

**F E B**

**1950**



MRS. NANCY HODGES, M.L.A.

## New Madam Speaker Invades Stag Dinner

Special to The News-Herald  
**VICTORIA**—Madam Speaker Nancy Hodges will shatter precedent Wednesday, when she attends the first state dinner at the capital.

Heretofore the dinner for the cabinet ministers has been strictly stag.

Invited to this event are those on the official precedence list . . . the Premier and cabinet ministers, senators and M.P.'s, archbishops, bishops and justices, members of the diplomatic corps and top officers of the army, navy and airforce.

The second state dinner, for private M.L.A.'s, will be a week later.

Mrs. Banks is now arranging her two sessional luncheon parties . . . the first for wives of the cabinet, the second for wives of the M.L.A.'s. Other events at Government House during the session will be luncheons for the mayor and aldermen of Victoria, members of the legislative press gallery and the government's deputy ministers.

As usual, the wives of members will say "thank you" to Mrs. Banks at an Empress Hotel luncheon. When Mrs. Banks goes to the House this afternoon to hear her husband read the speech from the throne, she will be accompanied by Rear Admiral and Mrs. H. G. Dewolf.

The wives of cabinet ministers are arranging luncheons and teas at their homes for this week.

Much interest centres this session around the lovely new home of Premier and Mrs. Johnson on the Uplands waterfront, looking to sea, over islands of the gulf and south to the snow-capped Olympic mountains of Washington State.

## Gold Braid Day At The Capital

By J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA.

The red carpet is rolled out, the guns are ready, the gold braid uniforms are gleaming.

The ladies have completed their wardrobes. The feathers and flowers are fresh and pert; the furs are ready if there's no spring sunshine.

The Lieutenant-Governor will arrive in a big black Government House limousine. The women of the mob will once more ogle the fashions of the capital's most distinguished citizens!

### Biggest Party Day

For this St. Valentine's Day the legislature opens—Victoria's biggest party day. A police escort with sirens screaming will roar through the main streets ahead of the Lieutenant-Governor's limousine; artillery guns will bark from the Causeway; a band will play and soldiers and sailors will be drawn up outside the buildings, to be inspected by the King's representative.

Premier Johnson will greet the Lieutenant-Governor at the top of the main stone steps. Flanked by naval, military and air force aides, His Honor will enter the chamber, but, learning the House has no Speaker will say he will leave and not return until there's a Speaker. Then the House will get along to formally electing Nancy Hodges to the legislature's highest position.

The Lieutenant-Governor will then return to the chamber and read the time-honored Speech from the Throne, which is supposed to outline the government's program of legislation.

### All Formality

All will be formality today. The opening ceremonies will take about an hour.

A reception for members and their wives and distinguished visitors from Vancouver will follow at Government House, where the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Banks will receive more than 300 guests.

This will be the first session of B.C.'s 22nd Legislature since the province joined Canadian Confederation in 1871.

## There May Be Quicker Ways, But . . .

Today in Victoria takes place in important event—the opening of a legislative session.

There doesn't seem a great deal on the agenda this year, but that makes a session no less important. Here are the province's highest law makers, going about the business of the people. In the next six weeks we will see democracy at work, though top-heavy it may sometimes appear. The 48 M.L.A.'s are the men and women democratically elected by the public in a free election.

There will be much long winded speech-making, there will be antics that may well disgust the public. But does anyone know any better system? With all its faults, the way we make laws is, most thinking people agree, the best. There are quicker

ways of getting things done, true, but that way leads to dictatorship.

It is to be hoped the government side won't do all its law making behind the closed doors of the caucus room. Law-making and voicing of opinions should be done in the chamber, for the public to hear. It isn't good enough that our M.L.A.'s should put forth their ideas, often good ones, in secret and sit like wooden dummies in public.

The men and women who elected these law-makers would do well for themselves and the province if they would pay serious attention to what M.L.A.'s do and say in the next six weeks. Only by intelligent understanding of what goes on in the capital can British Columbians play the part they should in their own affairs.



