.

One of the items of estimated expenditure for the years 1918-1919 which has perhaps caused more irritation to Opposition members than any other is that of a lump sum for the Public Works Department amounting to \$1,794,940. The figure in question covers the various branches of the Department, including such items as steam boiler inspection, the administration of the Electrical Energy Inspection Act, the Factories Inspection Act, maintenance of Government House and grounds, the various district votes for maintenance and repairs of roads, streets, bridges and wharves, subsidies and maintenance of steamboats and ferries throughout the province. Members on the Opposition side of the House complain because there is no indication as to where the money will be spent and they claim that they are not in a position to tell their constituents what to expect in the way of appropriations during the coming year. On the other hand Liberal members are in the same boat, but are prepared to leave the needs of their several districts to the good judgment of the Minister of Public Works, the final arbiter in all such matters.

Business—Not Politics.

Discussing this subject with a representative of The Times this morning and mindful of the somewhat trenchant criticism levelled at him during the last few days, the Hon. J. H. King points to the fact that the reason for his adoption of the plan of dividing the province into sections, each of which comes under the direct supervision of a District Engineer, was to insure an intelligent administration of the Public Works Department and in especial the maintenance and repairs of roads. The apprehension of Opposition members, he says, is ill-founded, and any suggestion that road appropriations will be based on political favor may be dismissed as absurd. He reminds the general public of the province that the District Engineers are all men of high type possessing wide technical experience and without any political interest, while reports submitted by them to the Department from time to time have been based solely on the merits or otherwise of the various cases from a purely engineering and business point of view. Personal and political factors, he states with emphasis, were, are not, and will not be allowed to enter into the consideration of any appropriation.

Plans in Preparation.

With regard to proposed road plans and maintenance, trunk roads, etc., Hon. Dr. King points out that the Engineers through insufficient time have been unable to complete plans showing roads, trails and mileage in their districts, but this work, he says, is progressing well and should be in the hands of the Department within a short time. The mileage of the roads and number of bridges in the province has been greatly increased in the last few years, and the Government must be prepared to expend a considerable sum of money to maintain the present system, in order that they may protect the initial capital expenditure. Last year the bridge vote was very small and only such repairs and renewals were undertaken as were immediately necessary. This year, however, a great many of these bridges must be renewed and the Government therefore will be called upon to provide for a considerably larger expenditure.

Trunk Roads.

Dr. King referred to trunk roads and said that the Department has during the last year, endeavored in district municipalities to undertake work on recognized trunk roads only, and to have the authorities of such municipalities assist towards the cost of

such construction or maintenance. Wherever the Government has given grants to municipalities, the work to be undertaken in such has been supervised by the Department's District Engineer, and duly certified accounts were submitted before any disbursements were made. In this connection the Minister points out that legislation might be brought down stating definitely what roads in rural municipalities throughout the province should be considered as trunk roads, and what proportion of the cost of construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repairs should be borne by the Government.

Motor Traffic.

With regard to motor traffic, Hon. Dr. King states that the increased traffic on main trunk roads and others in the various districts has created a situation which will be necessary for the Government to face in the near future. The only solution for a satisfactory road surface, he says, would seem to be the "hard surface" for roads contiguous to cities and thickly populated centres where large volume of motor traffic obtains. Hard surfacing is out of the question, he contends, owing to the expense which would be incurred, and will have to be a subject for consideration at some stage of the province's prosperity in the future. The issuance of the road-bonds, however, might solve the problem of hard-surfacing roads, the term of the bond to be made to extend over the period of years equal to the life of the pavement. This is a question that might well receive serious consideration at the present time, he says.

Up-to-Date Methods.

The member for the Delta was caustic in his observations concerning road work methods; it was being done in the "same old way," Dr. King states, however, that his Department proposes to use road tractors in the handling of road construction materials. This will greatly facilitate the work in hand and bring about its conclusion more expeditiously. From tests made in the Esquimalt district with a Knox tractor it has been shown that gravel can be handled onto the roads by this equipment for one-quarter to one-half of the cost by using teams. And, taking into consideration the length of haul and the opportunities for handling at the pit, it is considered that the average cost throughout the province should not exceed one-half to one-third of that with men and teams, and a sum of money has been included in this year's estimates for the procuring of suitable equipment as outlined above.

All-Round Co-operation.

The Minister also states that his re-organization plans were made with the view of co-operating with the various other departments of the Government, such as Mines, Agriculture and Lands, in which co-ordination would be effective. This working out has been demonstrated in many instances where other branches of the service were able to work in conjunction with his staff, thus effecting large savings of the public funds. It is further the desire of the Department to co-operate with such associations as Boards of Trade, Farmers' Institutes and various other societies throughout the province soliciting their assistance and advice.

SATURDAY SITTINGS

DEALT WITH SUPPLY

Opposition Leader Adopts Ultimatum Tone; Closure Stops Time Wasting

PREMIER'S SALARY IS WORRYING MR. BOWSER

Legislative Press Gallery,
Saturday, April 13.

From 2.30 until 6 o'clock this afternoon and again until a few minutes of the midnight hour the Legislature busied itself with a consideration of the estimated expenditure for the coming year and succeeded in disposing of some thirty out of the two hundred financial votes necessary for the conduct of the people's business. For more than an hour during the early part of the afternoon the Leader of the Opposition displayed an unusual amount of annoyance on his discovery that

against the Premier's salary folio" were... ser immediately... on that P... his salary of... filling the r... an additional... Minister of... usual session... be additional... Obstru...

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From... Still culin... morning ap... Leader of th... morsel upon... came to the... estimate for... Farm. Mr... that when... over the pr... use of the G... loaded a w... guise of in... tended the... might avoid... five years a... the benefit... way of the... sultant upon... by the Gove... The Lead... knows a fa... Mr. Bowser... capable man... as it stood... the other... could not m... three dollar... work. Mr... on the subje... take the re... Opposition... ousness.

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The Lead... to understa... increase in... new Superi... lce, and he... deal of lim...

against the provision for the Premier's salary the words "without portfolio" were not included. Mr. Bowser immediately came to the conclusion that Premier Oliver would bag his salary of \$7,500 as recompense for filling the role of First Minister and an additional \$6,000 in his capacity of Minister of Agriculture while the usual seasonal indemnity would still be additional pin money.

Obstructionist Procedure.

Despite the Premier's assurance that he had not the slightest intention of taking the two salaries and that so far as the Portfolio of Agriculture was concerned he had planned to shed its responsibility and appoint a successor to the office immediately following the prorogation of the Legislature, the Leader of the Opposition refused to allow his suspicion to be allayed on the mere statement of his friend opposite. Persistent in his demand for an explanation as to why so deep laid a plot should not be revealed to the public and the Government arraigned for its double dyed duplicity, Mr. Bowser defiantly intimated to the House that if it took him until six by the clock he would know just why those two words had been omitted. Proceeding to carry out systematic obstruction there followed excerpts from his budget speech, the detection of which provoked the Premier into action.

Pointless discussion had taken up fully an hour of valuable time when the Premier invoked the closure, and caused the resolution to be put. The Leader of the Opposition appealed to the higher authority, and favorable decision to him led to prompt appeal from the Premier, the Chair not being sustained. The business then proceeded and before the adjournment at 6 o'clock votes for Legislation, Premier's office, and the Department of Agriculture were disposed of and by the midnight hour practically each item of estimated expenditure in connection with the Attorney-General's Department was agreed upon.

Frondeur Farm Again.

Still culling excerpts from his early morning speech of Friday last the Leader of the Opposition found another morsel upon which to dilate when he came to the Agricultural Department's estimate for the operation of Frondeur Farm. Mr. Bowser again asserted that when Griffith R. Hughes turned over the property in question for the use of the Government he virtually unloaded a white elephant under the guise of Imperialism. He also contended that he did so in order that he might avoid the payment of taxes for five years and at the same time net the benefit at the end of the period by way of the general improvement resultant upon the operation of the farm by the Government.

The Leader of the Government, who knows a farm when he sees one, told Mr. Bowser in plain language that any capable man could go on to the farm as it stood and make good money. On the other hand, if the Government could not make it pay it would be for the reason that it might have to pay three dollars for one dollar's worth of work. Mr. Oliver had no misgivings on the subject and was not disposed to take the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition with any particular seriousness.

Praises Prohibition Commissioner.

The member for Omineca raised the question in connection with the duties of Prohibition Commissioner as to whether or not he could devote some of his time to another branch of the Attorney-General's Department. He thought the advent of Federal "dry" legislation would result in considerably less labor for the official in question. Mr. Manson said he was merely surmising, and not speaking from actual knowledge of the circumstances.

The Attorney-General explained to the House that Mr. Finlay—the Prohibition Commissioner—was an exceedingly valuable official, his duties covering a wide scope with a general supervision, in conjunction with the Superintendent of Provincial Police, of the enforcement of the British Columbia Prohibition Act. The oversight of the two official vendors' stores in Victoria and Vancouver likewise demanded a considerable amount of the Commissioner's time. Mr. Farris said that the advent of Federal legislation made it all the more necessary, for good and sufficient reason, for the Prohibition Commissioner to give his undivided attention to the duties now carried out by him. Furthermore, he did not know of any official in his Department whose services he would more reluctantly dispose of or interfere with than those of Mr. Finlay. With this explanation Mr. Manson was satisfied.

Supt. of Provincial Police.

The Leader of the Opposition failed to understand any justification for the increase in salary proposed for the new Superintendent of Provincial Police, and he proceeded to devote a good deal of time to a flattering eulogy of

Colin Campbell, the late holder of the office and now Warden of the Okalla Prison Farm. None the less warm, however, was Mr. Bowser's commendation for Mr. Campbell's successor in the person of Mr. McMynn. But on the other hand alleged lack of experience in police organization work, as well as the alleged non-possession of the necessary geographical knowledge of the province, were the grounds upon which Mr. Bowser based his primary objection for the substitution of Mr. McMynn for Mr. Campbell and, secondly, for the substantial increase in salary to the former, whom he considered as actually less worthy than his predecessor, on account of such shortcomings he had mentioned.

Lost Independence of Action.

Several members took part in the discussion during which the Leader of the Opposition went back to the genesis of Mr. Campbell's association with the police of British Columbia, noting the historical criminal events during the last quarter of a century, winding up with an eloquent testimony to the late chief's ability as a police official. The debate was not without the citation of instances by Government members where Provincial Police work had been ineffectual. Mr. Farris said in conclusion and in support of both appointment and increase, that on personal grounds in relation to Mr. Campbell he had nothing of which he could complain. The Attorney-General was apparently unindulgent, however, of the several instances named, coupling them with an appreciation of Mr. Bowser's shepherding of the Provincial Police Department when Attorney-General of the province, for he dropped the gentle hint that it was a matter of considerable difficulty for any person to serve under Mr. Bowser and yet preserve his independence of action.

The House rose at 11:55 p. m. and will resume its business at 2 p. m. on Monday, intending to go straight ahead with Supply.

HOUSE PROGRESSING WITH ITS ESTIMATES

Attorney-General Fully Justifies Girls' Industrial School Change

EDUCATION VOTES ARE DISCUSSED AND PASSED

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 15.

Declaring that the Attorney-General had "established a record for chasing after women"—although not meant in the popularly accepted or offensive sense of the term, but more as a means of catering to the vote of the fair sex—the Leader of the Opposition had a good deal to say this afternoon in relation to the estimated expenditure for the conduct of the Girls' Industrial for the coming fiscal year. He was directing his attention mainly to the salary to be paid to the recently appointed lady superintendent who succeeded to an office following the dismissal of an appointee of the late regime. Mr. Bowser claimed that the escape of sixteen girls during the last three months had been largely due to incompetency on the part of the new superintendent, basing his argument against the payment of so high a figure as \$1,320 on that assumption.

Petty Tyrannies.

To show that he had made exhaustive inquiries into the question of those escapes the Leader of the Opposition went to a considerable amount of trouble in regaling the House with the minutest details. He included the names of the sixteen girls to which Mr. Hawthorthwaite objected with success and with appreciation from Mr. Bowser himself. Since this matter was discussed somewhat fully during the passing of the amendment to the Industrial School Act Mr. Farris had apparently turned up his data on the subject of the conduct of the institution prior to the advent of Miss Bain, the present superintendent.

And here the Attorney-General read a gruesome chapter of petty tyrannies practised during the last two years, from which it would readily be gathered by members of the House that any attempt to escape would be well worth the trouble even if it secured only a short-lived freedom. Mr.

Farris also observed for the benefit of the Opposition Leader that the change had been made partly in response to representations made from almost every women's organization on the mainland and, not as Mr. Bowser's display of fireworks had suggested, for political motives. Twelve months hence, concluded the Attorney-General, would provide the proof that the appointment of Miss Bain and the dismissal of her predecessor was amply justified by results achieved.

Do It Right.

The member for Newcastle again asserted his belief that the correction of the child could never successfully be undertaken by Act of Parliament unless such a procedure were attended by the basic principle of humanitarianism. He was unmoved by the attempts of the Leader of the Opposition on a former occasion to deck the institution up in a sort of holiday garb, and now more particularly since he had heard from the Attorney-General something of the class of treatment meted out to the younger generation whose exuberance of spirit had overcome juvenile judgment. It was the duty of the province, he said, if it felt it incumbent upon itself to have a place of this description at all, to make it conform to principles which would make for permanent correction and not merely act as aids to the breeding of anarchism.

Mr. Farris—"That is just the condition we are trying to correct and the appointment under discussion was the first step towards that end."

New Day Dawned.

The Attorney-General found a warm supporter in the fifth member for Vancouver, who spoke from personal investigation concerning the conduct of the institution since it had been under the charge of Miss Bain. Mr. Cowper regarded her appointment as one of the most creditable reform steps taken by Mr. Farris, for he knew that results already achieved under the supervision of the lady in question were essentially practical. For the dark cell and the bread and water punishment, rife under the old regime, there had been a good deal more of the honor principle infused into the institution, with a general tendency to remove the penal atmosphere altogether. Mr. Cowper said that Miss Bain had endeavored to inculcate into the minds of the girls incarcerated there the idea that they were not undergoing their period of correction in any sense as a punishment and that they should regard the province more in the light of a foster parent. Miss Bain's coming, he said, was the dawn of a new day for the girls of that home.

Held Up For \$50.

Considerable headway was made with the estimates during this afternoon's session, each vote discussed having been disposed of with the exception of one. The Attorney-General was not in a position offhand to satisfy the Leader of the Opposition's curiosity as to why the medical officer at the Nelson jail is to get fifty dollars a year more this year than he did last year, and Mr. Farris's reminder that it was somewhat peculiar to see Mr. Bowser in a new role, paring dollars where millions a short while since were juggled with comparative ease, merely having the effect of strengthening the Opposition Leader's desire to hold up this vote pending a satisfactory answer.

Saving \$350.

Mr. Bowser likewise objected to the payment of fifty dollars a year more to the medical officer who dispenses to the needs of the Kamloops jail inmates, particularly when the same gentleman did the job for \$400 last year. He removed his objection, however, when he was told by the Provincial Secretary that instead of spending eight hundred dollars for the administration of pills and potions to the inmates of Kamloops jail and the Provincial Home situated at the interior city, the Government in its wisdom had placed the duties in charge of one official and had given him the extra fifty dollars in consideration of his attending to the second call—a straight saving of \$350 per annum.

Why Education Costs More.

With the education system of the province to the fore for some considerable time past it was only natural that this year's estimates should come in for a more microscopic inspection than usual, although with the exception of a sharp difference in opinion in connection with one or two of the individual votes, the whole of the appropriations went through as set down in the presented document.

The member for South Okanagan was at a loss to understand why it should be necessary for British Columbia to spend some sixty per cent. more in her education system than was the case in Saskatchewan. He required some explanation of that and also why the appropriation for the

current fiscal year exceeded that of 1917-1918.

The Hon. J. D. MacLean explained in the first place that in British Columbia there were fewer municipalities, in consequence of which the expense of the many unorganized districts naturally fell upon the Government. As to why the appropriation showed an increase he stated that such was necessary in order to meet the statutory per capita grants on the basis of number of teachers employed. While very few salary increases had been granted, some part of the increase was also accounted for by virtue of new schools opening.

The education vote totals \$1,777,290. Vote 72 dealing with the Department of Finance commenced the business of the evening session and is referred to elsewhere in this issue.

POLICY OF WRITTEN EXAMINATION TO GO

Important Education Changes Announced by Hon. J. D. MacLean This Morning

"CRAMMING" PROCEDURE TO BE THING OF PAST

Legislative Press Gallery, April 16.

The Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education, announces this morning that the changes in the High School curriculum, foreshadowed by the recommendations of the recent conference of provincial educationalists, will be brought into effect by regulation immediately and will apply at the commencement of the next school term. It will be remembered that the Minister met a representative gathering of High School and University Officials during the Christmas holidays, on which occasion the whole education system of the province came under exhaustive review. The result of those deliberations will now be found in the elimination from the High School course of the formal study of English grammar, the inclusion of a more detailed study of Canadian history as well as the study of civics. The new regulations will also provide for the compulsory study of only one foreign language instead of two, as heretofore. It will also be made possible for the High School course to be covered in either three or four years, as desired.

Written Examinations Go.

Other changes that will go into effect under the new arrangement apply to Public Schools and will provide for the elimination of written examinations for entrance into the High Schools, applying specifically to students who are attending the former in the larger cities. The pupils affected will in future be promoted on the recommendation of the principal of the Public School, and thus his entry into the higher institution will not be barred by failure on a technicality; but rather will his general standard be a guide to the principal as to his merit for promotion. On the other hand, failure of the decision of the principal to meet the wishes of the pupil or parent, the pupil will be permitted to take his written examination as formerly.

Principle to Be Extended.

In connection with this very important departure from the school system of the province, the Minister states that if the new plan is found capable of satisfactory working it will be extended to the smaller towns and the outlying districts of the province. It has been felt by the Minister for some considerable time past that many bright boys and girls with all the attributes for development into useful citizens had been denied further progress in their studies of the higher subjects by reason of the continued existence of the somewhat obsolete system. He contends that while some physical disability might have the disastrous effect of disqualifying a High School aspirant at his or her examination—brought on in many cases by an unintelligent "cramming procedure"—the proposed new method will enable uniformly good records to be judged at their proper value and rewarded in like measure, with mutual benefit to the state and pupil.

Night Schools.

Referring to the Night School branch of the Education Department's activities the Minister says that no less than 118 classes are now being conducted in British Columbia at the present time, in which attention to the more practical subjects is devoted. In some cases pupils are taking elementary courses while others are taking up work that will qualify them for admission to the University. This work, it should be noted, is largely supported by grants from the Provincial treasury and a number of additional centres for the teaching of manual training, domestic science and commercial courses have been opened during the fiscal year just passed.

Increase Was Necessary.

In connection with the discussion of the estimated expenditure for the Department of Education for the coming year, passed by the Legislature at yesterday afternoon's sitting, the Minister gave a good deal of information regarding the system as a whole and its cost to the people of the Province. One of the criticisms advanced was that of increased cost of operation for the current year as against that of the period now closed. Dr. MacLean explains that the increased cost is due to the fact that according to the School Act of British Columbia the Government is obliged to pay each teacher in a city or district municipality the sum of \$360 per annum in the larger cities; \$465 in the smaller cities and \$480 in the case of rural municipalities and small towns. Out of a total expenditure of \$1,777,000 he says that there is less than \$10,000 allowed for by way of increase in salaries, that figure as a matter of fact being largely due to the re-arrangement of positions and to slight increases to teachers in the outlying districts.

HOUSE CONTINUES TO BURN MIDNIGHT OIL ON ESTIMATES

Treasury Department Provides Material for Lengthy Bowserian Diatribes

COMPTROLLER-GENERAL TARGET FOR THE NIGHT

Legislative Press Gallery, Evening Sitting, April 15.

Even the Beaver Club of hallowed memory was trotted out for an airing this evening during a free-for-all discussion on the subject of appointments to the Civil Service, while the general vaudeville performance found the Leader of the Opposition in the stellar role. From 8.30 until well past the midnight hour Mr. Bowser took up the major portion of the time of the House in an attack on general principles against the Comptroller-General, endeavoring to convince the members that he was not worth the increase of salary provided for in the estimates.

Time Wasting.

Mr. Bowser became obsessed with the idea that Mr. Moutat had indulged in a sort of pastime signing vouchers which either far and away exceeded the amount they should have done or that he had in some other way trespassed over the legal bounds. A gentleman in the wilds of the interior had for some reason or another secured thirty dollars for gasoline twice—a hundred per cent. overpayment—and so much time was taken up with this instance that O. G. McGeer, the member for Richmond, suggested to the Leader of the Opposition that had he exhibited one tithe the amount of energy in an endeavor to stop the flow of millions in respect of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company, the people of the province would have thanked him. Mr. Oliver promised inquiry into the gasoline transaction.

"One of the Boys."

The Leader of the Opposition advanced the argument of illegality in connection with certain appointments made in the Treasury Department on the grounds that according to the existing Civil Service Act promotion to

the positions filled should have been given to those already in the service. One particular instance which raised the ire of the ex-Premier was that of a Mr. Campbell, cashier in the Department of Finance, and formerly Assistant Manager of the Northern Crown Bank in Vancouver. He was engaged by the Finance Minister for his banking experience, necessary and valuable in the position which he occupied. Mr. Bowser immediately dubbed him as "one of the boys" who worked well in the election campaign of 1916 and entered upon another dissertation on the abolition of patronage, winding up with his stereotyped complaint that a returned soldier was passed over.

Did Not Know His Politics.