# House Opening Historic Date

VICTORIA—(CP)—British Columbia's progress of a century, from a Crown colony to a thriving province, will be marked today when the 1950 legislature opens.

The opening will be in sharp contrast to 100 years ago when Governor Richard Blanchard stood at the gates of Fort Victoria and, surrounded by blanket Indians, read his commission. The date was March 11, 1850.

Today for the first time B.C.'s Indians will have their own representative in the House. He is Frank Calder, CCF member for Atlin.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges will take her place in the speaker's chair, the first woman in the Commonwealth to be so honored.

## INDIAN PETITION

Chief William Scow, president of the Native Brotherhood of Indians, and Chief Frank Assu, head of the North American Brotherhood of Indians, will present a petition thanking the government for the franchise granted last year.

They will wear native costume and feathered headdress.

Few surprises are expected when Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks presents the Speech from the Throne.

A skyrocketing B.C. budget—expected to exceed \$100 million for the first time—and housing legislation to give effect to the federal government's lower-cost home building plan are expected to be highlights.

## \$100,000,000 BUDGET

Budgetary expenses increased from \$38,041,604 in 1945-46 to \$93,000,000 in 1949-50. The budget for 1950-51 may total \$115 million.

Decisions of the Dominion-provincial conference on Canadian constitution amendments and Trans-Canada Highway plans are expected to be included in the legislative program.

Most controversial is the Hospital Insurance Plan. In its first year of operation, it shows a loss of \$3 million to \$4 million.

The session will be the first since formation of the Liberal-Progressive Conservative coalition in 1941 that the Liberals have a clear majority under the leadership of Premier Byron Johnson.

The House standing is: Liberals, 24; Progressive Conservatives, 14; Independent Coalition, 2; CCF, 7; and Labor, 1.

# DAY IN THE HOUSE

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — A pale spring sun shone Tuesday and political history was made as the first session of B.C.'s 22nd Legislature opened.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges and Frank Calder were the history makers.

Crowds rubbernecked on the stone steps of the Legislative Buildings. Inside the chamber sat Victoria's world of fashion and important people, with a good handful from Vancouver.

Police sirens screamed as a Government House limousine roared through the streets carrying Lieutenant-Governor Charles Banks to open the House. A 15-gun salute barked as his honor's car curved up the driveway.

In his court uniform of gold braid and cocked, beplumed hat, the governor inspected an honor guard before being greeted by Premier Byron Johnson, handsome as ever in cutaway coat.

Bishops in purple, UBC President Mackenzie in red robes and blue velvet cap, justice in

black, navy officers in gold braid, all crowded into the chamber.

And down from the press gallery we could see BC's only two living ex-Premiers—"Duff" Pattullo, the red rose of Liberalism defiantly in his lapel and John Hart.

Mr. Pattullo looked as if he would like to be back into the fray, but Mr. Hart had a content look as if glad the rough-and-tumble part of his life is over.

Tom Uphill livened up things as the House awaited the Lieutenant-Governor's arrival. "Hello Herb," he sang out to Finance Minister Ansbomb, "I'm getting tired of apologizing for that sales tax of yours." Mr. Ansbomb grinned, unashamed of the sales tax.

## 'Make-Believe' Looks Real

As always, there was much make-believe about the opening. The Lieutenant-Governor arrived, took his seat on the dais.

Up jumped Provincial Secretary Pearson to say his honor wouldn't read the speech from the Throne until a speaker had been elected. His honor promptly left. The premier decided something had better be done about a Speaker.

Down the chamber, looking innocent, as if she suspected nothing, sat Mrs. Nancy Hodges, a sable cape over her dark outfit, a jaunty red feather in her blue hat.

She put on a fine look of surprise and it almost seemed she

wouldn't accept when the premier moved and Opposition Leader Winch seconded that Mrs. Hodges be speaker.