Mr. Hart had no knowledge of the cashier's politics, and he had apparently not counted the vaccination marks on his left arm. The Minister of Finance flung a sporting challenge across the floor of the House that the Leader of the Opposition name one member of the service possessing the qualifications of Mr. Campbell. Silence reigned. In general on the subject of the returned soldier Mr. Hart reminded Mr. Bowser that one of the loudest talkers on the steps of the Parliament Buildings on Wednesday evening last had been offered a post in the Government service months ago. He had refused. Why did he refuse? asked the Minister; because he felt he could play better ball with the Opposition outside, he answered.

McGeer's Idea of Efficiency.

Mr. Moutat's increase from \$4,200 to \$5,000 in accordance with an arrangement made at the time of the Comptroller General's appointment, still touched the spring of eloquence in the breast of the Opposition Leader and voluminous detail continued to flow in an endeavor to bring home the charge of illegally O. K.'d vouchers in contribution to his argument that the important office was inefficiently filled. The member for Richmond tritely observed at this point that the Comptroller-General would not be an efficient servant of the Government until he flatly refused to sign many vouchers authorizing salary payments to about fifty per cent. of Bowser-McBride appointees to the Civil Service.

Auto Salesroom.

The several visitors to the Galleries doubtless wondered whether or not they had strayed into a second-hand automobile sales room, since the subject of the Government's disposal of a certain machine at a less figure than deemed advisable by the Opposition leader and the allegedly needless purchase of others came in for a wearisome argument and the citation of tire valves, self-starters, spark plugs and other automobile paraphernalia. Despite the expenditure of Mr. Bowser's concentrated energy the Comptroller-General—denied all opportunity of defence, of course—kept his seat on the floor of the House while his own and other votes passed as they stood.

MINISTER OF FINANCE WILL FIND ANY FLAWS

Proposes Personal Inspection of All Government Agencies in Province

Legislative Press Gallery, Evening Sitting, April 15.

Considerable satisfaction was evinced by many members in the House on the announcement of the Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, this evening, to the effect that he intended at an early date to make a personal visit of investigation to all the Government Agencies throughout the province.

During the discussion which preceded the passing of the Finance Department's estimates for the current fiscal year many expressions of dissatisfaction were given rein in respect to the business done at some of the more remote agencies.

The Minister stated to the House that since his elevation to the office of Finance Minister he had been so busily engaged in smoothing out the ruffled path left by his friends opposite and the general placing of his house in order, that time had not permitted his getting out earlier.

Realizing that there was a need in this connection the Minister said in connection with the statement above referred to that in all cases where rigid investigation was necessary there would be no brakes applied and any superfluous official or expense would be immediately eliminated.

The House rose at 1.35 a. m.

REAL LIVE BRITISH NEED IN

Premier Oliver C. House lature

Legislative Evenin

With the subject House very much of recent date, the position asked the whether he was statement regard existence. The m the discussion of ment's estimates year. Mr. Bowser two count any ment had any of the office, an appointment of a Sir Richard McI way into the pool C. He took up counselling the G rect view of its r to the disposition House, and expre ill-advised learn ary economy of the expense of accrue to the pro zation of the Lor again became no

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Question V

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The vote for as it stood.

REAL LIVE MAN IS BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEED IN METROPOLIS

Premier Oliver Will Consider B.
C. House After Legis-
lature Prorogues

Legislative Press Gallery,
Evening Sitting, April 15.

With the subject of British Columbia House very much in the public mind of recent date, the Leader of the Opposition asked the Premier this evening whether he was prepared to make any statement regarding its fate or future existence. The matter came up during the discussion of the Treasury Department's estimates for the current fiscal year. Mr. Bowser was apprehensive on two counts; firstly, lest the Government had any designs on the abolition of the office, and, secondly, lest the appointment of a successor to the late Sir Richard McBride should find its way into the pockets of F. C. Wade, K. C. He took upon himself the duty of counselling the Government into a correct view of its responsibility in regard to the disposition of British Columbia House, and expressed the hope that no ill-advised leanings towards momentary economy would be given away at the expense of benefits which should accrue to the province by careful utilization of the London office when times again became normal.

Crowds After Apples.

Included in his general remarks on the subject the Leader of the Opposition had observed that so attractive had been the display of British Columbia apples that traffic had on more than one occasion been obstructed within the immediate precincts of the popular "white elephant," and Mr. B. Jackson interpolated with the suggestion that the sight of real food any where in London at the present time was a direct incentive to "crowd."

Question Will Be Tackled.

While Premier Oliver admitted that the Agent-General's office in London should be the business centre for the conduct of British Columbia's affairs in the Old Country he was not in a position at the moment to announce any particular policy. He was convinced, however, that a time had arrived when the whole question should be taken into consideration and British Columbia's affairs in England placed on a business basis. Mr. Oliver was not in favor of the abolition of the office even for the moment, because he believed that a real live representative in the Empire's metropolis at the present time and after the war would be in a position to be of great service to the province. He promised that immediately following the prorogation of the Legislature he would get down to the subject and give it his earnest consideration when the nature of the action taken would naturally depend upon the conditions as he found them.

Business Office Wanted.

Both Messrs. Weart and Cowper were in the mood to trim down the salary of the present acting official and generally to get rid of the building and save the annual burden. Both agreed, however, that the abolition of the Agent-Generalship altogether would be the part of folly. The establishment of a city office, they contended, and the appointment of an official calculated to keep in touch with the business world and specially endowed with the ability to "tell the tale" but to tell it correctly and intelligently, would result in untold benefits to British Columbia.

Charles F. Nelson, the member for Slooan, spoke from personal experience gained last year, and he had by no means found obstruction from sight-seers whose gaze had chanced to light upon British Columbia's orchard products. The crowds, said he, were conspicuous by their absence.

David Whiteside, the member for New Westminster, also spoke from personal observation, but did not share in the somewhat pessimistic attitude of his colleagues. He believed that British Columbia House would eventually wind up at the winning post with a head to the good.

The vote for the current year passed as it stood.

REGISTERED NURSES BILL IS USEFUL ONE

Will Tend to Better Efficiency
in Profession, Says Dr.
Sutherland

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 16.

Of considerable interest to the nursing profession will be the Bill now due for its second reading by the Legislature as introduced by Dr. Sutherland, the member for Revelstoke. It will be remembered that discussion on a similar measure introduced at the 1916 session of the Legislature resulted in its unceremonious ejection on the grounds that it savored too much of the "closed corporation." The Doctor states that his measure does not in any way contemplate such a situation. He says it is purely a measure for which the graduate nurses of British Columbia—including those who responded to the call for the flag—have been fighting during the last few years.

Dr. Sutherland points to the fact that a similar measure is on the statute books of other provinces of the Dominion as well as in nearly every State of the Union. Its chief intent is to provide a means whereby a properly trained and qualified nurse may indicate to the general public that fact by the addition of R. N. after her name, signifying Registered Nurse, and proclaiming to the world at large that she has passed the examination required by the Council intended to be appointed under the provisions of the proposed measure.

The Act, the Doctor contends, will not only be useful in this way to those who are compelled to choose a nurse from the profession generally, but will make for greater efficiency and a higher standard of service in the profession. It will also overcome a handicap which nurses of this province are met with in the States and provinces which confer the degree, as, if the Bill is passed, nurses from any part of Canada or the United States where similar Acts are in force, and the members of the profession in British Columbia, will be enabled to use their titles anywhere.

It should be understood that the Act does not attempt to interfere with the right of anyone to follow the profession of nursing in the province, and that any properly qualified person may obtain recognition by the Council. Graduate nurses including those at the front and those who may graduate from a proper training school within the next three years may be admitted by the Council without examination.

MEASURES AFFECTING EDUCATION PROMISED

By Hon. J. D. MacLean; Con-
solidation and University
Tuition Fee

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 16.

It is understood that before the present session comes to a conclusion the Minister of Education will introduce a Bill directed to amend the School Act and to provide in especial for the process of consolidation to be applied to all classes of schools. Dr. MacLean has in mind the saving in cost of the present upkeep both as to the operation of the buildings themselves as well as in relation to the expenses of salaries, while he contends that the institution of a consolidation system will tend to improve the general all round efficiency.

Another provision of the proposed Bill will apply to the class of school buildings that may be erected by the Government in the more scattered districts. Hitherto the regulation one-roomed building has cost approximately some \$3,700 in a number of instances where the requirements have by no means warranted such an outlay. The corrective clause now proposed will provide for the erection of three classes of buildings—according to the needs of the community intended to be served—at prices ranging from \$1,200 for the smaller structure, the largest not to exceed \$2,200 in cost.

So that the Board of Governors of the University of British Columbia may impose tuition fees upon students of the University, the Minister plans to introduce a Bill into the Legislature before the session ends containing such a provision. This will be a short measure intitled an Act to amend the University Act, and will be equal in its application to all classes of students.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1918

FIRST STEP TOWARDS HEALTHY EXPANSION

Decision as to Dual Conditions
in E. & N. Belt to
Follow

Legislative Press Gallery,
Morning Sitting, April 18.

Warm approval and general support was accorded by the Leader of the Opposition this morning when he resumed the debate on the resolution of the Minister of Mines designed to secure a settlement of dual conditions and dual ownership respecting the base metals in the E. & N. Railway Belt. However, on account of a natural tendency on the part of the company to take advantage thereof, Mr. Bowser deprecated broadcast publication of any belief that the province had no title. He favored settlement by mutual consent rather than a forced issue, at the best perhaps only partial in its effect, while his only regret appeared to be occasioned by failure on the part of the Minister of Mines to have gone earlier. The resolution was accorded unanimous passage.

Dig at Minister.

The Leader of the Opposition, therefore, could not resist the dig at the Minister of Mines, a member of a "noted business administration," in that he had allowed fifteen months to elapse before taking the action now suggested to the House. Since any move made during this session would of necessity require to be ratified next year, Mr. Bowser felt that had the Department of Mines shown activity earlier, beneficial results might now have been well on the way to fruition. It was

patent, he said, that the Legislature would be a unit in its desire for a settlement of any dispute tending to involve or tie up the natural resources of the province.

Somewhat a Surprise.

The Leader of the Opposition was not understanding that the question of mineral title in the E. & N. Railway belt was so expressly declared as indicated by the Minister of Mines. As a matter of fact, he continued, during his term of office as Attorney-General of the Province he had given more attention to the question of reserves, etc., than that of minerals, where the interests of the railway company conflicted with those of the Government. In such cases, he explained, the Province stood in a much better light. He had always taken the stand that the Government should take the benefit of any existing doubt, assert its claim and permit the court to remain the final arbiter.

Better Than Law.

Notwithstanding his belief that the Province has a somewhat more healthy claim than suggested by the Minister of Mines, Mr. Bowser declared himself in favor of securing an amicable settlement since the long legal journey, which would doubtless ensue from a stated case, would not only hold up development still further, but such a process would, he contended, be ineffectual unless its nature was sufficiently comprehensive as to treat all phases of the situation—an unlikely contingency.

Mr. Bowser said that so long as the proposed settlement was a good one and satisfactory to the Province, support to the resolution should be forthcoming from both sides of the House and complete ratification at the next session assured.

The Moral Support.

The resolution, he declared, was somewhat academic and personally he was not seeing the reason for it, unless the Minister of Mines felt that the moral support of the whole House, including the party which he, Mr. Bowser, had the honor to lead, were necessary to lend the requisite weight. To all of which Mr. Sloan beamed a smile of approval.

H. C. Hall, the junior member for Victoria, spoke briefly on the subject, aligning himself in warm support.

Unanimous consent was given to its passage.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS UNDER DISCUSSION

J. W. Weart Introduces Resolution to House Favoring Legislation Therefor

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 16. Upon more than one occasion during the present session of the Legislature J. W. Weart, the member for South Vancouver, has expressed himself as desirous of seeing the House take up in a practical manner the introduction of legislation providing pensions for the aged. At this afternoon's sitting he moved a resolution recommending that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the following:

"Resolved, that the Committee rise and report, recommending the introduction of legislation this session or the 1919 session providing for old-age pensions."

Many Good Examples.

In support of the terms and intent of the resolution quoted, the South Vancouver member cited the many countries which had already adopted old-age pension schemes both in principle and practice and spoke of the beneficial results which had followed. It would be an act of humanity for British Columbia, he said, to emulate the example of the older lands and make that very necessary provision for the man and the woman who had given of their best in the upbuilding of the state.

Due Recognition.

Acknowledged on all hands that the wealth of the world was the joint product of all and that each individual of the state was more or less dependent upon the labor of his brother, it

was only fair and just, he said, that a life well and truly expended for the benefit of the state should find some recognition in the days when advancing years reduced earning capacity to nil.

The member for New Westminster, David Whiteside, adjourned the debate.

SLIGHT ALTERATIONS TO PROHIBITION ACT

Amendments Introduced to the Legislature Received First Reading

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Session, April 16.

The Bill to amend the British Columbia Prohibition Act, introduced to the Legislature by the Attorney-General this afternoon, contains scarcely any noticeable alterations to the provisions as already referred to in these columns.

In the light of the recent decision of Mr. Justice Murphy in the libel action brought by the Druggist Sundries, Limited, against Prohibition Commissioner Findlay, it has been found necessary to remove the doubt surrounding the powers of the Attorney-General to designate the duties of the Commissioner. The new provision cures this section of the Act and properly provides for the appointment of a Prohibition Commissioner defining at the same time his precise duties under the Act.

Another amendment is a provision enabling the two provincial vendors to sell, and manufacturers to purchase, alcohol for manufacturing and industrial purposes. An important concession is also provided to the end that a small allowance of alcoholic liquor may be kept on the premises of all manufacturing and industrial concerns as a medical necessity, to be used only in cases of accident and sickness.

One question in connection with the Provincial Act which has caused a good deal of debate is that of liquor seized by the police. Hitherto the power has been vested in the magistrate to confiscate to the Crown all such liquor seized only where a defendant has been found guilty of sale. This is not considered to have gone far enough, and further latitude is now let into the Act giving the magistrate power to confiscate liquor to the Crown where a person is convicted under any of the provisions of the Act.

There is no mention in the Bill of any appointment of a Compensation Commission.

The Bill received its first reading.

THE WAR RELIEF ACT UNDERGOES CHANGES

Applies to Volunteers, Officers and Draftees Alike; Legal Procedure Altered

Legislative Press Gallery, April 17.

In addition to the introduction of the two Bills to amend the British Columbia Prohibition Act and the Public Schools Act already detailed in these columns the Attorney-General sponsored a Bill to amend the War Relief Act at yesterday afternoon's sitting of the Legislature.

It will be remembered that the old Act was not so specific as it might have been in its definition of an enlisted man. While there had been no occasion on which the Court could rule that its provisions applied merely to the ranker, it was considered advisable by the Attorney-General to clear up any doubt in this regard.

The amendments include the cure for the doubt referred to in that it now states that an officer and a draftee under the Military Service Act may share the privileges of the measure in like manner. There is also an improvement on the old Act inasmuch as judgment obtained on a counterclaim

against any person for whose benefit the Act is passed may not be recovered until six months after the war. The old Act permitted a counterclaim judgment to take its ordinary course without delay.

First reading was given to a Bill introduced by the Premier intitled an Act to authorize the payment of \$200,000 to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company in respect of their traffic bridge across the Fraser River at Fort George.

The Proportionate Allotment of Lands Act and Amendments to the Forest Act received third reading, and were duly passed through final stages. The Bill to amend the Water Act of 1914 was committed and progress reported.

LENGTHY CONFAB ON ESTIMATES FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

House Again Burns the Midnight Oil; Considerable Business Yet

Legislative Press Gallery, Evening Session, April 16.

Before the House adjourned some thirty minutes after the midnight hour all contentious votes in the estimates for the current fiscal year had been disposed of as presented; at least the Leader of the Opposition intimated to the Premier that so far as his side of the House was concerned active criticism had reached the end of its tether. It is now expected that the remaining vote, that of the Provincial Secretary's Department, will go through with dispatch at to-morrow afternoon's sitting and so leave the order paper clear for handling the considerable amount of legislation still before the house. Practically the whole of this evening's deliberation was concerned with the estimate for the Public Works Department, and, as anticipated, provided a theme for opposition team work.

The Dangled Morsel

The storm centre was the lump sum amounting to \$1,427,040 set aside for the maintenance and repairs of roads, streets, bridges and wharves. The sole objection on the part of the Opposition was its inability to define, from the nature of the appropriation, how the various constituencies fared for district grants. Generally answering this phase of the question, Dr. King gave his views without mincing words. He said quite plainly that he had changed the system of presenting the estimates for this branch of his Department's work because during the days of the late administration the publication of the district vote was usually carried out with a direct object—to tempt the constituency not so kindly disposed to the administration and so woo its support with this species of bribe. In other words, the Public Works appropriation was dangled before the eyes of the recalcitrant district in an intelligent anticipation of favors to come. Suppression of the details militated against that sort of thing, said the Minister.

Gave Them, However.

Opposition members were not prepared to submit to the explanation offered by the Minister despite the fact that he was perfectly willing for any member to see the detailed appropriation and to satisfy his curiosity. Nothing would suffice but that the complete list be given to the House there and then. With nothing to hide, since he was merely acting in the best interests of the people, Dr. King then read out the district appropriations, which are given in round figures as follows:

- Alberni, \$26,000; Atlin, \$19,000; Cariboo, \$48,000; Chilliwack, \$19,000; Columbia, \$22,000; Comox, \$41,000; Cowichan, \$17,000; Cranbrook, \$29,000; Delta, \$19,000; Dewdney, \$35,000; Esquimalt, \$19,000; Fernie, \$4,000; Fort George, \$46,000; Grand Forks, \$17,000; Greenwood, \$17,000; The Islands, \$17,000; Kamloops, \$38,000; Kaslo, \$27,000; Lillooet, \$32,000; Nanaimo, \$8,000; Nelson, \$2,900; Newcastle, \$18,000; North Okanagan, \$30,000; New Westminster, \$1,700; North Vancouver, \$5,700; Omineca, \$58,000; Revelstoke, \$23,000; Richmond, \$15,000; Rossland, \$5,565; Saanich, \$1,700; Similkameen, \$25,000; Slokan, \$26,000; South Okanagan, \$21,000; South Vancouver, \$15,000; Trail, \$25,900; Yale, \$29,000; Point Grey, \$10,000.

The dismissal of former janitor Buildings, and House to-night bought the subject of inquiry Opposition. The King was that pended with or any, and simplified in respect employees of Challenged a Minister quote ures expender bridges, etc., that this year than in 1909-10, \$2,018,584; 12, \$3,963,336; 14, \$5,432,000; 16, \$8,002,000; 18, \$1,481,000.

The Premier der towards t reply to the "v ber for the D in the matter had been Lieu time Mr. Oily his spirited l little room lef figures the F House that du tion of his fr year's approp \$8,400 in all, Lieut. Macken ince \$85,000 a

LEGISLA DEMONS

D. R. Ross Declara Soldie

ANXIOUS T THE C

Legisla After As a seque held on the Buildings on in which repu Veterans' bers of other took part, W. Fort George, a resolution qu ed the Govern of its policy in and a statem to why the C last session, w inquiry was in the public behalf of the province. Fr for Atlin, fol of the Fort port of the r debate until sitting of the Wants

In the opin Fort George it resolution in cussed before he took unto representative the matter b order that p afforded the s the resolution the House ir presentation erans, Mr. B Premier had a statement an matter he did He thought i tion on the p the endorsea which applied minion Parlia of them on t tawa.

The C Of particula ture was the turned men it coming withi said the mem failure on the to enforce th said, was a m ment to the v more particul son of the fa aware of th therein specis them.

The Submarine War

The dismissal of Richard Ryan, former janitor of the Parliament Buildings, and referred to in the House to-night as "the man who bought the submarines," was the subject of inquiry from the Leader of the Opposition. The reason given by Dr. King was that his services were dispensed with on the grounds of economy, and similar reasons were tendered in respect of other former employees of the Government. Challenged as to the economy practised by the Department, the Minister quoted the comparative figures expended for roads, trails, bridges, etc., since 1909-10, showing that this year's estimates were less than in 1909-10. He cited the following in support of the argument: 1909-10, \$2,018,584; 1910-11, \$3,178,000; 1911-12, \$3,963,336; 1912-13, \$4,866,000; 1913-14, \$5,432,000; 1914-15, \$2,485,000; 1915-16, \$3,002,000; 1916-17, \$2,063,000; 1917-18, \$1,481,000.

Some Difference.

The Premier let out from the shoulder towards the end of the debate in reply to the "whimpering" of the member for the Delta. The chief "kicker" in the matter of road appropriations had been Lieut. Mackenzie, and by the time Mr. Oliver came to the end of his spirited little speech there was little room left for argument. In cold figures the Premier proved to the House that during his own representation of his friend's constituency five year's appropriations had not exceeded \$8,400 in all, while two years with Lieut. Mackenzie had cost the Province \$85,000 and \$94,000 respectively.

LEGISLATURE HEARS DEMONSTRATION ECHO

D. R. Ross Asks Premier for Declaration of Policy Re Soldiers' Resolution

ANXIOUS TO KNOW ABOUT THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 16.

As a sequel to the demonstration held on the steps of the Parliament Buildings on Wednesday evening last, in which representatives of the various Veterans' Associations and members of other patriotic organizations took part, W. R. Ross, the member for Fort George, this afternoon moved the resolution quoted below. He also asked the Government for a declaration of its policy in respect of the premises and a statement from the Premier as to why the Civil Service Act, passed last session, was not in operation. His inquiry was directed, he said, firstly in the public interest and secondly on behalf of the returned soldiers of the province. Frank Mobley, the member for Athol, following the observations of the Fort George member in support of the resolution, adjourned the debate until to-morrow afternoon's sitting of the House.

Wants Full Discussion.