The premier and Mr. Winch then marched down, took Mrs. Hodges by the arms, led her to the speaker's throne like chair. Mrs. Hodges declared a short recess, hurried away to her suite to don her robes.

This accomplished, his Honor returned to the chamber and read the Speech from the Throne. Madame Speaker was duly grateful for the honor accorded her, though, she said, "I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me."

## Calder Shares Limelight

But Mrs. Hodges didn't get all the attention. Every eye was glued too, on young Frank Calder, first native Indian to sit in the Legislature.

There he was, slight and small, with the piercing black eyes of his race. The son of a chief, a university graduate, who hopes to do great things for his people.

And then, adding precedent shattering glamor, came two Indian chiefs, William Scow and Frank Assu, all dressed up in ceremonial regalia to thank the Legislature for giving the franchise to their people.

They wore buckskin and ermine, eagle feathers and thunder birds, with killer whales and beads and they made happy noises with a

rattle. Humbly, before the bar of the House, they expressed gratitude that at last their people were on the road to full citizenship.

As soon as the Lieutenant-Governor left, the House considered bill No. 1. This was to show the people's business would be considered before the King's.

After little more than an hour, the chamber emptied, the fashionable and important ones drove up to Government House to have a cup of tea with His Honor and Mrs. Banks.

Today the House will get down to business. The speech making will start. A. D. Turnbull of Rossland-Trail will move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne and Alex Hope of Delta will second it.

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# Provincial Assets Top \$400,000,000

## Anscomb Report Shows Surplus Gains In 1949

VICTORIA — Value of provincial assets at March 31, 1949, was \$405,749,719.

Liabilities amounted to \$313,328,429. It was shown in a table of public accounts presented at the opening of the Legislature Tuesday by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

Surplus in assets over liabilities was \$92,421,290.

An increase in surplus assets of \$7,057,144 over the previous year was shown.

The report showed that \$92,000,910 revenue was collected in the fiscal year.

Of this amount \$71,443,302 was paid to current accounts, \$13,010,914 on interest and debt redemption and \$2,981,746 on flood relief and flood control.

### MAJOR AMOUNTS

A net revenue surplus of \$4,564,946 remained.

Including this surplus, the report continued, there remains available for appropriation revenue surpluses of \$5,058,957.

A total of \$7,981,746 was spent on flood relief and control during 1948-49 and the Dominion paid \$5,000,000 of the bill, it was noted.

The table showed five major amounts spent from revenue surplus appropriations:

For the hospital insurance equalization fund, \$50,000; for grants to hospitals, \$562,405; for provincial buildings, \$182,504; for school buildings, \$2,654,176; for roads, bridges and road equipment \$5,821,722. All totaled, \$9,270,810.

### BORROWINGS

A total of \$22,944,000 was spent from capital borrowings as follows:

For highways, \$3,929,565; for bridges, \$1,848,991; for ferries, \$107,473; for equipment, \$1,000,000; for buildings and furnishings, \$2,324,197; for university buildings, \$1,180,988; for Pacific Eastern Railway, \$2,052,000; for school construction, \$999,883; and a loan to the B. C. Power Commission of \$9,500,600.

## THRONE SPEECH OPENS SESSIONS

# Housing Tops Agenda For MLA's

VICTORIA — (CP) — Three major government decisions featured the throne speech Tuesday at the colorful opening of the 22nd B.C. Legislature.

Highlights of the speech read by Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks are:

- To proceed with a three-way housing project.
- Change present administration procedure in the Hospital Insurance Service.
- Legislate for proper maintenance of the reconstructed dyking system in the Fraser

Valley and other sections of the province.

Other plans included:

- Closer liaison between the native Indians and the provincial government in all matters coming within the jurisdiction of the province.
- Legislation in respect to taxation on Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway belt lands.
- Linking of the province with the rest of Canada by agreement with the Dominion and Provincial governments on a Trans-Canada highway.
- Assistance for the Univer-

sity of B.C. to continue its building program.

The speech reported willingness of the government to attend a Dominion-Provincial Conference in the fall of this year on economic matters.

### NO LIQUOR CHANGES

Hoped for, but not anticipated strongly, was legislation on liquor laws, sustained yield forestry, oil prospecting, Workmen' Compensation Act, soil conservation.

The three-way housing project involves the Dominion and municipal governments, the federal government providing 75 per cent of the cost of the program, and the province 25 per cent.

Much talk is expected on the hospital insurance service which operated the first year with a deficit of between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000.

Plans of the government to change administration procedures are designed to cut short criticism.

## Madame Speaker

Election of Nancy Hodges as the 22nd Speaker of the British Columbia Legislature is approved by British Columbians, no matter of what party stripe.

Mrs. Hodges will be a good Speaker. She is able, fair-minded. A died-in-the-wool Liberal and staunch supporter of Coalition she will, however, give the Opposition its due, keeping it in trim at the same time.

British Columbia women particularly, are grateful to Premier Johnson for so honoring the part they are now playing in public life. Selection of Mrs. Hodges for the legislature's highest, most honored office should increase the interest of women everywhere in public life.

Mrs. Hodges has been a fighter for the common good, as she saw it, the last eight years, ever since she went into the legislature. Long before that she was prominent in women's work. She has battled in many an election campaign, has toured the province many times, is a power in national Liberal women's affairs across Canada.

Now she is to be Madame Speaker, the first woman Speaker in the British Commonwealth. She is to be congratulated for the high honor that has come to her. She deserves it. The premier is to be thanked for the honor he has done women, and what they have done and are doing for British Columbia.



## \$57 Millions!

British Columbia's highly efficient and ably managed Liquor Control Board made total sales of \$57 millions for the fiscal year 1948 - 49, yielding the provincial government a net profit of over \$18 millions, exclusive of sales tax, which added another million. The federal treasury also collected over \$11 millions.

That means an average liquor bill of over \$50 a year, or \$1 a week, for every man, woman and child in the province.

What are the lessons to be learned from this example of government control of liquor sales?

1. It has falsified the beliefs and hopes of those who contended that government control would tend to reduce liquor consumption. The amount consumed continues to rise without let-up.

2. It has refuted the contention that drunkenness and crimes connected with liquor consumption would be brought under better control. There is just as much drunkenness and just as much crime as in any period of provincial history.

3. It has refuted the idea that high taxation on liquor would deter drinking. Taxation is now higher than at any former time, without any sign of exerting a deterrent influence.

Maybe a good many other pet theories have been falsified—especially the theories of those who hoped that government control would mean lessened liquor consumption!

The size of the profit total revealed by the report naturally reaffirms the belief that government is in the liquor business to stay.

## Put It Under A Commission

The Speech from the Throne at Victoria said that legislation would be introduced at this session of the legislature to improve the administration of the hospital insurance service.

There is no indication of what change the government has in mind. It may be that final decision depends on what the private members say in Coalition caucus.

What they ought to do, if they are willing to get away from politics, is to set up an independent commission free from the direct control of a minister. Normal items of administration are properly the responsibility of the cabinet. But certain types of business are better suited to commission.

We have before us the record of three commissions that stand out as

great successes in administration of branches of the public business—the Workmen's Compensation Board, the Liquor Control Board, and the Power Commission. These bodies have been free to work out efficient methods, unhampered by day-by-day political considerations.

Establishment of a commission would also free the government of the difficulty it faces in fixing adequate salaries for the top men in the hospital insurance administration. At present, the rate is restricted to the civil service scale. Running the hospital service requires a good man. He is worth big money. He cannot be paid that kind of money under the present system.

## Secondary Industries 'Vital' To Prosperity

VICTORIA—(CP)—Future growth and prosperity of British Columbia depends on the ability to create secondary industries, Alexander D. Turnbull (Coalition—Rossland-Trail) said in the Legislature Wednesday.