In the opinion of the member for Fort George it was imperative that the resolution in detail should be discussed before the House prorogued and he took unto himself the right, as a representative of the people, to lay the matter before the Legislature in order that proper treatment might be afforded the subject matter. Although the resolution had been placed before the House immediately following its presentation by the Great War Veterans, Mr. Ross regretted that the Premier had not seen fit to make any statement and in so referring to the matter he did so in no partisan spirit. He thought there could be no objection on the part of the Legislature to the endorsement of those sections which applied specifically to the Dominion Parliament or to the passing of them on to the authorities at Ottawa.

The Civil Service Act.

Of particular import to the Legislature was the dissatisfaction of the returned men in connection with affairs coming within its immediate purview, said the member for Fort George. The failure on the part of the Government to enforce the Civil Service Act, he said, was a matter of great disappointment to the veterans and it was made more particularly aggravating by reason of the fact that they were fully aware of the provisions contained therein specially designed to assist them.

The Resolution.

The following is the resolution, the preamble of which, referring to the disposition of aliens, is now well-known to readers of The Times:

"Whereas there are in Canada a great number of people of alien origin; Therefore be it resolved, that the aliens of enemy origin in our midst should be employed in work of national importance in industries essential to the winning of the war, under proper surveillance, and their employer, for the time being, made responsible for them; and that their earnings, over and above an amount equal to the pay and allowance of a Canadian soldier, be taken by the Government for war purposes, or, failing their being employed, that such alien enemies be interned.

"Further, that measures be taken at once to make the Military Service Act applicable to all allied aliens in the same manner and to the same extent as to the citizens of Canada, either by negotiating the necessary treaties or conventions with the remaining allied countries upon similar lines or the same as those provided for in the conventions recently adopted by the United States of America and Great Britain, or, failing the obtaining of such treaties or conventions, that such allied aliens be forthwith given the option of enlisting voluntarily in the Canadian forces, or being deported to their country of origin as is being done under the Alien Slacker Bill just passed by an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives at Washington.

Second Class Men.

"Further, that no steps should be taken to call out the second or other class under the Military Service Act, or to return to France married men of the First Contingent, C.E.F., until the question of the disposition of the aliens has been settled in a manner satisfactory to the citizens of Canada; and that we urge the Government to take up and deal with these questions without further delay."

We respectfully beg to submit the following in addition to the foregoing:

"(1) That no enemy alien shall any longer hold public office, and that all questions having to do with the alien be taken out of the hands of the provincial authorities and taken under Federal direction.

"(2) That the Canadian Government establish an Alien Registration Bureau, the same as obtains in Great Britain, in which every neutral, allied and enemy alien shall be registered, so as to be used to the best advantage in the national service; and, moreover, that all aliens be compelled to wear a badge or token, prominently displayed, designating that he is an alien in his class.

"(3) That all enemy alien newspapers or periodicals should be suppressed, or, failing, it should be insisted that all editorials be printed in English.

"(4) That no person of alien birth, whether naturalized or not, shall be permitted to have in his possession firearms of any description."

Food Production.

"Whereas greater production of food is of vital importance; and whereas, especially in the Western Provinces, the farmers are laboring under a great disadvantage owing to the unreliable condition of alien labor; and whereas much hardship has resulted from frequent breaches of contract during harvest time; Therefore be it resolved that it is the opinion of this conference of returned soldiers of Canada, assembled, that a law be passed punishing with a heavy fine such breaking of contracts where it is shown that the employer has fulfilled his contract."

"That whereas the present Provincial Government, under the leadership of the late Premier, passed a Civil Service Act, making it obligatory for all civil servants to obtain positions through competitive examinations, and also containing a special clause concerning the applications of returned disabled soldiers; and whereas, although this Act is now on the statute-books of the Province of British Columbia, but is non-operative until a commissioner or controller be appointed; Therefore be it resolved that this delegation here assembled now ask the Hon. John Oliver, in his position as Premier of British Columbia, to immediately put this Act into force."

MINISTER OF MINES ANXIOUS FOR ACTION

Dual Conditions and Ownership in E. & N. Railway Belt Discussed

PRESENT STATE BADLY RETARDING DEVELOPMENT

Legislature Will Take Prompt Steps to Ensure Successful Solution

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 16.

Because he was of the opinion that a time had arrived when the question of dual conditions and dual ownership in connection with the minerals in the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway belt on Vancouver Island should be settled once and for all by action on the part of the Legislature, the Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, moved the following resolution in the House this afternoon:

"That it is in the public interest that an arrangement should be made by the Department of Mines with the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company, whereby the minerals in the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway belt on Vancouver Island may be more satisfactorily administered than under the present dual method of company regulations and the Mineral Act, and that legislation be introduced ratifying such agreement, or otherwise remedying existing difficulties."

Fully alive to the possibilities of further and already overdue development, once the obstacle thereto had been effectively removed, and duly appreciative of the fact that such a desirable condition was only possible by concerted action and by the use of legislative machinery, the Minister proceeded to an interesting survey of the unfortunate situation under which that section of Vancouver Island from Victoria north had suffered for years past. J. H. Hawthorthwalte, the member for Newcastle, warmly supported the Minister, and the debate was adjourned by the Leader of the Opposition.

The Belt's History.

Mr. Sloan explained at the outset that in all the early grants in this province the Crown conveyed along with the surface rights, the base metals, excepting only the gold and silver. Under the conditions obtaining in 1884 the E. & N. Railway acquired some 3,296 square miles of land on Vancouver Island, now known as the E. & N. Belt and the courts had held that this grant carried with it all the minerals except the gold and silver. He said that it was not until lode mining became a factor in the industrial life of the province in 1891 that the statute came into being excepting from Crown grants minerals precious or base, other than coal, and not until 1899 that minerals precious and base including coal and petroleum were excepted from all subsequent Crown grants. In all grants made prior to 1891 gold and silver only remained to the Crown, said the Minister, and the E. & N. Belt grants were all given before that date. At present a Crown grant to the land excepted the minerals and a Crown Grant to the minerals excepted the surface, unless by arrangement or otherwise disposed.

Development Retarded.

Among all the Crown grants made before 1891 perhaps the one that interfered more with lode mining than any other was the E. & N. grant in the resolution referred to, he recounted. In this belt the company owned the surface and the base metals; the province owned the gold and the silver. He explained that the Railway

Companies Regulations and the Provincial Mineral Act had to be complied with before title could be obtained or even recorded to be effective. Under this dual control double rights had to be purchased, double conditions to be complied with, while, as a result, effective production or even industrial pursuit did not exist and could not be expected to exist, in this large portion of the Island extending from Victoria city north.

Alteration Necessary.

Prospectors, he said, notwithstanding the above, had also to comply with all the terms of the Mineral Act to obtain the gold and silver alone, pay the same fees, perform the same work, make the same disbursements for gold and silver alone as they would have to pay for all the mineral in any other area of the province. Mineral occurrence in this province was generally complex in the ore bodies. The net result of the Companies Regulations and the Mineral Act had made for very little mining industry other than coal in this locality, and such conditions would obtain indefinitely unless matters were materially adjusted. The principal object of the railway company, he said, was to get sale of lands at reasonable prices—which was, of course, amply supported by the fact that in land sales deeds they had, until very recently, gratuitously included all minerals they owned except coal, iron, petroleum and fireclay.

Company Not Miners.

"So, Mr. Speaker, you can readily see that the railway company is not greatly interested in the development of their lode holdings. They are not miners. They have not that faith that removes mountains which is so necessary to the prospector," declared the Minister. "In order to give the prospector or the operator the protection he is entitled to and without which development is impossible, one governing body should be placed in a position to deal with the locator in a definite way. The railway company appears only anxious to sell its land; the province is interested in the development of both the land and the minerals. The province wants industry, settlement and production."

Thirty-four Years' Conflict.

As a result of this conflict of interests for thirty-four years, prospecting and mining for other than coal in this belt had been perfunctory, he said. The absence of an effective arrangement for obtaining proper protection had been a sore spot with all who followed mining around this city all the way to Nanaimo. He was not finding fault with the legislators of that day, as the legislation was the result of conditions existing at the time of the enactment. The frame of mind the public were in at the time was responsible. But at this date, a generation later, some action was necessary to rectify conditions and permit of an extension of mineral development in this area. In the interest of mineral production and in conformity with the Government's policy of aiding the prospector, Mr. Sloan said it was imperative, if the southern end of the Island was to get that attention from the mining world to which it was entitled, that some arrangement be arrived at.

Victoria's Prosperity.

The Minister declared that in his opinion the minerals were given with the grant for the benefit of the people of this province. Consequently it was his belief that a fair and equitable arrangement should be arrived at between the Province, the Railway Company, and the holders of Crown Grants in order that the areas in question might be thrown open for development, thereby lending every encouragement to the prospector and the miner. Systematic development, he contended, would mean much in the way of added prosperity to Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver Island as a whole.

The Wellington Claims.

While J. H. Hawthornthwaite noted the careful wording of the resolution he was glad to be able to detect the hint that failure to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement there still remained the suggestion of power to take other measures to achieve the object desired. He contended that in violation of their contract the Canadian Collieries had sold coal to the Railway Companies in the United States at a lower price than to the Dominion of Canada and to Railway Companies in this Dominion. He also charged that coal areas had been alienated to such an extent that the company was not entitled to any special dispensation in connection with the matter under discussion. The time had arrived, he said, when the delineation by the Wellington Colliery Company of the coal areas to which it laid claim should be carried out.

W. J. Bowser, the Leader of the Opposition, moved the adjournment of the debate.

HOUSE RESOLVES

THAT THE GRAND JUROR IS LUXURY

Will Petition Ottawa to Have His Function Dis-penseu With

OPPOSITION LEADER IS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT IT

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 16.

The abolition of that multiplication of noble bodies who draw from the Provincial Treasury the sum of four dollars per diem while on duty and are popularly known as Grand Juries was the chief aim of a resolution introduced to the Legislature this afternoon by the Attorney-General and duly passed. He made no apologies for desiring to remove the opportunity afforded to estimable gentlemen of this and other cities to earn a little pin money as occasion demanded because he was convinced that it would be more or less of a public benefaction were that money to be conserved and allocated to more pressing needs, of which there were many, in more than one section of the province.

No Impairment.

Viewing the subject from the more serious point of view the Attorney-General was not unmindful of the importance of removing the rigmorle attending the operations of the functionaries named; but at the same time he failed to see how the ends of justice would be any the less effectively served were the abolition of Grand Juries to become an accomplished fact in this province in keeping with the practice of Alberta and Saskatchewan. He alluded to the Grand Jury presentment when those responsible citizens made a very solemn report to the presiding assize judge, commendatory or critical of the state in which the various public institutions were found on the occasion of their state visit.

The Resolution.

However, he was duly appreciative of the conscientious work carried out by many citizens, often at great personal inconvenience, and in recommending the House to support his resolution he wished to pay tribute to the Grand Jurors of the past. But he also wished to leave the impression with the Legislature that in his opinion it was not worth the time and energy expended, apart from the monetary saving.

The following is the resolution:

"Whereas by section 873a of the Criminal Code of Canada provision is made dispensing with the necessity of Grand Juries in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan:

"And whereas the said provinces are thereby enabled to effect a substantial saving without impairment of public service:

"And whereas in the opinion of this Legislature a similar provision would prove beneficial in the Province of British Columbia:

"Therefore be it resolved, that this Legislature request the Dominion Government to amend the said section of the Criminal Code to include the Province of British Columbia."

Mr. Bowser Objects.

It was always an unsafe procedure to tamper or interfere in any way with the administration of justice, was the essence of Mr. Bowser's personal objection to the removal of a practice which had stood the test of time and ranked as a constitutional privilege in the same class as Magna Charta. He cited a number of hypothetical cases where he could very well see a miscarriage of justice unless the old-time safeguard were allowed to remain. He was inclined to regard the Grand Jury presentment as an extremely important function since its attendant procedure not only protected the interest of the public in the general conduct and condition of the

various institutions visited, but it also acted as a check string on the department responsible to the people for its administration. While he was only expressing his own and not his party's views, Mr. Bowser was unable to subscribe to the purport of the resolution.

George Bell Agrees.

George Bell, the second member for Victoria, was entirely in accord with the Attorney-General's plan and generally leaned to the view that the Grand Jury as an active functionary merely responded to the dispatch of a formality, hinting also that the presentation and the preceding "sight-seeing" excursion were more enjoyable than necessary.

No, Says Hawthornthwaite.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite agreed with the Leader of the Opposition—a remarkable circumstance, he admitted—for the simple reason that the Grand Jury was primarily provided for the benefit and protection of the people. It gave the accused a better chance. He desired to caution the House to go slow with any proceeding calculated to interfere in any way with the administration of justice. He could see no argument in following the lead set by Saskatchewan, since its peoples were many and varied and unaccustomed to the magnificent freedom of the subject and legal protection offered by the British constitution.

The resolution carried, the member for Similkameen voting with the Government and the member for South Vancouver refraining to record his view.

CITY MEASURE TO-DAY

Scarcely Likely to Be Any Serious Discussion Before Passing.

Legislative Press Gallery, Morning Session, April 18.

The Bill designed for the relief of the Corporation of the City of Victoria was read a second time this morning, and will go into the committee stage this afternoon.

The measure is in charge of H. C. Hall, the junior member for the city, and will doubtless go through the remaining stages with very little discussion. Its main and contentious provisions have already been exhaustively discussed by the Private Bills Committee, due regard having been paid to many objections from parties with whom the working of the Act will be peculiarly operative.

Three Bills were introduced this morning. An Act to amend the Local Improvement Act and an Act to amend the Municipal Act were sponsored by the Attorney-General, and Dr. MacLean was responsible for a Bill to amend the British Columbia University Act. All three measures were given first reading.

The Bill intitled an Act to amend the Water Act, 1914, got through committee and was reported complete with amendments after considerable discussion.

FIERY SPEECH OVER A NEW APPOINTMENT

Hawthornthwaite Says Cut It Out and Get Down to Business

"PATRONAGE-ABOLITION" ADDRESS RE-DELIVERED

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 17.

A small paragraph in a Grand Forks newspaper was the spark plug for Bowserian fireworks this afternoon. From the up-country weekly the Leader of the Opposition gleaned a tit-bit of information which gave him a new text and set him off on a repetition of the now familiar "patronage-abolition" speech. The paragraph referred to said that a certain erstwhile druggist of Greenwood had sold his business and that he would shortly take his departure for Victoria to assume his new duties as Deputy Provincial Secretary, a post filled with credit for more than a quarter of a century by A. Campbell Reddie.

Will Get Retiring Allowance.

The pyrotechnics did not commence, however, until Mr. Bowser had been told by the Provincial Secretary that the Government was planning the retirement of the present holder of the office at as early a date as possible,

also disposing of the Leader of the Opposition indicating the Government to be was properly provided of a retiring allowance by Mr. Bowser and Dr. Sloan in their tributes valuable service rendered by Mr. Reddie until the matter been settled with approval that the sprung the news began to X-ray th and general quality posed successor office.

Calls It

With voice at times, the Leader of the Opposition flayed the Government for appointing this man as a retiring allowance. He said that the Government had appointed a man who was not qualified for the position and that the Government was not to be trusted. He said that the Government was not to be trusted and that the Government was not to be trusted. He said that the Government was not to be trusted and that the Government was not to be trusted.

As If

Before the passing of the bill authorizing the connection of the member for Fort George with the Minister for the figure paid to stand as the new man, for the benefit of George, Dr. MacLean House that Mr. left the service and until he did receive the same before. The figure changed so that would be provided. The Minister said that the intention to stay included in the

Saw The

During the harangue—not in House, of course, Newcastle sat face, which he whit when benches joined. The flood of he expressed a ment nursed by the street—who mood to forget "You cannot get of the people of are different to now looking at so the best this is to cut it out. I am here and hear first one side the other."

Exper

Mr. Bowser standing the salary of the until Mr. Sloan former official ment was a region of \$7,000 successor, the easily make a advantage. That Mr. Will competent of every satisfied in this by the who found no supporting the incur use.

A W

It was referred to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. C. A. O. sum of \$7,500, the Governme convinced the men were do in France and factor in ass fort of tren they left the little respite All votes were rose for sup gone on reco of the sitting harder by st night until th

also disposing of a query from the Leader of the Opposition at the same time indicating the intention of the Government to see that Mr. Reddie was properly provided for in the matter of a retiring allowance. Both Mr. Bowser and Dr. MacLean were warm in their tributes to the long period of valuable service rendered to the province by Mr. Reddie and it was not until the matter appeared to have been settled with more or less mutual approval that the Opposition Leader sprung the newspaper cutting and began to X-ray the political tendencies and general qualifications of the supposed successor to this important office.

Calls It Outrage.

With voice at the scream pitch at times, the Leader of the Opposition flayed the Government for daring to appoint this man whose only certificate qualifying him for one of the most important offices in the gift of the Government was one of membership to the local Liberal Association and the knowledge that he was a warm supporter of the Provincial Secretary. It was an outrage upon the members of the Civil Service and an outrage on the Administration of the day, said the Leader of the Opposition as he again commenced to dig deep into the oft-repeated political appointment argument. "Have you the audacity to stand up in this House and say that you have abolished patronage? Why, your party reeks with it," was the exclamation delivered with great gusto by Mr. Bowser as a retort to Dr. King, who had told him that patronage as understood and practised by the late Government was as extinct as the dodo.

As If He Would.

Before the passage of the resolution authorizing the salary expenditure in this connection, W. R. Ross, the member for Fort George, inquired of the Minister the reason for allowing the figure paid to Mr. Reddie—\$3,350—to stand as that presumably to be paid to the new man, a novice to the duties. For the benefit of the member for Fort George, Dr. MacLean reminded the House that Mr. Reddie had not yet left the service of the Government and until he did he would of course receive the same emolument as heretofore. The figure was therefore unchanged so that the present official would be provided for in the meantime. When the new man came on the Minister said that it was not the intention to start him with the figure included in the estimates.

Saw Them As Pharisees.

During the whole of Mr. Bowser's harangue—not taken seriously by the House, of course—the member for Newcastle sat with a smirk on his face, which he did not change one whit when members on Government benches joined in the fray. But when the flood of "oratory" had subsided he expressed a not uncommon sentiment nursed by the average man in the street—who for the nonce is in a mood to forget the past—as follows: "You cannot stuff it down the throats of the people of this province that you are different to anybody else—he was now looking at the Liberal members—so the best thing both of you can do is to cut it out and get down to business. I am sick and tired of sitting here and hearing of the virtues of first one side of the House and then the other."

Experts In Demand.

Mr. Bowser was not quite understanding the reason for increasing the salary of the Chief Inspector of Mines until Mr. Sloan informed him that the former official had left the Department of his own accord and at the moment was getting somewhere in the region of \$7,000 per annum, while his successor, the present inspector, could easily make a move to his material advantage. The Minister explained that Mr. Wilkinson was an extremely competent official and was giving every satisfaction. He was borne out in this by the member for Newcastle, who found no difficulty whatsoever in supporting the recommendation for the increase.

A Welcome Change.

It was refreshing to hear the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition in regard to the Government's grant to the Y. M. C. A. overseas activities in the sum of \$7,500. He desired to commend the Government's action since he was convinced that the "Red Triangle" men were doing a magnificent work in France and were proving a splendid factor in assisting towards the comfort of trench-wearied Tommies as they left their gruesome tasks for a little respite behind the lines.

All votes were passed and the House rose for supper at 5.25 p.m., having gone on record at the commencement of the sitting as determined to work harder by sitting morning, noon and night until the close of the session.

**WOULD DEAL WITH
VACANT LANDS IN
KID GLOVE STYLE**

**Too Much Concern for the
Owner of Non-Productive
Lots**

**BILL SAFELY THROUGH
ADJOURNED COMMITTEE**

Legislative Press Gallery,
Evening Sitting, April 17.

It required more than two hours to conclude the adjourned committee stage and report the Vacant Lot Conscriptio Bill complete with amendments this evening. Discussion centred round sections ten and eleven of the Bill, wherein was provided specific protection for the owner of the "heads-I-win-tails-you-lose variety." George Bell, the second member for Victoria, following consultation with the sponsors of the Vacant Lot movement, moved an amendment suggesting that the two sections be eliminated and that section sixteen should be somewhat strengthened. The latter provision was agreed upon and the super-protective sections stricken out.

Municipality Responsibility.

Section sixteen of the Bill now requires that for the purpose of the protection of the owner and of carrying into effect the provisions of the Act according to their true intent, the Council of any Municipality shall previously "shall" read "may"—by resolution make such regulations not inconsistent with the spirit of the Act as may be deemed necessary or convenient, which shall have the same force and effect within the municipality as if incorporated in the Bill.

Sub-section two of the stricken-out section eleven is also added to section sixteen, and provides that for the purposes of any action or proceedings brought by or at the instance of a municipality for the recovery of possession of any land held by permit under the Act, the person to whom such a permit is issued shall be deemed to be a tenant of such land at will to the municipality. As the Bill is reported it is shorn of its special protective provisions, and upon the City Council now devolves the responsibility of safeguarding the interests of the lot owner.

Section three, requiring that the adoption of the Act should be by-law, is now amended so that it enables any Municipality to adopt it by resolution. Section four, dealing with the manner of giving notice to owners of lots to be conscripted, provides now that, in addition to the posting of the notices as elsewhere provided, written notification shall be sent by mail.

Somewhat Inconsistent.

The question of compensation was a sore point with the member for Newcastle who saw confiscation written in over the Bill and a great hardship in respect of the absentee soldier owner. One minute Mr. Hawthornthwaite predicted a British Columbia shortly faced with famine and with the next breath he was in open revolt against that section which provides that no compensation should be paid to the owner of conscripted land, and that no action for damages at the suit of any owner should lie against any Council, Municipality or person. He would not agree to its passage unless compensation to the extent of not less than one-tenth of the value of the crop produced on the land so utilized be paid to any soldier, sailor or nurse employed abroad by the Dominion Government in the present war, or their dependents.