He was moving the address in reply to the Throne Speech.

"At present 40 per cent of the people of this province are dependent on the export of our primary products for their livelihood. Our economy would be more stable if these primary products were processed before being exported," he said.

### TIMBER, ORE STRESSED

"Our timber should be manufactured to the highest possible degree before export.

"Our metals and minerals should be fabricated into articles ready for use.

"Such processing and fabrication would, as well as stabilizing our economy, provide jobs in the off seasons of the great tree fruit industry of the Okanagan, Robson and Creston areas."

Devaluation of the English pound has not only affected the export market of the Okanagan, but also the many large and small logging and sawmill operations in the southern inter-

ior which are dependent directly on the export market for their existence, Mr. Turnbull added.

### LAUDS MOVE

He said he was glad Premier Johnson was going to London next month to discuss this matter with British lumber exporters.

Touching on the mining industry in the Kootenays, Mr. Turnbull told the House that one important secondary industry already established at Trail was the chemical and fertilizer business.

He contended the government must be prepared to invest more money in Game Commission activities if fish and game are to be used as one of the province's drawing cards. There must be more conservation and propagation funds available to the commission, he said.

## Delta Seeks New Seat

VICTORIA — (CP) — The time has come when British Columbia should have more than one member from Delta riding, Alec Hope (Coalition—Delta) argued in the House Wednesday.

He said Victoria has three members, or an average of one member for each 10,600 registered voters; Vancouver an average of one member for 25,000 voters; Delta, 35,000 voters with one member.

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## DAY IN THE HOUSE

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—The session got off to its usual dull start Wednesday.

There were speeches from A. D. Turnbull of Rossland-Trail, and Alex Hope of Delta, both good Coalitionists, though Turnbull is Liberal and Hope Conservative.

Mr. Turnbull was walking, talking proof that voters are fickle. In a by-election in November, 1948, Turnbull was beaten by James Quinn, CCF. Little more than six months later the same voters pitched Quinn out and put Turnbull in.

There was a little crowing from Mr. Turnbull about the Coalition sweep last June. Being a new member, he was quiet about it and so didn't stir up Opposition Leader Winch.

The people, said Mr. Turnbull, reaffirmed their faith in Coalition in no uncertain terms. It was then we looked down on the members and saw how right Mr. Turnbull was.

Where was the opposition? As far as eye could see were Coalitionists. Is there any opposition? Oh, yes—there's Harold Winch and around him six CCF'ers.

How this once-powerful opposition shriveled when the voters got going! Just seven—that's all, and Tom Uphill, who can oppose the CCF just as much as he can the government.

Mr. Turnbull wanted the tourist industry developed more. He boasted a bit about his home town hockey team.

There wasn't much wrong with Mr. Turnbull's world except roads, and he beefed about them. The Public Works Department had better do some-

thing about it—or else.

Mr. Hope was most gallant with honeyed words for Madame Speaker, Mrs. Hodges, who, he said, with a good attempt at a court bow, has grace and dignity and what's more important, a wonderful human understanding.

Fighting farmer Hope can get plenty sore at city slickers he thinks would cheat those who toil the soil.

Low price of eggs is forcing farmers to sell chickens. Mr. Hope said he didn't want to be gloomy or pessimistic and then he was just that. "The general picture for agriculture is not bright," he said.

Margarine is ruining the dairy industry, he cried in agony.

"Oh, no," said Dr. Gillis. "Oh yes," said Mr. Hope. "Oh no," said Dr. Gillis.

"Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes," spat out Mr. Hope in fury.

As to roads—Mr. Hope wasn't going to stand by and hear Mr. Turnbull roast Public Works Minister Carson. The highways are better than ever and they're getting better all the time said Mr. Hope.

Mr. Carson smiled his thanks. Then Mr. Hope, having put himself in Mr. Carson's favor, asked the minister for goodness sake to do something about a highway bottleneck in his riding.