No Time for Niceties.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite dubbed it an outrage to confiscate the soldier's land and allow any Tom, Dick or Harry to produce without granting compensation to the owner. George Bell reminded him that the Ontario Act made no exception, and B. D. Barrow, the member for Chilliwack, also pointed out to the Labor member that one of the chief aims of the Bill was to help the soldier, directly or indirectly. H. C. Hall, junior Victoria member, cited the English Act which compelled production of practically every inch of vacant land without regard for any of the little niceties such as were engaging the attention of the

House. J. S. Cowper, the fifth member for Vancouver, ridiculed the concern exhibited by the Newcastle member, and alluded to the absurdity of the suggested grumble from the soldier because his land had been brought under cultivation, placed in shape, and generally increased in usefulness, if not in value to himself, while he had been away performing another kind of war work.

Government Re-Christened.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite's parting shot was the reminder that he had called the Government a radical one, but now he would re-christen it an antiquated Tory Government. He was supported in the defeated vote on his amendment by all Opposition members.

**MANY SUBJECTS ARE
BEFORE LEGISLATURE**

**W. J. Weart Makes Proposals
for School Board Changes;
Nurses Act**

Legislative Press Gallery,

April 18.

Dr. Sutherland, of Revelstoke, this morning obtained second reading for his Registered Nurses Act, which is a measure recognizing qualified nurses with a special distinction of "R. N." The popular Revelstoke member alluded to the great work done in war service by the nurses, telling the House that many British Columbia nurses had been decorated with the Royal Red Cross.

Factories Act.

When Mr. Hawthornthwaite's bill to amend the Factories Act came up he explained that it was intended to provide for removal of composing and stereotype rooms from basement buildings, and also to provide for more suitable ventilation in these printing departments, to offset the noxious gases injurious to health. The debate was adjourned by Premier Oliver in order that the Minister of Labor might give his views.

When the House reached the Ross resolution covering the series of soldier motions on the treatment of aliens, and the questioned operation of the Civil Service Act, Premier Oliver asked that the order be passed by. This is taken to mean that the resolutions will not be reached before the close of the week.

School Boards.

J. W. Weart to-day filed a number of amendments to the School Act Amendment Bill, in which he proposes some radical changes in the method of electing school trustees. He provides that in a city school district of the first class the trustee board comprise the mayor, three trustees elected by the voters entitled to vote for council, and three trustees appointed by the mayor from the council. In cities of second class the board would comprise the mayor and four trustees obtained in the same way. District municipalities would have a school board of the reeve and four trustees. The South Vancouver member proposes that all school estimates and accounts must be approved by the City Council. Trustees should be paid a salary not exceeding \$25 a month.

Bowser Withdraws.

On a question of privilege this morning Opposition Leader Bowser said he desired to remove from his list of Liberal officeholders, allegedly receiving appointments through the political activity of their wives, the name of Crown Prosecutor H. S. Wood. Since he had made his statement in the House, he explained, he had ascertained that the Mrs. Wood who was a prominent Liberal worker in Vancouver was a Mrs. H. C. Wood.

Hon. John Hart to-day filed order paper answers which indicate that the Amusement Tax is not levied against the Arena rink in Vancouver, except for hockey matches.

The bill authorizing the Government to pay the guaranteed bonds of the Nakusp & Siccan Railway Co., which fall due within a few months, and which total over \$20,000, has been introduced in the House.

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New Minister of Agriculture Will Be Selected After Prorogation

Legislative Press Gallery, Evening Sitting, April 17.

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He contended that as the vote stood there was nothing to prevent the Prime Minister from taking another \$6,000 by reason of his holding the Portfolio of Agriculture. Mr. Oliver assured him at the time that he was not greedy, and would "rub along" on the seven and a half with the sessional indemnity as a useful little incidental.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1918

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Measure Introduced by the Premier at This Morning's Session

Legislative Press Gallery, Morning Sitting, April 19.

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No Share Qualification.

It is further provided that, notwithstanding any law or statute to the contrary, it shall not be necessary for any member of the Board of Directors so nominated or appointed to hold, or be registered as the holder of, any share or shares in the share capital of the Company of which he may be nominated or appointed a director. The three companies concerned are, as will be remembered, the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company, the Pacific Great

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First reading was given to the Bill. Other Business Progressing.

The Water Act and the Bill to amend the Supreme Court Act were disposed of and reported complete with amendments and the Metalliferous Mines Inspection Act similarly made further progress.

The Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, introduced a Bill to amend the Provincial Fisheries Act and the Minister of Finance a Bill to amend the Taxation Act, full particulars of which are given elsewhere in this issue.

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CITY OF VICTORIA BILL GOT THROUGH IN WEE SMA' HOURS

Minimum Wage Bill and Game Act Also Passed Committee Stage

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A number of amendments dealing more with phraseology than anything else were disposed of by H. C. Hall, the junior member for Victoria, and Dr. Macdonald, the member for North Okanagan, and chairman of Committee. Of the members who remained in the House these two showed commendable activity and the Bill was reported complete with amendments at 1.20 a. m. It will be remembered that the measure was subjected to a good deal of grueling during its progress through the Private Bills Committee, so that somewhat perfunctory treatment in its final stage need not be interpreted that the measure had no interest to the Legislature: its purport is well known to the members, while its importance to the city of Victoria may not be minimized.

Minimum Wage.

For nearly ninety minutes before the witching hour of midnight the Minimum Wage Bill was subjected to a good deal of discussion, the member for South Vancouver using all the persuasive eloquence at his command in order that its application might be considerably broadened. The chief object Mr. Weart had in view was the inclusion in the Bill of a provision looking to authority being given to the Minimum Wage Board, provided for in the measure, to investigate generally the conditions of employment of females. While it was pointed out to Mr. Weart that the Factory Act could take care of that phase of the question the South Vancouver member was not inclined to believe that the Factory Act would go so far as to cure conditions that permitted sweating.

The Attorney-General was not in a mood for amendments and pointed out to the House the advisability of giving the Act a year's trial before enlargement. The chief amendment to the lady member's Bill was the provision to appoint a Minimum Wage Board of five, instead of three, two of whom are to be women.

VITAL LEGISLATION COMPELS

Purchase by Alienated a ing

COMMUNITY PLAN IS

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Power to p lines certain out of product ions of the Land Settlement a Bill design Settlement an to be introduc Premier Olive ting of the E acquired at a limited po given, as to point of law, preme Court, deal is fixed amending Bil programme d present Prem extended vis section of th considerably measuring' plac during last t Comr

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VITAL LEGISLATION COMPELS PRODUCTION

Purchase by Compulsion of
Alienated and Non-Producing
Lands

COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT PLAN IS TO BE ADOPTED

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 19.

Power to purchase on compulsory lines certain large tracts of land held out of production is one of the provisions of the Government's extended Land Settlement policy as embodied in a Bill designed to amend the Land Settlement and Development Act and to be introduced to the Legislature by Premier Oliver at this evening's sitting of the House. The land will be acquired at an appraised value while a limited power of appeal is to be given, as to the value but not on any point of law, to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and the cost of the appeal is fixed at a minimum. The amending Bill is in pursuance of the programme determined by the late and present Premiers subsequent to their extended visit to the northern central section of the province last year, and considerably widens the power of the measure placed on the statute books during last session.

Community Settlement.

Through its Land Settlement Board the Government will be enabled to bring under settlement and production large tracts of alienated and at present non-productive lands. The Bill adopts the well-settled principles of settlement or community areas and empowers the Board to establish these at such points in the province as the Board may deem desirable, with a view to carrying on active colonization and in order that agricultural development and production generally may be increased.

Another outstanding feature of the measure is one which goes to the root of the land settlement question. In connection with the settlement areas the Board is empowered to notify every owner that he must carry on continuous, graduated improvements or become subject to the infliction of a varied penalty. In the first instance the Board appraises every parcel of land within the settlement area. It then notifies the owner of the appraised valuation entailing him to enter into an agreement, giving the Board a two years' option at the appraised value. The owner is also compelled to execute such improvements as the Board may require. The notice is also drawn so as to meet dissatisfaction of the owner in that if the appraised value is not satisfactory to him he may make a return of what he considers a fair valuation, in which event his figure shall become the basis thereafter for assessment purposes.

Will Compel Development.

In this connection, however, the owner is given an opportunity to give the Board an option, at what its directors consider to be a fair valuation of the land, for a period of two years. In the latter event the owner must carry on improvements to the satisfaction of the Board, failing which he at once becomes subject, in addition to ordinary taxes, to a penalty tax of five per cent. per annum, which shall be rebate to the extent of the proportion of his improvements to the improvements requisite.

As above stated the Board may purchase compulsorily such non-producing lands within the limits of the settlement areas. The spirit of the Bill, however, is fairness to the owner, but maintaining a steady insistence in all its provisions that the land within outlined areas shall be cultivated and be made to produce. It is similarly noteworthy that the Bill enables the Board to take into consideration the depasturing of cattle as an improvement.

AGREE ON PRINCIPLE OF OLD AGE PENSION

But Legislature Not in Position
to Deal With Legislation Yet

Legislative Press Gallery,
Afternoon Session, April 18.

As a sequel to the resolution introduced to the House on Tuesday afternoon by J. W. Weart, the member for South Vancouver, the Legislature went on record to-day as being in complete accord with the principle of old age pensions, but agreed that it was not yet in a position to go any further than that. Mr. Weart's resolution called for the definite consideration of legislation at this or next session.

The Premier took the stand that the matter is one for Dominion and not Provincial legislation and that the British Columbia Parliament should halt in its progress until the Legislatures of all the other provinces deal with it in a practical manner.

Stops at Endorsement.

Reference has already been made in these columns to the scheme evolved by the South Vancouver member, whose Bill in support of the resolution before the House, was already printed for submission. The Premier's amendment, however, merely committing the Legislature to an endorsement of the principle, stopped further progress.

Mr. Weart has arranged by consent of the Premier to send copies of his Bill to the members of all other Provincial Legislatures of the Dominion urging their support and interest to the end that a "simultaneous co-relation of effort" may result in uniform action, in which case the next session of the local House should see the fruits of his labors.

Nurses' Bill.

With the idea that the Bill had any intent to establish a "close corporation" for the nursing profession effectively dispelled, it was only to be expected that Dr. Sutherland's measure to which full reference has already been made in these columns, would go through fairly smoothly. Although the main provisions passed through committee with but little change there were a number of more or less unique suggestions for amendment. For instance, the fifth member for Vancouver was apprehensive lest the letters R.N. (registered nurse) should be confused with Royal Navy and some unsuspecting submarine chaser grabbed and made to show that he was a real sailor and not a bogus nurse.

The measure was reported complete and will go through to-morrow. The formal Bill granting certain sums of money for the Public Service of the province as well as the Ditches and Watercourses Act received third reading and safe passage.

TAXATION BILL IS INTRODUCED TO HOUSE

Hon. John Hart Brings Down
Important Measure This
Morning

Legislative Press Gallery,
Morning Sitting, April 19.

The Bill containing the Government's taxation proposals for this session was introduced this morning by the Minister of Finance, Hon. John Hart. It bears the impress of careful thought by the Minister, and is an earnest endeavor to refine the Taxation Act and equalize the burden which has to be borne by the taxpayers.

In regard to the farmer, provision is made for a complete new assessment of all the real property in the province coming under the taxation department, and this will be made during the summer. Upon it the rolls for 1919 will be based. Exemption of improvements up to a value of \$1,500 is given to farmers, this being in addition to the exemption up to \$1,000 on personal property which they now enjoy.

Mining Taxation.

An important portion of the bill is that dealing with the taxation of mining companies. In 1917 these were brought under the operation of the income-tax provisions of the Act, and under the Sur-tax Act, at the

same time continuing to be subject to the two per cent. mineral-tax. In making them liable to income-tax they had not the advantage of any allowance by way of deductions from gross income for directors' and officers' salaries, depreciation or development work, and the shareholders were taxed on their income from dividends.

One of the first duties falling to Hon. Mr. Hart on taking office was the levying of the new taxes and sur-taxes. On investigation he found that if the Act was enforced it would work a hardship on the mining industry, and at his suggestion the Government decided not to levy the taxes on mines at that time, but to give an opportunity this session to make certain refinements which would place this part of the Act on a more equitable and scientific basis.

Dividends.

What the Bill now before the House proposes in this regard is that mines shall be taxed either on income or two per cent. on the assessed value of the ore removed, whichever is the greater. In coming under income taxation depreciation of plant may be allowed in the discretion of the Minister up to fifteen per cent. per annum. A deduction will be allowed for development work, having regard to the ore produced from which an income is derived. The salaries paid to directors and officers will be allowed as a deduction when the recipients are resident in the province, and therefore paying income-tax themselves. It is also proposed to exempt from income-tax dividends from mining companies when the tax has been paid at the source.

Gold mining companies will be taxed on profits only, in view of the fact that the price of gold is fixed, while the cost of production has greatly increased. The various deductions just mentioned apply here as well, and of course they equally affect all other income-taxpayers, with stampage allowed as a deduction to lumbering firms.

Iron Ores.

A tax of thirty-seven and a half cents a ton is placed on iron ores, but this is more than offset by the bounty of \$3 a ton. All these mining taxes and the deductions affecting them date back to January 1, 1917, and as soon as the amendments are law the taxes for 1917 and 1918 will be levied and collected.

Prior to last year salmon cannery were taxed at the rate of four cents a case on their annual pack, but last year shareholders were made liable for income-tax in addition. The proposed amendment will tax the income at its source as an alternative to the four-cent tax, whichever is greater. For 1918 canneries will pay taxes on that basis, but for 1917 shareholders will have to pay on their income. The same applies to whaling companies, which will pay on income or at the rate of ten cents a barrel for whaleoil and twenty cents a ton for fertilizer, whichever sum is the larger.

Banks and Municipalities.

Banks will be taxed hereafter as last year, \$3,000 on the chief office of each bank and \$500 for each other office in the province.

City and district municipalities will be exempt from taxation of municipal property in unorganized territory. This affects Sooke waterworks property and Vancouver and Kamloops.

Amendments dealing with tax sales are proposed which will remove the difficulty which prevented to proceed for all arrears of taxes up to December 31 preceding. When property is advertised in future the whole amount of taxes owing will be shown, but in the event of the Government deciding that only the taxes up to, say, the end of 1915 shall be sought, an owner can save his land from sale by paying arrears and interest up to that date. Provision is made that a delinquent owner may at any time pay at least one year's arrears with interest. Heretofore a collector could not accept any payment unless it represented the full sum owing. In view of a tax sale the lands of any member of the Allied forces are to be withheld from sale, and the lands of his father, mother, wife or children, if dependent on him, may likewise be withheld.

Real Property.

The minimum tax on any parcel of real property is fixed at one dollar instead of twenty-five cents. There are several thousands of parcels now assessed for less than one dollar, the larger number at less than a quarter, and the expense of collection eats up most of the levy.

Every taxpayer is required, before September 30 in each year, to send in a statement of taxable property and of his income. No notice or demand will be made on him for this, but he can secure forms from any assessor on application. Failure to make returns entails a fine and the making of a false return, fine and imprisonment.

The Department has found some reluctance to make returns because of an impression that financial statements made were open to the public. Some time ago instructions were issued by Mr. Hart that all information obtained

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A number of amendments dealing more with phraseology than anything else were disposed of by H. C. Hall, the junior member for Victoria, and Dr. Macdonald, the member for North Okanagan and chairman of Committee. Of the members who remained in the House these two showed commendable activity and the Bill was reported complete with amendments at 1.20 a. m. It will be remembered that the measure was subjected to a good deal of grueling during its progress through the Private Bills Committee, so that somewhat perfunctory treatment in its final stage need not be interpreted that the measure had no interest to the Legislature: its purport is well known to the members, while its importance to the city of Victoria may not be minimized.

Minimum Wage.

For nearly ninety minutes before the witching hour of midnight the Minimum Wage Bill was subjected to a good deal of discussion, the member for South Vancouver using all the persuasive eloquence at his command in order that its application might be considerably broadened. The chief object Mr. Weart had in view was the inclusion in the Bill of a provision looking to authority being given to the Minimum Wage Board, provided for in the measure, to investigate generally the conditions of employment of females. While it was pointed out to Mr. Weart that the Factory Act could take care of that phase of the question the South Vancouver member was not inclined to believe that the Factory Act would go so far as to cure conditions that permitted sweating.

The Attorney-General was not in a mood for amendments and pointed out to the House the advisability of giving the Act a year's trial before enlargement. The chief amendment to the lady member's Bill was the provision to appoint a Minimum Wage Board of five, instead of three, two of whom are to be women.

VITAL LEG COMPELS

Purchase by Alienated a ing

COMMUNITY PLAN IS

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Land Settlement a Bill design Settlement an to be introduc Premier Olive ting of the E acquired at a limited po given, as to t point of law, preme Court, deal is fixed amending Bil programme d present Pres extended vis section of th considerably measure plac during last r

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VITAL LEGISLATION COMPELS PRODUCTION

Purchase by Compulsion of
Alienated and Non-Producing
Lands

COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT PLAN IS TO BE ADOPTED

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 19.

Power to purchase on compulsory lines certain large tracts of land held out of production is one of the provisions of the Government's extended Land Settlement policy as embodied in a Bill designed to amend the Land Settlement and Development Act and to be introduced to the Legislature by Premier Oliver at this evening's sitting of the House. The land will be acquired at an appraised value while a limited power of appeal is to be given, as to the value but not on any point of law, to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and the cost of the appeal is fixed at a minimum. The amending Bill is in pursuance of the programme determined by the late and present Premiers subsequent to their extended visit to the northern central section of the province last year, and considerably widens the power of the measure placed on the statute books during last session.

Community Settlement.

Through its Land Settlement Board the Government will be enabled to bring under settlement and production large tracts of alienated and at present non-productive lands. The Bill adopts the well-settled principles of settlement or community areas and empowers the Board to establish these at such points in the province as the Board may deem desirable, with a view to carrying on active colonization and in order that agricultural development and production generally may be increased.

Another outstanding feature of the measure is one which goes to the root of the land settlement question. In connection with the settlement areas the Board is empowered to notify every owner that he must carry on continuous, graduated improvements or become subject to the infliction of a varied penalty. In the first instance the Board appraises every parcel of land within the settlement area. It then notifies the owner of the appraised valuation entailing him to enter into an agreement giving the Board a two years' option at the appraised value. The owner is also compelled to execute such improvements as the Board may require. The notice is also drawn so as to meet dissatisfaction of the owner in that if the appraised value is not satisfactory to him he may make a return of what he considers a fair valuation, in which event his figure shall become the basis thereafter for assessment purposes.

Will Compel Development.

In this connection, however, the owner is given an opportunity to give the Board an option, at what its directors consider to be a fair valuation of the land, for a period of two years. In the latter event the owner must carry on improvements to the satisfaction of the Board, failing which he at once becomes subject, in addition to ordinary taxes, to a penalty tax or five per cent. per annum, which shall be rebate to the extent of the proportion of his improvements to the improvements requisite.

As above stated the Board may purchase compulsorily such non-producing lands within the limits of the settlement areas. The spirit of the Bill, however, is fairness to the owner, but maintaining a steady insistence in all its provisions that the land within outlined areas shall be cultivated and be made to produce. It is similarly noteworthy that the Bill enables the Board to take into consideration the depasturing of cattle as an improvement.

AGREE ON PRINCIPLE OF OLD AGE PENSION

But Legislature Not in Position
to Deal With Legislation Yet

Legislative Press Gallery,
Afternoon Session, April 18.

As a sequel to the resolution introduced to the House on Tuesday afternoon by J. W. Weart, the member for South Vancouver, the Legislature went on record to-day as being in complete accord with the principle of old age pensions, but agreed that it was not yet in a position to go any further than that. Mr. Weart's resolution called for the definite consideration of legislation at this or next session.

The Premier took the stand that the matter is one for Dominion and not Provincial legislation and that the British Columbia Parliament should halt in its progress until the Legislatures of all the other provinces deal with it in a practical manner.

Stops at Endorsement.

Reference has already been made in these columns to the scheme evolved by the South Vancouver member, whose Bill in support of the resolution before the House, was already printed for submission. The Premier's amendment, however, merely committing the Legislature to an endorsement of the principle, stopped further progress.

Mr. Weart has arranged by consent of the Premier to send copies of his Bill to the members of all other Provincial Legislatures of the Dominion urging their support and interest to the end that a "simultaneous co-relation of effort" may result in uniform action, in which case the next session of the local House should see the fruits of his labors.

Nurses' Bill.

With the idea that the Bill had any intent to establish a "close corporation" for the nursing profession effectively dispelled, it was only to be expected that Dr. Sutherland's measure to which full reference has already been made in these columns, would go through fairly smoothly. Although the main provisions passed through committee with but little change there were a number of more or less unique suggestions for amendment. For instance, the fifth member for Vancouver was apprehensive lest the letters R. N. (registered nurse) should be confused with Royal Navy and some unsuspecting submarine chaser grabbed and made to show that he was a real sailor and not a bogus nurse.

The measure was reported complete and will go through to-morrow. The formal Bill granting certain sums of money for the Public Service of the province as well as the Ditches and Watercourses Act received third reading and safe passage.

TAXATION BILL IS INTRODUCED TO HOUSE

Hon. John Hart Brings Down
Important Measure This
Morning

Legislative Press Gallery,
Morning Sitting, April 19.

The Bill containing the Government's taxation proposals for this session was introduced this morning by the Minister of Finance, Hon. John Hart. It bears the impress of careful thought by the Minister, and is an earnest endeavor to refine the Taxation Act and equalize the burden which has to be borne by the taxpayers.

In regard to the farmer, provision is made for a complete new assessment of all the real property in the province coming under the taxation department, and this will be made during the summer. Upon it the rolls for 1919 will be based. Exemption of improvements up to a value of \$1,500 is given to farmers, this being in addition to the exemption up to \$1,000 on personal property which they now enjoy.

Mining Taxation.

An important portion of the bill is that dealing with the taxation of mining companies. In 1917 these were brought under the operation of the income-tax provisions of the Act, and also under the Sur-tax Act, at the

same time continuing to be subject to the two per cent. mineral-tax. In making them liable to income-tax they had not the advantage of any allowance by way of deductions from gross income for directors' and officers' salaries, depreciation or development work, and the shareholders were taxed on their income from dividends.

One of the first duties falling to Hon. Mr. Hart on taking office was the levying of the new taxes and sur-taxes. On investigation he found that if the Act was enforced it would work a hardship on the mining industry, and at his suggestion the Government decided not to levy the taxes on mines at that time, but to give an opportunity this session to make certain refinements which would place this part of the Act on a more equitable and scientific basis.

Dividends.

What the Bill now before the House proposes in this regard is that mines shall be taxed either on income or two per cent. on the assessed value of the ore removed, whichever is the greater. In coming under income taxation depreciation of plant may be allowed in the discretion of the Minister up to fifteen per cent. per annum. A deduction will be allowed for development work, having regard to the ore produced from which an income is derived. The salaries paid to directors and officers will be allowed as a deduction when the recipients are resident in the province, and therefore paying income-tax themselves. It is also proposed to exempt from income-tax dividends from mining companies when the tax has been paid at the source.

Gold mining companies will be taxed on profits only, in view of the fact that the price of gold is fixed, while the cost of production has greatly increased. The various deductions just mentioned apply here as well, and of course they equally affect all other income-taxpayers, with stampage allowed as a deduction to lumbering firms.

Iron Ores.

A tax of thirty-seven and a half cents a ton is placed on iron ores, but this is more than offset by the bounty of \$3 a ton. All these mining taxes and the deductions affecting them date back to January 1, 1917, and as soon as the amendments are law the taxes for 1917 and 1918 will be levied and collected.

Prior to last year salmon canners were taxed at the rate of four cents a case on their annual pack, but last year shareholders were made liable for income-tax in addition. The proposed amendment will tax the income at its source as an alternative to the four-cent tax, whichever is greater. For 1918 canneries will pay taxes on that basis, but for 1917 shareholders will have to pay on their income. The same applies to whaling companies, which will pay on income or at the rate of ten cents a barrel for whaleoil and twenty cents a ton for fertilizer, whichever sum is the larger.

Banks and Municipalities.

Banks will be taxed hereafter as last year, \$3,000 on the chief office of each bank and \$500 for each other office in the province.

City and district municipalities will be exempt from taxation of municipal property in unorganized territory. This affects Sooke waterworks property and Vancouver and Kamloops.

Amendments dealing with tax sales are proposed which will remove the difficulty which prevented a tax sale last year, that of having to proceed for all arrears of taxes up to December 31 preceding. When property is advertised in future the whole amount of taxes owing will be shown, but in the event of the Government deciding that only the taxes up to, say, the end of 1915 shall be sought, an owner can save his land from sale by paying arrears and interest up to that date. Provision is made that a delinquent owner may at any time pay at least one year's arrears with interest. Heretofore a collector could not accept any payment unless it represented the full sum owing. In view of a tax sale the lands of any member of the Allied forces are to be withheld from sale, and the lands of his father, mother, wife or children, if dependent on him, may likewise be withheld.

Real Property.

The minimum tax on any parcel of real property is fixed at one dollar instead of twenty-five cents. There are several thousands of parcels now assessed for less than one dollar, the larger number at less than a quarter, and the expense of collection eats up most of the levy.

Every taxpayer is required, before September 30 in each year, to send in a statement of taxable property and of his income. No notice or demand will be made on him for this, but he can secure forms from any assessor on application. Failure to make returns entails a fine and the making of a false return, fine and imprisonment.

The Department has found some reluctance to make returns because of an impression that financial statements made were open to the public. Some time ago instructions were issued by Mr. Hart that all information obtained

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by officials in connection with the business of taxpayers must be held absolutely confidential and to more fully enforce his order he has placed a section in the bill imposing a fine of \$200 on any person disclosing any such information. Besides this, of course, departmental regulations would entail the summary dismissal of the official.

PREMIER PROMISES CIVIL SERVICE ACT

But Will Amend It to Meet
Present-day Con-
ditions

HAS NO REGRETS AND
NOTHING TO RETRACT

Says Opposition Would Ham-
per Ottawa for Political Ad-
vantage Here

Legislative Press Gallery.

Afternoon Sitting, April 18.

Premier Oliver told the Legislature this afternoon that the Civil Service Act, placed on the statute-books of the province at last session, would be put into operation after it had been amended to suit present day conditions. He did not take the House into his confidence any more than to say that the Government would use ample time to exercise full regard to its provisions and their ultimate effect on the interests of the people generally and those of the returned soldier in particular. He sought to defend the action he took on the occasion of the soldier demonstration to the Parliament Buildings and again declared that the Government was not hostile to the Union Government at Ottawa. He had no regrets and nothing to retract. But he took the opportunity to point out to the Opposition, whom he styled the self-appointed champions of the Union Government, that their action in supporting a resolution was tantamount to a vote of censure.

Mrs. Ralph Smith, the Leader of the Opposition, Frank Mobley, J. S. Cowper and J. H. Hawthornthwaite contributed to the debate on the resolution as moved by W. R. Ross, the member for Fort George, on Tuesday last, and referred to in these columns at length.

Premier Oliver.

"I am not going to make a lot of noise, because this is a matter which demands a good deal of serious consideration and notwithstanding the fact that my actions on the night in question have received much criticism I have nothing to regret, nothing to retract that will in any way alter the attitude I intend to maintain," was the opening statement made by the Premier on rising to take his share in the debate. Mr. Oliver alluded to his statements made on the steps of the Parliament Buildings and reminded the House again that he was not in the habit of endorsing any resolution without the complete digestion of which had not been possible beforehand. And the reason, he said, might be found for that in the presence, perhaps, of a peculiar streak of obstinacy contained in his make up. (Ironical cries of "Hear, hear from Opposition benches.") "Many people have doubtless come to the conclusion, however," continued the Premier, "that I am not a difficult man to lead, but to drive me is an entirely different matter."

Appeals For Fairplay.

The Leader of the Government told the House that he had gone so far as to say to the delegation, as they well knew, that doubtless some portions of the solution in question would be easy of favorable consideration at the hands of the Government. "But," he proceeded, "I appeal for fairplay in this as in all other matters." He re-

counted the events of the evening in question and pointed to the fact that the House was then in session twice a day. He said that the very first thing he did on the following morning was to send the document presented by the deputation to the printers in order that every member of the House, within twenty hours of the presentation, could be in possession of the whole of the subject matter. He appealed to the Legislature as to whether or not that was sufficient proof of his contention that he did consider the matter to be sufficiently important to warrant its careful digestion by the members.

Political Capital.

"But the honorable member for Fort George immediately jumped to the conclusion that here was a chance to make good political capital and at the following evening session there was a deliberate attempt to catch a snap vote on the plea of urgency," said the Premier as he proceeded to review the terms and import of the resolution. He referred to the fact that the resolution itself recited that its terms had already been before the Dominion Government at Ottawa, in its wisdom, had seen fit to withhold its endorsement or at least fail to give the assurances demanded. "The members of this Administration have been charged with failure to support the Union Government at Ottawa as did the self-constituted champions of the new regime, but," continued the Premier, "on the other hand, we now see the Leader of the Opposition and his party in this House perfectly willing to administer a slap in the face to that same Union Government in order that he may secure political capital from the process.

Indicts Union Government.

"I say to this House and I repeat to the people of this province that this Government is not hostile to the Union Government at Ottawa. I have said so before and I repeat that this Government is ready and willing to render its heartiest practical co-operation with Ottawa and at all times give it the benefit of any doubts that may from time to time arise. And I say," declared the Premier, "that any man who attempts to hinder the work of that Government at this most trying time is not a good citizen." Contemplating some of the sections of the resolution before the House, Mr. Oliver proceeded to show that in his opinion there could be no more forcible indictment of the Union Government than the sentiments contained therein and presumably supported by the member for Fort George, the mover, and the Leader of the Opposition.

Monopolists of Patriotism.

"These are the self-constituted champions of the Union Government at Ottawa. These are the men who profess to have the monopoly of all the patriotism in their breeches pockets. These are the men who would seek to go contrary to the purposes of that Government for the sole aim of coining political advantage for use in the forthcoming by-election in the city of Victoria. What can the people of this province think of men of this class in the light of their oft-repeated protestations on the floor of this House?" asked the Premier as he virtually flung his challenge across to the Opposition benches.

All Could Say Amen.

There were two ways of doing things and the way the Provincial Government would take would be that which would not hamper the authorities at Ottawa. The Premier declared there would be no doubt that the country as a whole would be a unit behind any programme the Dominion Government considered advisable and necessary to deal with the alien enemy. But instead of what amounted to a virtual vote of censure on them it would be much more to the point to pass resolutions backing them up in the course selected as a cure for the situation. Not a single member of the Legislature, however, would refrain from pronouncing his Amen to that section of the resolution, said the Premier.

Would Deny Relief.

Referring to that clause in the resolution which demanded a satisfactory treatment of the alien question before the enforcement of the Military Service Act in respect to Class Two men, the Premier continued: "The cry has gone out to the people for more men, for more munitions, for everything that the process of war needs, and yet you would tie the hands of the Dominion Government and say to them 'You shall not have any more men to deal with the immediate danger until you have dealt with the danger which is remote.' You would rather persist in the securing of your political capital at that expense," was the charge the Premier preferred, with the qualification that the attitude of the Opposition seemed to suggest that course.

Sympathy Needed.

"There will never be an indecision on my part on a subject of this kind although my political fate may be in the balance and the scale weighted down against me. No, I say," he went on, "you would stay the hand that would send relief to those brave men in France while you spar here for political advantage by giving attention to the friendly alien first. The passing of this resolution would be the passing of a vote of censure on the Union Government at Ottawa. Although I am not an ardent supporter of that Government," said he, "I appeal for fairplay, because that Government is doing its best to control the affairs of the country in the most troublous times it has ever faced. The men at Ottawa are doing their level best to grapple with the questions of the day and they do not want your censure; they want and they need your sympathetic support."

Civil Service Act.

With a reference to the late Premier and an expression of the belief that he had laid down his life for his country with the same devotion as had many a Canadian in France, he passed on to deal with that part of the resolution concerned with the Civil Service Act—the measure upon which Mr. Brewster had depended for the betterment of the public service, the people of the province generally and, in particular the returned soldier. Mr. Oliver told the House that he had had no notification that such a resolution would be presented. He resented what he termed the offensive manner in which its presentation was carried out in that an immediate answer was demanded of him. He had not been accustomed to deal with matters in such a perfunctory manner. As to the charge that he declared ignorance of its provisions, Mr. Oliver said that it was not to be expected that he could carry the aims and objects of every piece of legislation in his head.

Lying Man.

"I call that man a lying man who dared to construe my remarks so as to make it appear that I said I knew nothing about the Civil Service Act," said the Premier in tones that could not fail of hearing. "But let me tell this House and the people of this country that I am not now nor never have I been given to doing the expedient thing at the expense of the right thing. I am not going to truckle to anything, nor to turn to anything for the sake of holding a seat in this Legislature and I am quite content to allow the people of this province to pronounce their verdict when the time comes. I may not live to see the day when that takes place, but if I do I shall be ready to take my medicine or my endorsement just as the people and the returned soldier deem it is my due. I can say this, however, concluded the Premier, that it is the intention of the Government to bring the Civil Service Act into operation after it has been amended to suit such new conditions which were not easy of contemplation when it was first constructed. We are not going to be hasty about it, because we desire it to be capable of operation in the best interests of all concerned."

Mr. Bowser.

The Leader of the Opposition said that the returned soldiers had taken the only constitutional course offered to them. They had a grievance and they came to the responsible head of the Government in charge of the affairs of the country to make known their troubles. He contended that there was never any question of stampeding the Leader of the Government, because it had been found out long ago that the vagaries of that gentleman's mental machinery did not lend themselves to any such process.

Always Soldiers' Friend.

Turning to the remarks of the Premier inferring that the party whom he had the honor to lead in the cool shades of opposition would pass a vote of censure on Sir Robert Borden and the Union Government, Mr. Bowser said that it would be unfair to Sir Robert himself did his friends not choose to differ from him, particularly where the difference affected the welfare of the returned soldier. He claimed that the Conservative party had always been a friend of the returned man, and while some of them might perhaps object to the phraseology of the resolution, especially perhaps those sections appearing somewhat dictatorial, if the returned soldiers had given it their consideration and had come to the conclusion that it represented their views that was good enough for Mr. Bowser and his colleagues on that side of the House.

"The Slimy Monster."

The Leader of the Opposition re-

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iterated his statement in which he had proposed Civil Service Act operative until eventually provided for by continued Mr. Bowser's Premier's remarks "that he is going when it has been says he is going to—the right thing for the Liberal party. The Opposition Leader out the "slimy monster" up and down through only one colored patronage streak was the case of Danish parents Danish territory of albeit under the had been given the superintendent at expense of a return Mrs.

"I am just getting when I find them thing doing," said characteristically on hand of a woman her since her first Speaker by the stated at the outset brief for the Government not for the Opposition the subject under could summon no for the manner in tion of political force conducted its business its mandate from cember 17 last. ment had fallen doer of providing for the returned s not be until the at Ottawa led the of the provinces Parliaments would assume their full the responsibility y on the Dominion

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Lieut.

Lieut. Macken dlers' attitude in present day pol thought that the be used for the p would be badly at length from by the late Prem vice Act and dep The best way to and the soldier tended to be kil vice Act was a would be to bring delay. "There is ing it back, I s inference from m speech as contal port thereof, "a cherished wish"

J. H. Hawthorn

the bravery of agreed with his Cowper also con which was adje Nelson, the men

iterated his statement made a year ago in which he had prophesied that the Civil Service Act would remain inoperative until every Liberal had been duly provided for. "He now says," continued Mr. Bowser, referring to the Premier's remarks on the subject, "that he is going to enforce the Act when it has been amended. But he says he is going to do the right thing—the right thing for the members of the Liberal party." From this point the Opposition Leader again brought out the "slimy monster" and paraded it up and down the Legislature, making only one change in its multi-colored patronage paint. The new streak was the case of a Dane, born of Danish parents in the erstwhile Danish territory of Schleswig-Holstein, albeit under the German flag, who had been given the post of bridge superintendent at Bella Coola at the expense of a returned soldier.

Mrs. Smith.

"I am just getting my bearings and when I find them there will be something doing," said Mrs. Smith as she characteristically alluded to the lone hand of a woman played silently by her since her first introduction to Mr. Speaker by the late Premier. She stated at the outset that she held no brief for the Government and certainly not for the Opposition in respect of the subject under discussion. She could summon no words of approval for the manner in which the combination of political forces at Ottawa had conducted its business since receiving its mandate from the people on December 17 last. The Union Government had fallen down sadly in the matter of providing something tangible for the returned soldier and it would not be until the Mother Parliament at Ottawa led the way for her children of the provinces that the Provincial Parliaments would be able to rise and assume their fullest possible share of the responsibility now resting so heavily on the Dominion.

"Sooner the Better."

"I believe the Civil Service Act will be enforced and the sooner the better," said the lady member for Vancouver. She had received a communication from a returned soldier who had requested her to "soft pedal" in connection with the Act. She was not quite understanding the purport of the exhortation, but presumed the same writer's suggestion that all civil servants resign to make way for the returned men was meant as a substitute for the Act. As a matter of fact, she told the House, the essence of the soldier's suggestion would be presented in the form of a resolution at the Vancouver demonstration tomorrow night. Loathe to leave the Union Government, Mrs. Smith declared that a much more vigorous policy was needed and needed quickly. The imperative tone would have to be infused into their policies. It would have to be "You have got to do so and so." Just as soon as that determination appeared then every man and woman in Canada would be ready to fall into line, she said.

Frank Mobley.

Frank Mobley, the member for Atlin, who adjourned the debate after its opening by the member for Port George, spoke first, and while heartily in accord with the Civil Service Act he regretted the somewhat dictatorial tone of the resolution presented by the delegation. He contended that it was the duty of both Provincial and Dominion Governments to get down to a policy that would at least tide the men over until the eventual national scheme could effectively take care of the situation. Cautious procedure was necessary, however.

Lieut. Mackenzie.

Lieut. Mackenzie spoke of the soldiers' attitude in the trenches towards present day politics. If the House thought that the returned soldier could be used for the playing of politics they would be badly mistaken. He quoted at length from the speech delivered by the late Premier on the Civil Service Act and deprecated its inoperation. The best way to convince the province and the soldier that the condition intended to be killed by the Civil Service Act was actually dead, said he, would be to bring it into force without delay. "There is a hidden hand holding it back, I say, and," quoting the inference from the late Premier's speech as contained in The Times report thereof, "also holding back the cherished wish of the late Premier." J. H. Hawthornthwaite, who admired the bravery of the Premier but disagreed with his position, and J. S. Cowper also contributed to the debate, which was adjourned by Charles F. Nelson, the member for Slocan.

UNIQUE MEASURE IS BEFORE LEGISLATURE

How a Poundkeeper May Do His Duty and Suffer

Legislative Press Gallery.

Afternoon Sitting, April 19.

How the trials and tribulations of a poundkeeper may reach the floor of the Legislature was explained by Premier Oliver at this afternoon's sitting of the House. It appears that one of these officials at an interior city had impounded several noble steeds, to whom he had administered the necessary sustenance for the customary period required by law. He had advertised the fact of their detention far and wide, telling of the day on which the sale of the animals would take place. But instead of a mad rush of purchasers not a single bid did he get.

There is no protection for this poundkeeper and he has either to "lose" the animals, let them die a natural death, or feed them at his own expense. The bill now provides that under such circumstances lawful destruction may be permitted, since the stand is taken that if an animal fetches no sort of bid he has to all intents and purposes outlived his usefulness. Second reading was given to the bill.

Many Bills Dealt With.

The bill amending the Public School Act, providing for the consolidation of all classes of schools and setting forth the regulation as to cost of construction of the single-room school-house, was read a second time.

Following an explanation from the Attorney-General relative to the need for amending the British Columbia Prohibition Act, particularly regarding the appointment and duties of the Prohibition Commissioner, the bill was given a second reading.

Mr. Farris pointed out to the House, by the way, that the amendments in question in no way altered the essentials and principle of the measure upon which the people voted their approval. He mentioned this because both sides had sought to move the Government from the path determined by the people and he had been particularly careful not to interfere with a measure only a few months old.

War Relief Act.

Second reading was given to the bill to amend the War Relief Act, now including beyond all doubt the officer and the draftee in its provisions, also suspension of recovery of counterclaim judgments until six months after the termination of the war.

The Act respecting the capacity of provincial corporations and the Wills Act were read a second time. The bill to amend the Game Act was reported complete with amendments and the same remarks apply to the Labor Regulation Act and the British Columbia Loan Act. The Metalliferous Mines Act will be read a third time at the next sitting of the House.

TWO MINISTERS AND BOWSER LOCK HORNS

Spontaneous Eruptions Over Time-Worn Theme of Gov- ernment Appointments

OPPOSITION LEADER GETS VERY LITTLE CONSOLATION

Legislative Press Gallery.

Afternoon Sitting, April 19.

The committee stage of the audit produced one of the liveliest few minutes which has so far marked this year's session. After an interval of silence during which the House had been able to get through some of the work before it the Leader of the Opposition suddenly dropped his mantle

of apparent indifference to all things around him and delivered stab after stab at the good faith of the Minister of Finance, with Frank J. Sehl as the butt of his vitriolic onslaught.

There was nothing new in Mr. Bowser's theme; it was merely another method of dishing up the old arguments regarding appointments to the Civil Service. This time he asserted with studied deliberation that the Hon. John Hart was taking care of men because they had religious claims upon him. Challenged for an instance the Opposition Leader alleged that Frank Sehl, although not a civil servant, had been appointed to a lucrative position for the sole reason that he belonged to the Minister's Church.

Cowardly Statements.

"Those are cowardly statements to make and there is nothing to them," retorted Mr. Hart. "A man who makes such cowardly attacks is not fit to lead the Conservative Party."

Mr. Bowser repeated his statement. "The Leader of the Opposition has as little regard for the truth in this as in other statements he makes," the Premier declared with emphasis.

Mr. Bowser proceeded with his now well-memorized tirade in condemnation of the appointments to the public service being made by minute-in-council.

The Premier remarked that he would like to know the authority for any such "fool statement" as that.

The appointment and payment of the Prohibition Commissioner was alleged by Mr. Bowser to be illegal, and he further asserted that there was no authority for any expenditures made under the Prohibition Act.

Cheap and Schoolboyish.

The Attorney-General characterized the remarks of Mr. Bowser as cheap and schoolboyish, reminding him that he was in no position to pose as the schoolmaster of the Legislature. From the Act bringing into force the Prohibition Act Mr. Farris read the section which gives full and complete authority for the payment of all expenses of administering the Act from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, for the year ending March 31, 1918.

That Reserve Deal.