He said some plans will have to be made for another Fraser River crossing, for the Pattullo Bridge is growing inadequate.

Mr. Hope had what might be a good idea—that the sales tax should be upped to five per cent so hospital insurance premiums could be wiped out. Let people pay painlessly was Mr. Hope's suggestion.

## Throne Speech Highlights

Highlights of the Throne Speech, forecast of government legislation, read at the opening of Parliament:

Under a policy of orderly decontrol, federal rent regulations would be continued for at least another year providing the supreme court rules them valid.

To provide continuing price support for primary products of agriculture and fisheries, amendments will be proposed for the Agriculture Products Act, Agricultural Price Support Act and Fisheries Prices Support Act.

A bill to consolidate existing defense legislation and give the services "purely Canadian disciplinary code" will be re-introduced.

Parliament will be asked to pass a measure bringing Canada's Indian legislation up to date.

Changes suggested by the safety of life at sea convention of 1948 will be included in a bill amending the Canada Shipping Act.

A bill including veterans of British and allied forces in the scope of the War Veterans Allowance Act will be introduced.

Consideration will be given

to a bill providing for grants to municipalities in lieu of taxes on federal property.

The government promises to continue efforts to obtain reductions in trade barriers and preparations are under way for further trade negotiations later this year.

The federal government is negotiating with the provinces to implement last season's legislation on housing, a trans-continental highway and forest conservation.

Newfoundland has been brought under the national health program.

## 'Boss' Defends \$6,000,000 Aid Grants

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — Premier Johnson disclosed in the legislature Thursday that in December and January the Dominion government paid out in B.C., in family allowances and unemployment insurance a total of \$6,600,000.

He was replying to opposition leader Harold Winch who had criticized B.C. and Ottawa governments for not making provision for this winter's unemployment.

The premier gave the following figures:

December — Unemployment insurance, \$1,097,000; family allowances, \$1,762,000.

January — Unemployment insurance, \$1,986,000; family allowance, \$1,772,000.

"Don't say no provision has been made," the premier said.

## Hospital Letter Tabling Asked

VICTORIA—(CP)—Demand that all correspondence between Health Minister George S. Pearson and former Commissioner J. M. Hershey of the Hospital Insurance Scheme be tabled in the House, was made by Opposition leader Harold E. Winch, Thursday.

Dr. Hershey resigned late in December owing to dissatisfaction over failure of the minister to act on his recommendations.

"Why did this scheme get into such a mixup?" Mr. Winch asked.

"Something is wrong in the department that comes under the honorable minister's administration. What is behind all the publicity the situation has aroused?"

"I hope all correspondence and reports will be tabled. The people need this scheme despite wish of insurance companies and some doctors to see it go out the window. I say hospital insurance is here to stay."

## DAY IN THE HOUSE

By J. K. NESBITT  
VICTORIA—Opposition leader Harold Winch Thursday rapped the B.C. government and said that, while it "may have a steamroller in the house," its days are numbered.

Government benches looked unimpressed.

He admitted the CCF got knocked back last June. "We are but seven," he said. "We were seven in 1933." This prompted someone to call out "You're in a rut."

Mr. Winch ignored this and said that, while there are only

seven members, "There is a terrific force behind the CCF, which holds that private enterprise has failed."

Then he added that the Coalition last summer had run an election campaign of dishonesty and fear.

The premier said "Oh no." and Mr. Anscomb yawned, at the same time crossing a leg, to show snappy yellow socks.

Mr. Winch said it was a despicable campaign. "We had to warn the people what would happen if you got into power," Attorney-General Wismer said.

## Throne Speech Held 'Barren'

He said he was supposed to stick with the Speech from the Throne, but he had read it and couldn't find anything in it worth commenting on. To Mr. Winch the speech was completely barren.

Looking about the house, he welcomed new members, warned them it's tough being an M.L.A. "You're damned if you do and you're damned if you don't," he said.

He congratulated Madame Speaker Nancy Hodges and hoped she would see that the rites and privileges of private

members enforced and that she wouldn't always be going by outworn decisions made years ago by mere men speakers.

Mr. Winch sailed into the government for this winter's unemployment. "The only time of full employment is when your capitalist system—involves us in war," he said. This prompted fellow members to shout "Rubbish" and "Nonsense."

Trade and Industry Minister Eyres got up to say that last year there was more employment in B.C. than ever before. Mr. Winch ignored this.

## Winch Raps House 'Knifing'

And then Mr. Winch needed the premier and Mr. Anscomb.

"How's the marriage getting on, Mr. Premier," he asked. The premier didn't reply, but looked content enough.

Mr. Winch carried on: "How can you have a real harmonious government with all the knifing that's going on?" Mr. Anscomb yawned again. That made Mr. Winch mad so he took after the minister of finance.

"The Liberals can control this house now without the Conservatives, you know," he said. "They don't need you any more. Actually, of course, you'll never break coalition. We've never been able to hang you together, but when you break we'll hang you separately and on the same day."

With that Mr. Winch sat

down, after one of his shortest speeches. "A very good speech, Harold," said Dr. Gillis, who had an enjoyable afternoon butting in.

Former premier John Hart found he just couldn't stay away from the house. He didn't take an honored seat on the floor, however; he sat in a back seat of a public gallery.

## DAY IN THE HOUSE

By J. K. NESBITT  
VICTORIA—Premier Johnson Friday boxed the ears of the opposition leaders.

He did so with a new-found vehemence and self-confidence.

The day before, Harold Winch said B.C. is in a bad way economically and faces widespread unemployment. Mr. Winch also said Canada should be ashamed at the niggardly way it had economically treated Great Britain and other poor countries.

This made the premier mad. The more he thought of it the madder he got. He determined to give young Mr. Winch a piece of his mind. He used a whip-lash.

"I'm amazed," he said, "that a man of the standing of the leader of the opposition should cast reflections on Canada's economic contribution to the rest of the world. As a Canadian I'm proud of what Canada did in the war and is doing now."

"There is no reason why anyone should belittle efforts of this country. And it has been done under private enterprise government's."

This off his chest, the premier calmed down and got along with what's called his policy speech.

This year it was more of a progress report, an account of his stewardship in the last year.

## First Time Fully Endorsed

Mr. Johnson stood as premier for the first time fully and overwhelmingly endorsed by the people, who last June showed more confidence in him than in any other premier since McBride.

In the last two sessions he was premier by inheritance, having been given the province's top job by a Liberal convention. So it was no wonder we could see a new sureness in him. The people, not a political party, had told him to go ahead.

In his prepared speech he went through the record, most of which we had heard before. He told how the PGE is being pushed slowly northward. He

was optimistic about oil and aluminum. He gave details of housing legislation and Power Commission affairs.

It was all good listening, for it painted the picture of development in this vast province.

And, as he got madder, he looked right at Mr. Winch and said: "There are too many people in this country finding fault with everything we do. I'm fed up with people who say the country is going to the dogs."

And you could see he figured some people talk that way for political reasons. Could he have meant Mr. Winch? The premier is much too polite to say so.

## 1949 Employment Hits Peak

"There were more people employed in Canada last year than ever before," he thundered on, and he was effective. "Our lumber industry has more orders than ever before. The men and women in the lumber industry are better off than any time in their lives."

"So are the employers," snapped Burnaby's Mr. Winch.

"We had in B.C. in the five postwar years more prosperity

than at any other time in our history," said this determined, inflamed B.C. booster. "I'm satisfied the economy of this province is sound. We have a great province."

On hospital insurance he was a bit mysterious. He said: "All phases of the service must be examined in order to bring about modifications that may be necessary to improve the plan."

What did this mean? Reduction in benefits? Could be.