"The honorable gentleman stated falsely in that as in so many things," continued the Attorney-General. "How much longer are we to be bound to endurance of his audacious statements? He talks about illegal payments! Does he forget that he allowed two friends of his, H. O. Alexander and Hamilton Read, to be paid \$80,000 illegally for putting over a deal on some Indians in Vancouver? He gave them \$300,000 which had never been voted by the House, and which did not even appear in the estimates the next year. He told them to go over and make the best bargain they could with the Indians. These friends of his paid the Indians \$220,000 and put \$80,000 of the people's money into their own pockets.

Brazen and Audacious.

"This man," concluded the Attorney-General, "who deliberately, brazenly and audaciously went about the performance of his public duties in that way, now comes here and because we appoint a man who carries out his duties efficiently and well dares to talk as he has done to-day. Well may we ask how much longer we are to endure this sort of thing."

Mr. Bowser assured the House that the Province would get its money back from the Dominion after the arbitration was over.

"Does that justify your illegal act in the first place?" Mr. Farris asked, but got no reply.

Remains Mute.

To the question of the Minister of Finance, who asked if Alexander and Read, the latter a former law partner of the Leader of the Opposition, were going to return the \$80,000 they had pocketed, Mr. Bowser was equally mute. Mr. Hart also inquired if it was not true that Mr. Bowser's law firm were solicitors for the P. G. E. and for Foley, Welch and Stewart, who had got illegal over-payments amounting to some five millions of dollars from the Government of which the head of that legal firm was a prominent member.

This seemed to get under Mr. Bowser's skin, and he attempted to twist the Minister's words into a charge of over-payment to his firm, winding up with the somewhat lame excuse that his firm had only done a few petty things for their clients.

And without the legislative pile the sun shone brightly.

FIVE NEW BILLS IN LEGISLATURE TO-DAY

Hopes of Closing To-night Go Aglimmering; Much Business to Do

Legislative Press Gallery, Morning Sitting, April 20.

Five new Bills made their appearance in the Legislature just prior to the lunch hour to-day, and include Amendments to Civil Service Act; to the Provincial Elections Act; Weekly Half-Holiday Act; Banff-Windermere Road Act; and an Act requiring public officers to furnish security. All were given first reading, while the Supreme Court Act is to be reconsidered for more amendments by the Attorney-General.

What They Mean.

The appointment of an official now in the civil service to administer the Civil Service Act of 1917 in addition to his present duties is forecasted in an amendment to the Act. The Premier's Bill provides that the salary of the commissioner shall be fixed by Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and shall not exceed five thousand per year. Under the Act as it stood the salary was set at a flat five thousand. The clause of the Act providing that the Commissioner shall not hold any other office is repealed by the amendment introduced to-day. No hint has yet been given as to when the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council will bring the Civil Service Act into force. It is rumored that Comptroller General Mount may be the new Commissioner doing that work, as well as his present duties.

Half-Holiday Act.

The Weekly Half-Holiday Act Amendment provides that half-holiday closing shall not apply for the week preceding Christmas Day. It also provides that the half-holiday shall not apply New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, the birthday of the sovereign or any proclaimed holiday falls. The arrangement contemplated in connection with these public holidays is that the half-holiday which would fall nearest the date of the public holiday shall be waived, whether it be in the week before, week after or the week of the holiday.

Premier Oliver's Bill respecting the giving of security by public officers states that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may provide that any or every public official may be called upon to provide security for the performance of trust. The Bill is to come into force when the Civil Service Act is made effective.

Soldiers' Votes.

The Oliver Bill amending Provincial Elections Act provides that any returned soldier as defined under the Allied Forces Exemption Act, shall be entitled up to within ten days of a polling, to have his name placed on the register of voters for the district in which he was last resident prior to enlistment. His application may be made to any electoral District Registrar. The difference between this Bill and the Bowser Bill which the Government rejected, is that the Opposition Leader proposed to permit soldiers to get on the list up to within three days of an election, and he made no restriction as to the district list they might enroll upon, permitting them to get on any list in the province.

For Absentees.

A resolution by A. Manson, of Omineca, was adopted whereby three members absent on active service will receive sessional indemnity of \$1,600 which they could not have received without such action. They are G. Hanes, North Vancouver; J. W. McIntosh, Vancouver; and Capt. Hayward, Cowichan.

Mr. Pooley's Salary.

A similar resolution as applying to R. H. Pooley, who is away ill, was moved by the Premier and received unanimous passage at the hands of the Legislature.

UNIVERSITY TUITION WITH FEE IN FUTURE

Bill Now Through; Scheme Was Utopian Idea, Says Mr. Jackson

Legislative Press Gallery, Morning Sitting, April 20.

Whether education furnished by British Columbia University should be free or not was the subject debated in the House this morning when the Opposition Leader drew attention to a clause in the amendment to the University Act then under consideration which repealed the section of the original Act granting free tuition at the institution.

Up to Them.

Replying, Hon. Dr. McLean, Minister of Education, said that there was a difference of opinion in the University Board of Governors upon the subject, and as a consequence the Government had decided to remove the clause calling for free tuition in order that the Governors would have an opportunity of deciding the matter for themselves. While many American state colleges gave free education, most Canadian institutions charged a fee, he said. Speaking for himself he explained, he considered the university should be free provided that its endowment was sufficient.

Not Hopeful.

It is not considered likely that the Government will be able to give the institution the special grant desired this year in order to provide for removal to new buildings to be constructed on the Point Grey site. It was originally expected that the university request would be granted, but other financial demands upon the provincial purse have been too heavy.

Mr. Bowser asked about this subject this morning and was informed by the Minister of Education that the matter was still receiving consideration. The Minister's tone was far from hopeful, however. He informed the Opposition leader that the maintenance grant last year was \$225,000 as compared with \$220,000 for the present year.

The special sum desired for the moving to Point Grey was about \$200,000.

Wild Utopian Idea.

M. B. Jackson, member for The Islands, urged that the Legislature take into consideration the advisability of dropping the university scheme and adopting instead a project involving merely an agricultural college and a polytechnic institute. The university proposition was a wild utopian idea foisted upon a province which could ill afford the huge expense, he declared. British Columbia was not yet ready to undertake any such scheme.

The Bill which, in addition to repealing the section of the Act calling for free tuition, also changes the method of electing convocation officers, went through committee without change.

Mrs. Ralph Smith was in the chair.

GOT QUICK ACTION

Provincial Fisheries Commissioner Sloan Tables Correspondence Which "Killed" Dominion Order-in-Council.

Legislative Press Gallery, Evening Sitting, April 19.

That an order of the House be granted for a return of copies of all correspondence of the Fisheries Commissioner or any official in his Department in connection with the Dominion Order in Council whereby Cowichan Bay was opened to net fishing, was a resolution moved to-night by H. C. Hall, the junior member for Victoria and passed by the House.

The Hon. William Sloan, Fisheries Commissioner, was glad to do the needful and to inform the House that representations made by himself and legged up by the Federal member for Nanaimo, J. C. McIntosh, had resulted in the repeal of the Order-in-Council and the cancellation of the net fishing license issued to the Beacon Fishery Company.

It is understood that the Minister of Mines, in his new capacity, handled the matter without gloves, and was quickly successful in proving his case to the absolute satisfaction of the Federal Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, with the result set out above.

NO TEMPORAL POWER FOR THE MINISTERS

Mr. Hawthornthwaite's Early Morning Excursion to the Dark Ages

Legislative Press Gallery, Midnight Sitting, April 20.

In order to get the Vancouver Charter Amendment Bill and a number of other measures into the committee stage the Legislature sat until three o'clock this morning. And no sooner had the Vancouver Bill reached the desired spot when contention in large capitals loomed up to the accompaniment of a general oratorical beano. J. H. Hawthornthwaite, the member for Newcastle, took the stellar role at the point where sub-section three of section one desires to disqualify persons in holy orders and ministers to sit as mayor or alderman.

The Dark Ages.

With the door of his vocabulary wide open the Labor member voiced his approval with a strange insistence and he felt that even his eloquence was scarcely sufficient to drive home so vital a point. No temporal powers, he said, should be given to men of "the cloth." In support of his contention Mr. Hawthornthwaite proceeded to drop back into the dark ages when church and state were more closely associated, relying upon the historical reference to act as a signpost for the immediate wisdom of withholding temporal authority from the church. This was not enough, however; he pictured the days of the rack, of the thumb-screw, yes, and the faggot, too. Thus aided by the hour of the day and the eeriness of the stake burning atmosphere, the member for Newcastle voiced his support for the clause in question and shivered at the thought of the dangers that would follow its rejection.

Advocates Freedom.

Nothing daunted, the lady member for Vancouver, entered the debate as an advocate of perfect freedom in this particular connection. Any good citizen, she said, regardless of creed or calling, should be at liberty to shoulder the cares of Government no matter whether municipal or parliamentary. G. G. McGee, the member for Richmond, viewed the question from another angle and thought it the part of wisdom to permit the gentlemen of "the cloth" to take a round in the political life of the community so as to obtain first hand appreciation of their own disqualifications—or otherwise.

Joke on House.

The argument would have gone on until breakfast time had not a member of the "supine" majority suggested an adjournment, which followed as the hands of the clock pointed to three. The joke, however, is upon the Legislature, for the clause which occasioned the torture chamber parade is itself thirty years ancient and was only included in the Vancouver Bill by a regulation which compels the city to print the entire section after a certain number of the amendments are made to the charter.

The Bill affecting the Vancouver Charter will be taken up again at the second session this morning or during the afternoon.

ALIEN RE WILL C

Pauline An Immediat by R

ROSS HAD POWER

Legisla Eve

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The Order P son amendmen F. A. Pauline, The member i withdrew his i of the fact ticular qualific of the Govern olution of regi ans' presentm Pauline resolu ment, virtuall terms, excludi reference, and Do

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Lags

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ALIEN RESOLUTIONS WILL GO TO OTTAWA

Pauline Amendment Achieves
Immediate Object Desired
by Returned Men

ROSS HAD NO CLAIM TO POWER OF CLAIRVOYANT

Legislative Press Gallery,
Evening Sitting, April 19.
As his brief part in the debate on the subject of the resolutions presented to the Premier by the returned soldiers more than a week ago, the Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, confined his remarks to an exposition of the proof that the Government was doing everything in its power to see that the men wearing the familiar button were getting fair treatment as far as civil service appointments were concerned.

The Order Paper contained the Jackson amendment and a resolution from F. A. Pauline, member for Saanich. The member for the Islands willingly withdrew his amendment and in view of the fact that Mr. Ross held no particular qualification to read the minds of the Government's members his resolution of regret preceding the veterans' presentation was defeated. The Pauline resolution, now the amendment, virtually adopted the soldiers' terms, excluding the Civil Service Act reference, and passed the House.

Doing Its Best.
For the benefit of the House and the people of the province generally the Minister of Lands stated that in July last the return supplied to him by the Returned Soldiers' Commission showed that no more than eight returned men lacked employment. True, said he, the number had increased in the meantime for the simple reason that a great many more men were returning week by week. To meet that situation, however, he said the Government insisted that the returned man had preference in all cases where he possessed the ability to fill the vacant post.

Question of Qualification.
It had to be remembered, he continued, that an almost insuperable difficulty lay in the nature of the employment desired by soldiers whose qualifications therefor before the war were absolutely nil. To support this argument he quoted from documents supplied by the Commission giving a list of men showing their pre-war day pursuits and the change of view as reflected by the class of work they desired to follow now.

Twenty-two Out of Twenty-four.
Mr. Pattullo told the House as evidence of the goodwill towards the soldier shown by the Department of Lands, that out of twenty-four vacancies for fire rangers for the coming summer, twenty-two had been filled by returned men. He urged that treatment of the subject in the nature of political juggling be dropped for all time and that the House show a more appropriate spirit to a question that demanded the practical sympathy of every member of the Legislature.

Is No Enemy.
Charles F. Nelson objected to the Ross resolution, or at least that small two-line negative presentment, which regretted the inability of the Government to approve the resolutions of a gathering of the Great War Veterans, Patriotic and other Associations. He chose to dub the member for Fort George as a mind reader with the pose not sitting at all comfortably upon him. As for the honorable member being able to speak for him, he was mistaken, because he (Mr. Nelson) could very readily subscribe to the sentiment of the soldiers' resolution. He was speaking, of course, in reference to the alien question and went on to repudiate the Opposition charge that the Government was an enemy of the returned soldier.

Lagged Behind.
Moving an amendment to the Ross resolution, which he afterward withdrew, the member for the Islands, M. B. Jackson, asserted that all members of that House had had their convictions and that the time had now arrived for them to show the courage of those convictions. He, and he felt sure the House also, was sick and tired of the many attempts on the part of the

Opposition to prostitute so sacred a cause. The member for the Islands pointed to the regrettable lack of foresight on the part of this section of the Dominion in failing to profit by the experience of other wars. France and England had risen to the dignity of the situation, he said, while British Columbia he had to confess had merely slunk behind her responsibility.

Flat, Flatulent Hypocrisy.
For three years, said he, the late Government had failed to rise to an appreciation of the fact that the day hostilities broke out Canada and British Columbia had a returned soldier problem on its hands. What would be the effect soon, he asked. Thousands of Maple Leaf soldiers would be returning, the men who had smelled the smell of world freedom, and it was the duty of the Province to see that their welcome was of the right kind. The flat, flatulent hypocrisy of the Opposition would not meet the situation. He believed that the Civil Service Act should be enforced. He was somewhat wearied, however, with the attempts to discover the line of demarcation between Dominion and Provincial responsibility, he wanted to see the same energy displayed in an attempt to discover the line of combined effort.

Mr. Pauline's Amendment.
F. A. Pauline had the following amendment to offer which more or less adopts the soldier resolution in toto, eliminating the Civil Service clauses:

"Whereas on the 10th day of April, 1918, a representative meeting of citizens, including representatives from the Returned Soldiers, Win-the-War League, and other kindred associations, presented the subjoined resolutions pertaining to Dominion matters to the Hon. John Oliver as Premier of this Province:

"And whereas this House is in thorough sympathy with the spirit and purport of the aforesaid resolutions, but recognizes its limitations in respect of matters wholly within the purview of the Imperial and Dominion authorities:

"Be it resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded forthwith to Right Hon. Sir Robert L. Borden, with the recommendation of this House that the matters therein set forth receive the careful consideration of the Federal Government, with a view to the adjustment of the grievances set forth, and with a further view to harmonious and concerted action throughout the Dominion of Canada, so as to secure the utmost committal of the Dominion to the prosecution of the war, both in respect of its man-power and the earnings of its citizens.

"And be it further resolved, That this House places on record its sense of appreciation of the courage and valor with which Canadian soldiers have borne their share in the conflict and sacrifice entailed in the war, and its just sense of pride in the part which its soldiers have performed therein.

"And be it further resolved, That this House and the people of this Province pledge themselves, on their own behalf and in co-operation with the Dominion Government, to take all possible measures to secure the satisfactory rehabilitation of our returned soldiers into civil life.

"And be it further resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Hon. Sir Robert Borden, Premier of Canada."

Cut Out Politics.
He expressed the belief at the outset that the Civil Service clause referred to should not be dealt with in the original resolution, since it was necessary to divorce the Dominion matter from that of the Province. He believed that every member of the House was in sympathy with the intent of the resolution and that not only the Legislature, but the people of British Columbia generally, would consider the right thing to do would be to send the resolutions to the Dominion Government as they were presented, making it clear that the Provincial Government was in accord with the spirit of the document. Above all he urged that the matter be kept free from political taint.

Leut. MacKenzie also spoke in favor of the Ross resolution which was defeated.

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SOLDIERS' LAND ACT READ SECOND TIME

General Approval for Premier's
Measure; Mr. Ross Would
Improve It

MR. OLIVER EXPECTS MUCH FROM THE BILL

Legislative Press Gallery,
Afternoon Sitting, April 19.
That the Soldiers' Land Act introduced into the Legislature by the Premier a few days ago will be a popular measure would seem to be assured when judged by the remarks offered from both sides of the House this afternoon as the bill passed its second reading. Still clinging to the belief, however, that by the adoption of the Soldiers' Homestead Act the present Government could have saved a good deal of time with beneficial effect, the member for Fort George is hopeful that by the time Committee stage has been negotiated the measure will at least be dressed in something like the garb of his own Act referred to.

Dual Responsibility.
Proceeding to outline the general provisions of the bill, to which reference in detail has already been made in these columns, the Premier said that just as enlistment of men was a national necessity there remained the like responsibility of caring for those who had returned and would continue so to do. He made reference to the Dominion Act creating the Soldiers' Settlement Board and explained the intended operation of that body. He likewise related to the House the assurances of Provincial co-operation with the Dominion authorities in relation to the settlement of British Columbia soldiers on British Columbia lands, which had already been given some time ago.

Effective Co-operation.
The bill now before the Legislature in effect legalizes the extent of tangible correlated effort as between the Provincial and Dominion authorities and effectively paves the way to at least a partial solution of the soldier settlement question. The Premier informed the House that Major Ashton, one of the members of the Soldiers' Settlement Board, had conferred recently both with himself and with the Land Settlement Board, the officer in question generally acting as a sort of advance agent in search of information regarding conditions in the various western provinces for final presentation to the full Board in Ottawa. While the Major was not in a position to commit the Board the Premier said he left the assurance that sympathetic co-operation could be relied upon, while all regulations made would conform as near as possible to actual needs as he now understood them in this province.

What It Meant.
The Premier told of the difficulties which had presented themselves during recent months and how pressure of business had prevented a more prompt treatment of the question under review. The many delegations of returned soldiers which had waited upon him from time to time had invariably regarded the whole situation as one purely for Provincial solution, with scarcely ever a mention of Federal obligation.

He could not agree with that position and he prophesied that on the basis of fifteen thousand out of fifty thousand soldiers said to be looking towards agricultural pursuits for a post bellum livelihood, no less than \$250,000,000 in the shape of land and financial grants would be necessary to take care of all men both agriculturally and industrially inclined alike. So that there would be no danger of British Columbia doing too much for the returned soldier, he said.

Would Help Anyway.
Since conditions were only too well-known, the Premier said that he believed coupled with co-operation with the Dominion Government in the matter of placing Provincial lands at their disposal and Ottawa on its part applying the \$2,500 loan under the terms of the Federal Act in respect of soldiers settling in this province, the bill would at least take care of the situation between now and next session. By that time there would be a good deal of practical information upon which to go.

Deathbed Repentance.

W. R. Ross, the member for Fort George, deprecated the action of the Government in abrogating the provisions of the Soldiers' Homestead Act, because it took away some 1,800,000 acres of land from the choice of the soldier and permitted them to remain at the disposal of the general public. That situation insofar as the returned man was concerned was only partially relieved by the special provision in the Land Settlement and Development Act, the purchase obligations of which were not to the honorable member's liking.

"If the Government had endorsed and adopted the principle of the Soldiers' Homestead Act it would have been two years ahead," said Mr. Ross, "and avoided the deathbed repentance obvious in this haphazard legislation, it would have been a great deal better." However, with that little winning way of his, he reminded the Speaker that there would be no purpose served in attempting to accentuate the difference in policy between the two Governments, forgetting that emphasis had been laid upon that distinction in September, 1916.

The Real Answer.

The Minister of Lands caught up his predecessor in office on his claim for those thousands of acres with the suggestion that it was quite right to leave those vast tracts to be disposed of under the provisions of the Land Act, hinting that much of it would at present merely break a soldier's heart. The new plan, on the other hand, had been to select such lands for the returned man upon which he could reasonably be expected to make a success of his toil.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite congratulated the Premier on the bill but would have none of the dual control as between Provincial and Dominion authorities. He saw an endless mess and the whole machinery stuffed with red tape. The soldier should be given Crown grant to his land and exempted from taxation so long as he held it and worked it. Every acre of agricultural land should be withheld from sale and alienation until the returned man had had his choice. In other words, the Newcastle member advocated much stronger and much more advanced methods than those so far evidenced by the Government in this connection.

Other Speakers.

Hugh Stewart, the member for Comox, was also a disciple of the no tax principle. Similarly, M. B. Jackson, the member for the Islands, regarded the bill as a pledge of the Government's sincerity in this matter. E. D. Barrow, the member for Chilliwack, regretted the absence of Opposition co-operation in finding a solution to the problem generally. Lieut. MacKenzie also took part in the debate which preceded the second reading.

HAWTHORNTHWAITE IS CHAMPION OF JITNEY

Objects to Powers Being Granted in Vancouver to Prohibit Traffic

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 19.

Just before the House rose for the supper interval this afternoon, M. A. Macdonald, the senior member for Vancouver, moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Vancouver Corporation Act.

Upon the decision of the Legislature on this matter will depend the fate of the "jitney" traffic in the Terminal City. The measure in question contains a number of vital charter amendments, the most interesting of which is the sanctioning of the city's agreement to abide by the findings of Professor Adam Shortt, who investigated the economic conditions of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, and issued a report thereon.

Prohibition of Jitney.

In short the report recommended the elimination of the jitney business for reasons fully set out therein, and more or less common knowledge to the people of this city and Vancouver.

If the Legislature grants the power asked for, Vancouver City may, by by-law, regulate or prohibit jitney traffic not alone within the city limits, but also prevent rural services from operating into and out of that city.

Mr. Macdonald briefly outlined the purport of the measure. Mr. Hawthornthwaite, member for Newcastle, who inquired if in the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" between the company and city for the elimination of the jitney competition, the "jitney" people had been parties thereto. Mr. Macdonald admitted such was not the case.

Pernicious and Iniquitous.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite declared the main object of the measure was to eliminate the small man; it was but another instance of the modern tendency of the large corporation forcing the small one to the wall. He termed the Bill, in that respect, pernicious and iniquitous, and the proposal to be one of the worst things the House had ever been called upon to sanction.

HOUSE MAKES GOOD

PROGRESS ON BILLS

Many Reach Committee Stage and Quite a Number Pass Through

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 19.

Excellent progress with legislation marked this afternoon's sitting of the House, many bills being advanced to the Committee stage and a number of others completing passage in readiness for the Royal assent. Acts to amend the Audit Act, the Water Act and the Supreme Court Act, together with Dr. Sutherland's Act in respect of the profession of nursing, which reached the report stage last night, were duly passed.

Agricultural Associations.

The Premier explained his bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 1915, dealing more particularly with Agricultural Associations. Hitherto it has been the practise of such bodies to obtain loans from the Government, with whom all their assets were lodged as security for the accommodation. The bill now seeks to obtain power for the Minister, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, to release certain of the assets in particular cases where bank accommodation is necessary for the carrying on of enterprises subsidiary to the associations.

Security Went.

The custom heretofore followed under such circumstances has been for the directors of the association to give their personal guarantee to the bank, but so soon as purchases—apple box materials and paraphernalia, for instance—are made such "plant" or what not automatically forms part of the Government's security, leaving the director high and dry.

Certain storage provisions for the Okanagan are also included in the bill, which is not mandatory but permissive.

The bill received second reading.

MINES DEPARTMENT WILL SOON OCCUPY BETTER QUARTERS

Removal of Government Printing Department is Being Considered

MINERAL EXHIBIT WOULD THEN GET PROPER SHOW

Legislative Press Gallery, April 22.

While no definite decision may be expected for some time to come matters are assuming a more decided shape in relation to the removal of the Government printing plant to some suitable domicile at the rear of the Parliament Buildings. Just as soon as the plan materializes and the valuable plant commences its "trek" to a new home the Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, will take up his bed and walk, so to speak, in other words, the somewhat obscure office now occupied by the head of this most important Government department would be promptly vacated, followed by the transplanting of the Minister of Mines and staff into the palatial premises now housing the printing plant.

Under a Bushel.

It has been felt for some time past that one of the most valuable exhibits in the possession of the Provincial Government has been languishing in the shades of a back street as if it were some refuse heap. This collection of British Columbia minerals should undoubtedly occupy a place of honor, either in the Legislative Pile itself, or at some point and in possession of some competent Government official where its merit could be displayed to the interested visitor and full information regarding mineral development given on the spot and without any sort of red tape.

It is claimed that were the Minister and his staff, together with the exhibit itself, housed in the magnificent west wing of the buildings over the Bay, the almost apologetic attitude for the Department's existence would rightfully give room for pride of its possession, to the benefit which the enhanced interest in one of the province's most valuable natural resources would insure.

Under Consideration.

Readers of The Times will recall that a strong plea was made in this connection by J. W. Weart, the member for South Vancouver, during his speech on the budget, the proposal at that time evoking general applause in the Legislature. The speaker hazarded the suggestion at that time to the Provincial Secretary, under whose jurisdiction the Printing Department comes, that he give it sympathetic consideration. And although Dr. MacLean has nothing to say on the subject at the moment, it is generally conceded that the whole matter is having his attention with the possibility of an early recommendation to the other members of the Cabinet.

Rotary Club Interested.

It is understood that the members of the Rotary Club as well as the Board of Trade would welcome the change, since arguments have been advanced from time to time that the mineral wealth of British Columbia is by no means advertised sufficiently, largely due, the members contend, to the virtual burial of the official department and its treasure exhibit in an obscure section of the Parliament Buildings. Nearly twelve months ago the Rotary Club argued the advisability of removing the mineral exhibit to some point in the city itself for the better display of its merit. But with the consummation of the new plan it is believed that the object the members had in view will be accomplished and the energetic organization will watch the next move with interest.

SECOND RE GIVEN B

Hon. William Sloan Explained in Sp

PREDICTS BR AHEAD FOR

Says Province Re-Construction dreame

Legislative Mornin

The Bill des payment of a b ceived its second ing's sitting of Hon. William Sloan and sponsor of an excellent ad timistic a vein Crown could ad is at all kind t man's hopes th at the moment l like a pall shou Leader of the same hope as Mines although apply the optin the less coloris had not done a do with his 19 he would rema too realize th resources of th its mineral we

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Not only to the need the Minister the essentia foundation found in ir impossible, bia to reac to retain l unless he deposits w only logica quote the r able Winni resolution mously sup iron and s a national present m net had g vention in said the l not to be

SECOND READING IS GIVEN BOUNTY BILL

Hon. William Sloan's Measure Explained in an Optimistic Speech

PREDICTS BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD FOR DEVELOPMENT

Says Province Will Share in Re-Construction to Undreamed of Extent

Legislative Press Gallery, Morning Sitting, April 22.

The Bill designed to provide the payment of a bounty on pig iron received its second reading at this morning's sitting of the Legislature. The Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines and sponsor of the measure, delivered an excellent address in about as optimistic a vein as any Minister of the Crown could adopt and if the future is at all kind to the honorable gentleman's hopes the financial chaos which at the moment hangs over the province like a pall should be short lived. The Leader of the Opposition shared the same hope as did the Minister of Mines although he felt it advisable to apply the optimistic brush with a little less coloring, because Mr. Sloan had not done as he promised he would do with his 1917 legislation. Hopeful he would remain, however, because he too realized and believed in the natural resources of the province—particularly its mineral wealth.

The Object: Action.

Describing it as one of the most important questions now before the representatives of the people of the province the Minister pointed out at the commencement of his address that the primary object of the Bill was to extend encouragement to those who were willing to advance the capital necessary to bring about the economic development of the iron resources of British Columbia. What had occupied considerable thought in his own mind had been continually impressed upon him during the last few months by numerous delegations from the various public bodies in the province, all of whom had concentrated upon the one theme of getting action during the existence of the unparalleled conditions of to-day.

Duty and Profit Allied.

Alluding to the insistent demand for munitions and the hundred and one things allied to war's necessity the Minister said that it had been brought home to British Columbians as a patriotic duty to the Empire as well as a duty devolving upon themselves, affecting as it did the immediate and prospective outlook for the Province as a whole. There was then no disputing the necessity that the iron lying dormant in British Columbia should be brought to the surface, refined, and placed at the disposal of the Empire and her Allies for the successful prosecution of the war, and afterwards act as a great factor in the programme of re-construction which would follow as sure as morning followed night. He was of the opinion that British Columbia would share in that reconstruction programme to a greater extent than any member of the House dreamed of at the present time.

Iron the Basis.

Not only was the Government alive to the needs of the times, continued the Minister, but it was also rooted in the essential idea that the basis and foundation of all industry was to be found in iron and steel. It would be impossible, he said, for British Columbia to reach industrial supremacy or to retain her commercial integrity unless her vast resources of iron ore deposits were developed along the only logical lines. He went on to quote the stand taken at the memorable Winnipeg Convention, when a resolution passed practically unanimously supporting the development of iron and steel in British Columbia as a national enterprise. Three of the present members of the Union Cabinet had gone on record at that Convention in support of the resolution, said the Minister. However, it was not to be supposed that the Govern-

ment was in a mood to sit and wait without exhibiting any signs of helping forward the scheme in some practical manner. Therefore the Bill before the House was proof positive that British Columbia was alive and that the Provincial Government appreciated the extent of its responsibility in the same connection.

Texada Island Supply.

Mr. Sloan then went on to quote from the report of an eminent engineer dealing with the probable extent of ore bodies in British Columbia. So far as Texada Islands alone were concerned, he stated that the actual and probable ore totalled over five million tons which would be sufficient—on the basis of a blast furnace requirement of 200,000 tons of ore per year—to supply necessary requirements for some twenty-five years. Still quoting from a mass of statistics, and to show that the development of British Columbia ore was merely in its baby stage, the Minister said that the tonnage owned by the United States Steel Corporation was 900,000,000, and at the present rate of annual draft would last forty-three years; the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company possessed 2,000,000,000, sufficient to last three thousand years at the present rate of absorption. He agreed that such figures emphasized the stage at which British Columbia stood; moreover it also indicated the magnitude of the problem before the Province.

Future Bright.

Nothing daunted the Minister was convinced that when the full story of iron development in British Columbia came to be written that it would compare more than favorably with the resources of any of the numerous corporations given in his statistical quotation referred to. But to prove that contention it was patent that the expenditure of a good deal of capital leavened with a plenitude of faith and courage would be necessary. So that in making a start it was just as essential that no false steps were taken and that no matter how small the commencement so long as its basis was firm, its stability could be insured by the correct kind of legislation calculated to secure that gradual expansion as the mineral wealth of the province was unfolded.

Effect on Labor.

To give some idea of the general effect the establishment of an iron and steel plant would have on the correlated enterprises, particularly from the point of view of employment, the Minister showed that the average plant would absorb about 17,500 men. In addition to this eminently beneficial factor there was the question of market, and the Minister proceeded to allay any suspicion that the iron and steel of British Columbia would not find ready sale. He stated that the production of pig iron in the United States increased from 8,000,000 tons in 1896 to over 37,000,000 tons in 1915. The total shipments of iron ore from the mines in the United States in 1915 was estimated to have exceeded 56,000,000 tons, an increase over 1914 of over thirty-eight per cent, and based on the same price as received in 1914, it represented an increase in total value of about \$28,000,000.

Proper Co-operation.

Mr. Sloan quoted figures to show the remarkable progress that had been made through the adoption of a policy of encouragement by legislation and also by the application to the problem of the industry of intelligent, energetic and courageous management. Government assistance would not make an iron and steel industry such as British Columbia wanted, without the other elements to which he had referred. But it is most important that, when capital was ready to take up the task and able men with a thorough knowledge of what they were undertaking, were prepared to enter into it, the Government adopt a policy that would guarantee reasonable aid, and perhaps even more important, would assure them of stable conditions, insofar as it is possible for a Government to do so.

Opposition Leader Hopeful.

The Leader of the Opposition was hopeful about the future and suggested that if all came true as prophesied by the Minister of Mines and the Bill under discussion could be regarded as a factor in the situation there would be much matter for congratulation. Mr. Bowser would not pose as an expert in such questions, but he expressed the hope that steps would be taken to ascertain the correct ore bodies so that the capitalist it was intended to induce could be placed in possession of information upon which he could absolutely rely. He regretted that there had not yet been much money spent towards this end. With this in view he said Mr. Sloan's legislation of the past had not impressed him to any very great extent.

Paper Policies.

Mr. Bowser was not sure as to whether he should rechristen the Minister of Mines as the Minister in charge of the Six Month's Hoist or Minister in charge of Paper Policies. While Mr. Bowser gave no hint that there would be the least objection to the passage of the Bill from that side of the House, he did wish to emphasize the fact that it was the "ill-record" of last year's legislation directed towards mineral development which prevented him from falling all over himself at the sight of the Bounty Bill before the Legislature. However, if success attended the application of the law in this connection there would be general support from the Province as a whole.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Land Settlement.

The Bill to amend the Land Settlement and Development Act was similarly read a second time following a lengthy explanation from Alec. Manson, the member for Omineca, in which he surveyed the land condition of the Province as they stood when the present Government took office.

POINTLESS WRANGLE OVER TRIVIALITIES

Opposition Leader Sees a Taxation Situation Which Does Not Exist

CONCERNED ABOUT LATE PREMIER'S CANNERY TAX

Legislative Press Gallery, Saturday Afternoon Sitting, April 20.

Failure on the part of the Government to collect any more than the four cents per case from canneries for the year 1917, except in two isolated cases, was interpreted by the Leader of the Opposition this afternoon as evidence that there had been an intention to place the industry in the privileged class. During the recent by-elections Mr. Bowser made the statement from the public platform inferring as much, while information now contained in a return supplied to him by the Minister of Finance, showing that in two cases only had the additional impost on dividends from canneries been collected, had led him to the conclusion that his surmise was right.

The late Premier's interest in the cannery business had, presumably, stimulated the Opposition Leader's desire during the by-election campaign to tack something on his record and on every occasion possible this argument was trotted out. Mr. Hart informed the ex-Premier this afternoon that income tax on shareholders' dividends for the year 1917 would have to be paid, while by virtue of the fact that two so affected had paid their dues should suggest to the average mind that the obligation was far from non-existent.

Warm Debate.

In moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the Taxation Act of last year the Minister took occasion to refer to the Opposition Leader's public utterances in connection with cannery taxation and the debate which followed grew extremely warm at times. Mr. Hart said that the 1917 amendments taxed the canners four cents per case plus income tax on the shareholders' dividends. The new measure was now designed to legalize collection of all the revenue from the source, enforcing either income tax or the four cents, whichever was the larger.

It was this statement of the Minister that prompted the inquiry from Mr. Bowser as to the amount collected over the four cents in 1917. Mr. Hart declared that the Leader of the Opposition knew the Government had not collected the income tax for last year, stating at the same time, however, that failure to collect was by no means synonymous with release from the obligation; and in this opinion the Minister said he was backed by the Government's Legal Department.

Fifteen Dollars Paid.

Mr. Bowser ducked at this information, and said that his simple question concerned itself not with what the canners must pay, but what they had paid.

for the year 1917. Despite the fact that the Opposition Leader had the information before him he proceeded to wring from the Minister of Finance the statement that only in two cases had the Government received revenue in respect of last year's legislation insofar as it applied to any amount in excess of the four cents per case. Thomas Shotbolt had paid \$10 and a Mr. Spencer had contributed \$5 as income tax on dividends received.

However, the morsel which tickled the palate of the Opposition Leader was the fact that the late Mr. Brewster had paid the four cents in lieu of all other taxes and nothing more. Confined to this particular fact Mr. Bowser drew his consolation that pre-election utterances had been borne out. Despite the statement of the Finance Minister the Leader of the Opposition went so far as to agree that he was of the opinion that had Mr. Brewster lived there would have been no additional payment to the Treasury in respect of his dividend obligation for 1917. He contended, in support of this, that the Government could not legally collect income tax for last year under its legislation.

Holds Out Hope.

The Minister explained the various changes in the sources of taxation as provided for in the Bill, and said particularly in regard to mining that the Government's investigation into this, as well as into other industrial companies, was by no means complete. It would be continued through the year, and by the assembly of the essential data in the meantime, he hoped, would place the Government in a position by next session to bring in recommendations of a satisfactory nature. He desired it also to be understood that the amendments to the Act now being proposed would be changes applicable for 1917.

**FATE OF VANCOUVER
JITNEY IN BALANCE**

Saturday Night's Debate in
Legislature Favored Con-
tentious Clause

Legislative Press Gallery,
Saturday Evening Sitting, April 20.

Had the Vancouver boat left Victoria one hour later than fifteen minutes to twelve this evening the spirited debate on the "jitney" clause of the Vancouver Bill might have been brought to a conclusion before the House rose. However, a number of the mainland members secured a majority vote for the suggested adjournment, while a previous successful appeal from the Speaker's ruling, "that the question be now put," left the member for Fort George with a barren victory and the necessity to resume discussion on Monday.

Practically the whole of the time of the House this evening was taken up with this section of the Bill, the general intent of which is sufficiently well-known as to need no detail recapitulation here. In short the "jitney" clause is designed to grant to the City of Vancouver full power to regulate and prohibit such motor traffic on any or all of its streets, either going into or leaving the city.

Hawthornthwaite Amendment.

The member for Newcastle, with his characteristic ability to detect "extraordinary powers" when vested in the "big corporation," submitted an amendment to the House, which if passed would have the effect of weakening to a considerable extent the authority sought by the city. His suggestion would give power to the Council to regulate only the operation of motor vehicles on "certain" streets, meaning that while it might be wise to eliminate "jitney" traffic on car line streets, it would be unjust and unfair to permit any wider powers.

M. A. Macdonald was not at all in accord with the suggestion of Mr. Hawthornthwaite, and explained to the House that the amendment would by means meet the situation. After all, he said, it was no concern of the Legislature as to the manner in which the City of Vancouver went about the regulation of its own street traffic; all that was being asked by Vancouver was that it be given the power to look after its own affairs in the particular connection.

The "Gentlemen's Agreement"

By way of further enlightenment Mr. Macdonald said that the Government had to all intents and purposes ratified

the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" between the city and the company on lines as recommended by the Sherrill report. He held that the Government was virtually a party to the investigation which followed the strike of last summer. J. S. Cowper supported the Hawthornthwaite amendment and Alex. Fisher contended that any power granted should not permit of the elimination of the "outside" jitney traffic where there was no duplication of service.

Mr. Whiteside's Verdict.

In a few words David Whiteside, the member for New Westminster, presented to the House a succinct analysis of the situation as it appealed to him. He was not concerned as to whether the stock of the company was watered or not, but he was mindful of the fact that the money of the English investor had found its way into the enterprise. The loss of the company for operating, etc., last year amounted to \$843,841, while the loss occasioned by "jitney" competition had been estimated at \$750,000 for the same period. With that in mind, the New Westminster member continued, the continuation of present conditions would finally land the company on the rocks, and presumably result in the necessity for the city to take it over.

It was patent, then, that if the company required protection for its interests in the manner sought, acquisition of the system by the city would merely amount to a transference of the same position. Mr. Whiteside contended that unless complete power to regulate and prohibit were granted by the passage of this section of the Bill, the object aimed at would not be achieved. Upon the success or failure of the company, he said, the credit of Vancouver and the province as a whole was very largely involved.

Wanted Question Put.

George Bell, second member for Victoria, could not see where the B. C. Electric entered into the matter; it was a question of whether or not Vancouver should be given the authority to control its own affairs. H. C. Hall, junior city member, was on the point of making an observation when W. R. Ross moved that the question be put. The chairman of committee refused to put the question on the grounds that such a resolution could only be put when the Speaker or Deputy Speaker occupied the chair. Mr. Speaker supported the ruling and the member for Fort George appealed to the House, and succeeded in getting the decision reversed. However, a motion that the committee should rise and report progress carried, and the House adjourned until Monday morning.

**COAL OUTPUT FOR
BRITISH COLUMBIA
SHOWS INCREASES**

Vancouver Island Produced
425,759 Tons in First
Quarter of 1918

NEARLY 20,000 TONS
ADVANCE FOR PERIOD

Legislative Press Gallery,
April 22.

The Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, stated to a representative of The Times this morning that the coal mines of Vancouver Island had yielded 425,759 tons for the first three months of the present year, while the total output for the Province during the same period amounted to 673,044 tons. It is extremely satisfactory to note that the demand of the Dominion authorities for more coal continues to meet with good response from the operators in British Columbia, since the official return noted above shows an increase over the same period of last year amounting to 19,213 tons.

District Production.

Coal production given by district is as follows: Vancouver Island, 425,759 tons; Crow's Nest Pass, 199,700 tons; Nicola Princeton, 47,585 tons. Production according to the official returns from the various companies is as follows: Vancouver Island, Western Fuel Company, 198,467 tons; Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir), Limited, 189,560 tons; Pacific Coast Coal Mines, 26,779 tons; Nanoose Collieries, 11,953 tons. Total, 425,759 tons.

Crow's Nest District—Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, 175,378 tons; Corbin Coal & Coke Company, 24,322 tons. Total, 199,700 tons.

Nicola Princeton District—Middlesboro Collieries, 30,071 tons; Fleming Coal Company, 4,152 tons; Princeton Collieries, 13,362 tons. Total, 47,585.

Three Mines Close.

It should be mentioned in regard to the Vancouver Island output during the first quarter of the present year that three producing mines were closed down, namely, the Jingle Pot Mines, which has not been operated on account of a fire in the underground workings; the South Wellington Mine of the Pacific Coast Coal Mines, now abandoned through exhaustion; and the No. 4 Mine of the Canadian Collieries, abandoned for the same reason.

Output Increased.

The Western Fuel Company produced 29,967 tons more in the first three months of 1918 than during the opening quarter of last year. The Nanoose Collieries show an increase of 9,172 tons, while the output of the Canadian Collieries and the Pacific Coast Coal Company has fallen off slightly. This, however, is expected to be more than offset by the opening of the two new mines now being developed and equipped; one at South Wellington by the Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir), Limited, and the other at Cassidy's Siding, V. I., by the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company.

Crow's Nest and Nicola.

In the Crow's Nest district the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company produced 24,708 tons more in the first quarter of this year than in the first months of 1917, while the Corbin Coal and Coke Company also increased its production to the extent of 8,715 tons.

The collieries of the Nicola Princeton district show a similar improvement. The Middlesboro Collieries increased their output to the extent of 14,963 tons, although the Princeton Collieries went behind approximately 3,000 tons.

**WOULD SOONER DIE
THAN IMITATE THE
OPPOSITION LEADER**

Amendments to the Provincial
Elections Act Provokes a
Lively Interchange

MR. BOWSER DESIRES
SOME ALTERATIONS

Legislative Press Gallery,
Afternoon Sitting, April 22.

The Leader of the Opposition was prepared to support the second reading of the amendment to the Provincial Elections Act this afternoon, but he did not come to that conclusion until after a sharp little exchange of repartee with the Premier whose measure, substituting the Bowser Bill objected to by the Government, was under discussion. The Opposition Leader said that he would live in hopes of getting some amendments put through during the Committee stage.

No Safeguards.

Mr. Bowser had proposed that any returned soldier could get on the voters' list within five days of an election. The Premier's measure sets the time period at ten days prior to an election and provides also that the soldier can only get on for the constituency in which he lived prior to going overseas. Mr. Oliver also explained in support of the Bill that its provisions effectively removed the danger of improper voting at elections, and the failure to discover the same recommendations in Mr. Bowser's proposals the other day led to its rejection and its substitution by the new Bill.

The Leader of the Opposition said he considered the Premier's statement the other day that the Bowser Bill would open the way to frauds was a reflection on the bona fides of the soldiers. It was a gratuitous insult to the returned men.

Vagaries of Speech.

"I did not say that the soldiers would commit the frauds, I said people in the guise of returned soldiers," explained Hon. Mr. Oliver. "But it could not be anyone else but a returned soldier for he would be the

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plied Mr. Bowser.

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man applying to get on the list," replied Mr. Bowser.

The Premier and the Opposition leader waded out into a somewhat heated argument as to what Mr. Oliver had said about frauds. Finally the Premier appealed to the chair for help," commented the Opposition Leader. "Why cannot he do as I do? I do not think I have asked for a Speaker's ruling this session."

Would Sooner Die.

"I would sooner go out and die than do what he does," answered Premier Oliver.

Mr. Whiteside, of New Westminster, said he was willing to leave the door open as wide as possible for soldier voting, but there should be some safeguard against the possibility of fraud. For instance a thousand soldiers could come from Vancouver five days before the election under the Bowser Bill and get on the lists for the Victoria by-election, then they would switch back to Vancouver for an election there.

Echoes.

"That is putting the returned soldier in the same class as the Seattle plugger," said Mr. Bowser. "If you think that in my Bill I am trying to fix it so that a soldier can get on any list without living in the riding I am willing to put in an ordinary thirty-day residence clause."

Mr. Hawthorthwaite objected to the Premier's bill on the ground that it would permit Chinese, Japanese and Indian soldiers to vote.

NO ALTERATIONS TO TAXATION MEASURE

Finance Minister's Bill Stood Test of Four Hours in Debate

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 22.

Discussion of the amendments to the Taxation Act commenced with a swing this afternoon, and practically every member on the floor of the House delivered himself of some remark or other in respect thereto. For fully two hours and a half the first eight clauses came in for microscopic scrutiny, the eighth clause in particular claiming the attention of the House until 6 o'clock, and was not finally disposed of until well after 10 o'clock in the evening sitting. The Bill finally made complete passage of all its stages without amendments.

Improvements Exemption.

Clause eight deals with the exemption of improvements, and refers specifically to farmers. It provides that improvements be exempted up to the value of fifteen hundred dollars and the bone of contention with those who objected to this provision was that there should be no taxation of farm improvements at all. There was a general cry put up that in the face of the demand for increased foodstuffs the Government proceeded to add to the burden of the man who tilled the soil by this particular impost. An amendment by the member for South Okanagan virtually wiping away taxation on improvements was defeated, Government members Jackson, Pauline and Stewart voting in support of it.

"Tax Dodger."

During the discussion in the afternoon the Opposition Leader decried the necessity of sending a "tax-dodger" or person making false statement to jail for six months in addition to the maximum penalty of \$500 provided. The present Government was accused of putting the thumbscrews on the public so far as taxation is concerned. Mr. Bowser dealt at length with the lack of necessity for any jail sentence in addition to the heavy fine provided for mis-statement to the tax collector. He thought financial imposition sufficient to cover the amount of taxes incurred in the default—and perhaps some in addition for punishment—would prove sufficient to deter such action from mer driven, maybe, to such a course by stress of financial circumstance.

The Attorney-General Explains.

Defending the imprisonment provision, Attorney-General Farris gave the opinion that there is not much difference between the man making false tax statements and the man who perjures himself—yet the minimum for perjury conviction is a term of not less than two years in the penitentiary. The clause passed, inclusive of the imprisonment section which, it was explained, is not mandatory, but merely discretionary with trial judges.

LEGISLATURE ASKED TO PROVIDE GRANTS

For Lady McBride and Children and Orphans of Late Premier

Legislative Press Gallery, Afternoon Sitting, April 22.

The first business of this afternoon's sitting of the House was the introduction and first reading of a bill providing a special allowance of five thousand dollars for Lady McBride and her children with an equal sum for the minor children of the late Premier Brewster. The measure was introduced by the Premier.

Second reading was given to the new Half-Holiday Amendment Act, details of which were given in these columns on Saturday last. The amendment does away with half-holidays when the legal public holidays arrive.

Clerks' Stand.

Mr. Bowser asked Attorney-General Farris if the clerks had approved of the bill and the Attorney-General explained that the clerks had been willing to do without the half-holiday when there were public holidays, but this concession had been based upon the acceptance by the Government of other demands by the clerks themselves. These changes, he said, would be considered before next session, although the Government was not prepared to accept them at present.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite considered the amendment cutting out the half-holidays when there were legal holidays in the same weeks a deliberate attempt to "do" the clerks out of at least six half-days a year.

W. A. McKenzie, member for Similkameen, asked to have the drug clerks included within the scope of the Half-Holiday Act and J. S. Cowper, fifth member for Vancouver, sought the same concession for the barbers.

Bounty Bill Passes.

While the Iron Bounties Bill was in committee this afternoon J. H. Hawthorthwaite, Labor member for Newcastle, took a characteristic rap at the measure and the Government, declaring the bill to be iniquitous and desecrating. In the first place he thought \$3 a ton as bounty on produced minerals in B. C. entirely too large a reward for those whose enterprise put them in a position to tap the assets of the province in this regard.

He could see no available fund which would supply the means for bounty and thought the Government was wrong in passing such a bill when those who would go into the enterprise had no assurance that the bounty would be paid. His argument, however, did not prevent the passage of the bill.

TWO LEADERS TAKE A PARTING TUMBLE

South Vancouver's Troubles Straightened Out by Legislative Enactment

Legislative Press Gallery, April 23.

The House was hardly awake this morning until the Leader of the Opposition let fly on the Bill designed to permit the Legislature to borrow the sum of one million dollars from the Dominion Government to take care of the financial situation in South Vancouver. Mr. Bowser took as his text the effrontery of the Government in virtually making a hobby of borrowing millions. He also took occasion to refer to the fact that the Government had fallen into an extremely bad habit of rushing down Bills during the dying hours of the session, a charge that had been continually laid at his own door, he said.

Mr. Bowser supposed that the present administration was intoxicated by its power and intoxicated by its credit which had made the personification of recklessness so easy of performance. He pictured his faithful little band crushed beneath "brute majority," and

after he had dived into the iniquities of the present Government to full length, he pointed to the handwriting on the wall and predicted an early crash as the inevitable result of exhausting credit in riotous living.

Absolutely Necessary.

When the Premier rose to get in a last word he said he could agree with the Leader of the Opposition in his objection to eleventh hour legislation. It was a bad practice and one which he trusted would be remedied at next session. On this occasion Mr. Oliver explained that a good deal of it was absolutely necessary.

The Leader of the Government was somewhat caustic in his references to Mr. Bowser's diatribes on the floor of the House and took up a reference to the South Vancouver Bill in which he detected Mr. Bowser attempting to convert a white into a black. Mr. Oliver said that it had not been his good fortune to have a University course to equip him with all the little niceties of speech possessed by the Opposition Leader, and in consequence he found it necessary to rely upon straight talk, which his friend opposite had deemed on various occasions ungentlemanly.

Both Bills affecting South Vancouver were duly passed.

A Bill to amend the Benevolent Societies Act was introduced at 12.20, and was shot through all its stages like a streak of greased lightning.

VANCOUVER TO HAVE PROHIBITORY POWER

City Council Will Now Be Enabled to Regulate "Jitney" Traffic

Legislative Press Gallery, Midnight Sitting, April 22.

It was two forty-five this morning before the Order Paper was in such a shape as to permit of prorogation by mid-day to-day. With the Vancouver Bill out of the way shortly after two, the clearing up stages went ahead with alacrity despite lateness of the hour.

The closing stages of the contentious clause in the Bill above referred to provided an opportunity for the member for Newcastle to dilate upon his amendment requiring the limitation of power to be wrested in the City Council to the prohibition of jitney traffic on "certain" streets. Unless it were assented to by the House Mr. Hawthorthwaite declared that the Legislature was merely creating a monopoly for the B. C. Electric.

J. S. Cowper, the fifth member for Vancouver, submitted another amendment and succeeded in persuading the labor member to withdraw his in its favor. The Cowper amendment called for permission to the jitneys to run on all parallel streets—in fact free rein where no railway existed. G. G. McGeer's description of this suggestion was that it would be merely adding to the misfortunes of the jitney men by allowing him to run a promiscuous sort of service paralleled by street car services.

In the face of general opposition to the two amendments the member for Newcastle suggested that the City Council have power to define the prohibited streets, an olive branch which made no difference to the final vote which left as negatives Messrs. Hawthorthwaite, Cowper and Willson. The remaining clauses were rapidly passed.

HOUSE PROROGUED AT ONE O'CLOCK TO-DAY

Record Session for Bills and Night Sittings Now at an End

Legislative Press Gallery, April 23.

The second session of the fourteenth Parliament of British Columbia was prorogued by His Honor Sir Frank Stillman Barnard at 1 o'clock to-day.

The Legislature assembled on Thursday, February 7, and was immediately adjourned to permit of the late Premier's attendance at the Conference of Provincial Premiers at Ottawa, a journey which ended so disastrously for the province. From the

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1918

re-assembly of the House on February 26, with the exception of three days prior to the obsequies of the late Leader of the Government, the Legislature has been continuously in session, and for more than a week past holding three sittings a day, many of them running into the small hours of the morning. No less than one hundred and thirteen Bills have been presented to the House and received the Royal assent.

Civil Service Act.

It will be noted from the prorogation speech of the Lieutenant-Governor that the more important measures now the law of the land are briefly reviewed with their purports indicated. Significant in the pronouncement of His Honor is the reference to the early enforcement of the Civil Service Act, upon which a good deal of criticism has centered.

His Honor entered the Chamber accompanied by his Private Secretary, H. J. S. Muskett, and following his consent to the major number of the Bills passed during the session, delivered the speech which follows in full hereunder:

His Honor's Speech.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.—

Almost immediately after summoning you together for the business of the session, the Legislature decided to adjourn to permit the late Premier to journey to Ottawa to attend a conference of the Provincial Premiers called by the Prime Minister of Canada. With profound sorrow my Government has had to record that on his return journey the Premier contracted an attack of pneumonia, from which he succumbed on the first day of March. The estimable personal character and high political ideals of the late Premier merited and received the esteem and confidence of the people to an unusual degree, and his untimely death called forth universal expressions of sorrow. A by-election to fill the seat in the Legislature made vacant by his death will be held in due course.

The death of the Leader of the Government made necessary the choice of a successor in the office of Premier. I called upon one of the members of the late Government to accept the responsibility of choosing a Ministry, and am pleased to advise you that all the Ministers holding portfolios in the office previous Administration accepted in the present Government.

New and Timely Measures.

It affords me much pleasure to approve the energy you have devoted to the work of the session and the care bestowed upon the matters submitted for your deliberation. New and timely measures, well calculated to meet present provincial exigencies, as well as numerous amendments to existing legislation, have received your approval.

An Act providing for the fullest measure of co-operation with the Dominion Government in the serious task of settling upon the lands of the province and assisting in establishing in productive industry those returned soldiers who may choose such vocation will simplify one of the grave problems with which my Government is confronted. The amendments to the Civil Service Act, with its early proclamation, also will assist materially in re-establishing the returned soldiers in civil life.

Amendments to the Land Act permitting settlement only in surveyed areas will conduce to closer settlement, with a corresponding beneficial result.

Amendments to the Water Act will render the irrigation of larger areas practicable, affording further expansion of productive settlement in the Dry Belt.

Railway Requirement.

The Act vesting the ownership of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway in my Government places my Government in a position to consider the completion of this line of railway as a public enterprise or otherwise negotiate its completion and operation so as to provide the transportation facilities for which the railway was designed at the earliest date and on the most favorable terms practicable.

A measure providing for a bounty on iron and steel ores produced in the province affords means to facilitate the establishment of this important industry.

A measure respecting the cutting of spruce timber for aeroplane construction provides means for placing at the disposal of the Allies the vast timber resources of the province.

A Proportional Allotment Act will aid in the solution of difficult situations in relation to land held under agreement of sale.

The Seed Grain Act will result in greater agricultural production.

Taxation.

Amendments to the Taxation Act are designed to adjust the burden of the public debt and public service so as to bear more equitably upon the taxpayers.

A measure providing for an eight-hour day in certain occupations will improve materially the conditions of

labor, while the amendments to the Coal Mines Regulations Act and the Labor Regulation Act are calculated to further advance these interests.

Amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act will prove beneficial to Government employees engaged in hazardous occupations.

An Act providing a minimum wage for women should inaugurate improved conditions for those whom it is designed to assist.

Provision for the relief of South Vancouver Municipality and the Acts securing the bonds of certain dyking districts will afford appreciable relief to these burdened districts.

The amendments to the School Act and the regulations framed thereunder will have a beneficial effect.

The War.

I thank you for the provision you have made for necessary expenditures in carrying on the public works and providing for the general needs of the province, and trust that the result of your deliberations may lead to the social and material welfare of the province.

Since the Legislature assembled the Allied nations have been subjected to a further sustained attack by the Central Empires upon their Western front. I am pleased to note your appreciation of the valor and heroism of our own soldiers and your expression of confidence that the honor and traditions of our Empire will be maintained.

In now taking leave of you let me assure you of my best wishes for your welfare, earnestly trusting that the result of your labors may prove conducive to the best interests of the people of British Columbia.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1918

HON. J. W. DE B. FARRIS IS ACTING-PREMIER

Will Also Act as Minister of Railways During Premier's Absence

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LIKELY TO BE E. D. BARROW

Contract Signed for Construction of Bridge on P. G. E. Over Capilano River

A meeting of the Executive Council was held at the Legislature this morning, and remained in consultation until after half-past one o'clock.

Seen after the council had ended, Hon. John Oliver stated that it had been arranged that during his absence in the East, which may, it is understood, take between two weeks and a month, Hon. J. W. de B. Farris will occupy the positions of Acting-Premier and Minister of Railways.

Also question as to whether any definite arrangements had yet been come to with regard to the appointment of a new Minister of Agriculture to fill the portfolio at present additionally held by the Premier. Hon. John Oliver stated no appointment had yet been made, but that E. D. Barrow, of Chilliwack, was likely to be appointed.

Mr. Barrow is one of the most respected farmers in the whole community, and it is expected that the appointment, if made, will receive the unanimous endorsement of all the members of the Legislature. On several occasions, during the recently closed Session, his name was mentioned as a suitable appointee, not only by members of the Government, but also by Opposition members.

Contract Signed.

It was stated by the Premier that practically only routine business took place at the meeting of the executive this morning, but he added that he last night signed a contract for the construction of a bridge across the Capilano river at North Vancouver, on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

Several tenders were received, the contract being awarded to the lowest, which was Robertson and partners, of Vancouver. It is understood that the amount involved runs between \$35,000 and \$50,000, and it is stated that the work will be commenced immediately.

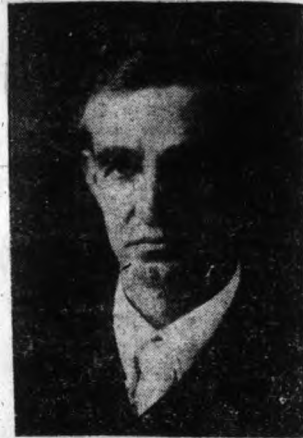
By-Election.

In view of the rumors which have

been going around the city with regard to the possibility of the by-election here being deferred for a considerable period, Hon. John Oliver was asked whether he had anything to say on the subject. All the Premier did have to say was that the matter had not yet been considered.

E. D. BARROW

of Chilliwack, who is likely to receive the appointment of Minister of Agriculture.



PREMIER LEAVING FOR EAST TO-NIGHT

Necessary to Be Present at C. N. P. R. Co. Arbitration Board, Toronto, May 1

HON. JOHN OLIVER ALSO MUCH TO DO AT OTTAWA

Owing to the fact that the Board of Arbitration which has been sitting at Toronto to probe into the question of the value of capital shares of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company, intended to be acquired by the Federal Government, fixed May 1 as the date on which Premier Oliver should attend to present British Columbia's claim to have the undertakings of the company in this province completed before any definite arrangement is arrived at between the Dominion Government and the company, Hon. John Oliver has found it necessary to leave for the East to-night.

But for his attendance at Toronto having been fixed for May 1 the Premier would have preferred to start for a further few days, but, in order to be present, as arranged, he has no alternative, and will leave by to-night's boat en route to Toronto and Ottawa. He will not be accompanied by his private secretary.

C. N. R. Obligations.

Matters equally important call for the presence of the Premier at Ottawa, where he is to confer with the Dominion Government on many matters of moment to the province. That of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company's obligations here is one of them, and it is the intention of the Premier strongly to urge that provision be made for—at least—the completion of the southern part of the Vancouver Island line and the Victoria terminals, contracted for by the company—as well as the work on the mainland—to bring to a state of completion under its guarantee with the province.

P. G. E. Extension.

In regard to the extension of the P. G. E. into the Peace River country, the whole existing system of which is now possessed by the province, the Premier will urge the Dominion Government to grant assistance in the way of a subsidy to, at least, the amount of \$12,000 a mile, and another matter which Hon. John Oliver proposes to discuss with the Federal Government is that of future co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial Governments in bringing about satisfactory conditions regarding the problem of the returned soldiers.

Johnson Street Bridge.

In regard to the Johnson Street bridge the Premier finds that the Provincial Government has done all the work it can do at the present time, and is now practically at a standstill in regard to improvements at the former Songhees Reserve. It is his intention to discuss the whole matter of the reserve, and

WEDNESDAY

its future, with ment, in order to come to some ing the future area and the Outer Wharf.

The Premier that he hoped, father, who li also his three an aviation ca other with the third at a

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to rid himself o turned him out i felt like taking s ered what they missed because h because he belon had outlived its ings of the Premi —the public kno conceives to be We have only to in office towards of their respecti

its future, with the Dominion Government, in order that it may be possible to come to some arrangement regarding the future connection between that area and the improvements to the Outer Wharf.

The Premier stated this morning that he hoped, on his visit to see his father, who lives near London, Ont., also his three sons, one of whom is at an aviation camp at Long Branch, another with the C. A. M. C., Ottawa, and the third at a mine at Quyon, Quebec.

Left Scene of Labors.

To-day there is a sudden exterior quietness: the Parliament Buildings, where, for nearly two months had existed bustle, and the perigrinations of members to and from ministerial offices. It was not that tired M. P.'s were sleeping after a prolonged series of early-morning retirements to their respective virtuous couches. It was due not to M. P.'s sleeping, but M. P.'s having departed from the scene of their recent labors.

Yesterday afternoon a considerable number left by the boat for Vancouver and other mainland points, and practically all the balance by the night boat, only a small handful—still being loath to leave the city—remaining here this morning. But, although the M. P.'s have left the Capital the executive still has a great deal to clear up in the way of work left over from the session. As regards the departments and their work, they—like Tennyson's brook—"go on forever," the only difference being that the session does not, by any means, lessen their work.

THE SESSION.

A considerable amount of good work was done by the Legislature in the Session which came to an end yesterday. Some of the measures adopted were of unusual importance in their special application to the exigencies of the times. Conspicuous among these was the legislation affecting the logging of spruce for aeroplanes. In the light of what is happening in France and Flanders it is impossible to conceive of any way in which the Government of this Province could have made a more effective contribution to the Allied arms. This action of the Provincial authorities may play a very essential part in determining the issue on the battlefield.

The measures affecting the P.G.E., the granting of bounties for iron and steel production, co-operation between the Province and the Dominion for the settlement of returned soldiers on the land, taxation, the minimum wage for women and the Civil Service are all of first importance in their relation to the economic and social development of the Province. Whether the sequel to them will justify the promise, however, will depend upon the nature of their administration. An Act is good or bad according to its practical application. For instance, the Civil Service Act is an excellent measure as it stands, but whether it will continue to be so will depend upon the Commissioner who will have the administration of it.

The Government undoubtedly gained ground during the Session, and the Premier amply justified his selection by His Honor as successor to the lamented Mr. Brewster. To some extent, however, the Government owes its thanks to Mr. Bowser for its increase of prestige. The Leader of the Opposition exhibited a perfect genius for diverting attention to his own unsavory record, his recklessness in dealing with facts and his inability to realize that the public is no more impressed with petty hair-splitting and scolding in the place of sound criticism than it is in transparent attempts to play to this or that element of the community for political purposes. Mr. Bowser never has been able to rid himself of the delusion that the electors turned him out in a fit of mental abstraction and felt like taking a lethal plunge when they discovered what they had done. Mr. Bowser was dismissed because he had lost the public's confidence; because he belonged to a type of politician which had outlived its day. Whatever may be the failings of the Premier—and he is quick to admit them—the public knows it can trust him to do what he conceives to be right regardless of consequences. We have only to contrast the attitude of the two in office towards the P.G.E., for an apt illustration of their respective conceptions of public duty.

THE LADY MEMBER.

The legislative Session was marked by the first appearance of the first woman legislator of British Columbia, and the political historian no doubt will devote a special chapter to that noteworthy fact. If any male member entertained the idea that the lady representative of Vancouver would be awed by her surroundings or dazed by the great white light which falls upon law-making bodies in general he was soon disillusioned. Mrs. Smith metaphorically had lived next door to Parliaments and Legislatures for about twenty years; parliamentarians and legislators were open books in scare-head type to her. So she made herself thoroughly at home. She did not speak often; she knows too many budding tribunes who talked themselves into political oblivion in their first two Sessions. She got her important minimum wage bill for women through but did not try to rush all her programme to the stage in the first act. More Sessions are to come, and we venture the prediction that we shall hear much more from the lone woman member of the House in 1919 and 1920. If the presence of a woman in our Legislature can be considered an experiment this one undoubtedly was a success. As such it probably will reassure those who regarded with horror the shattering of sacrosanct precedent and the desecration of those musty old "gods as they used to be," when she was elected.