## Johnson Seeks New Dyke Laws

VICTORIA—(CP)— Legislation to ensure proper dyking of B.C. rivers will be introduced to the Legislature, Premier Johnson said Friday.

He said one of the major factors contributing to the 1948 Fraser Valley floods was that the dyking system had been neglected by property owners in protected areas which own and maintain their own systems.



## The Premier's Accounting

A good accounting of the province's affairs was given by Premier Johnson in the House at Victoria Friday.

There was nothing spectacular in his report to the people. He merely showed progress is being made in all directions and that British Columbia, all being well, faces good days.

He had good news for those people who lack adequate housing. He told of the housing program in which Ottawa, B.C. and the municipalities will share. The premier has worked hard for this and deserve thanks.

Mr. Johnson was deliberately cautious about hospital insurance. He knows the people want this insurance; he knows it is still largely in the experimental stage. He hopes the premiums won't have to go up; he hopes the benefits won't have to be restricted. In any event, hospital insurance is here and here to stay. The wrinkles will be ironed out. The government should make sure, however, the premiums won't go up.

The premier pleased everyone when he said the growing civil service will be streamlined, thereby saving money and increasing efficiency.

The good old P.G.E. came into the premier's speech. The people may

think the P.G.E. is a white elephant and political football. To Mr. Johnson it is a priceless asset. He was most optimistic as he told of what he hopes from the P.G.E. in the future—more revenues, greater freight movement, eventually extension to the Peace River. There are those who think the government should get rid of the P.G.E. before it costs the taxpayers more millions. However, perhaps Mr. Johnson should be given his chance to prove the P.G.E. is worth while—as long as it doesn't cost too much.

Mr. Johnson wasn't very definite about oil development and possibility of an aluminum industry in B.C. He was cheerful, though; so British Columbians may feel encouraged because of his cheer. He is not a man to smile too broadly if he thinks there's nothing to smile about.

All in all, the premier gave a good accounting of his stewardship. The people should have no regrets for returning his government to power so overwhelmingly last June. But Mr. Johnston should know there must be no standing still. A government with legislative backing as his is liable to stagnate.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1950

## And No Gerrymandering, Please

Alex Hope, M.L.A. for Delta, said in the Legislature the other day it's high time for redistribution of legislative seats.

He pointed out that Greater Victoria has 12,000 voters per member, while Vancouver has 25,000 and in his constituency there is but one member for 35,000 voters.

This is, as Mr. Hope says, unfair. Greater Victoria has too many members.

When redistribution comes—and it is almost certain before the next election—it is to be hoped there'll be no gerrymandering. Governments have a habit of redistributing seats so they'll

gain political advantage.

There is no excuse either, of increasing the number of seats, even though the population is growing. There are 48 members now. That is quite enough. Indeed, perhaps there could be some reduction. Greater Victoria doesn't need six members; Point Grey could get along quite as well with two, instead of three. There could be other reductions.

There is too great a tendency these days to increase the size of our legislative bodies. As we have said before, it would be more efficient to cut the numbers of elected representatives and pay them more.



## B.C. Government On Hot Spot Over E. and N. Tax Plan

Special to The News-Herald  
VICTORIA.

The Speech from the Throne last week announced that the government planned at this session to pass legislation to impose a severance tax estimated at \$6 to \$10 million on Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway belt timber lands on Vancouver Island. However, certain members are beginning to be affected by embarrassing doubts.

This is despite the fact that the Privy Council recently ruled that the province has power to levy such a tax.

The issue over taxation of the railway lands took its rise from the forest resources report of Chief Justice Gordon Sloan. He recommended that a severance tax be imposed on the railway lands.

With such a recommendation from its commissioner, the government felt that it would be open to political criticism if it did not proceed to implement it. The government proceeded to do so by testing its rights in the matter in court.

The B.C. Court of Appeal ruled that the province had the right. The Supreme Court of Canada reversed the B.C. decision. The Privy Council gave a ruling which had the effect of restoring the B.C. judgment.

### The Dilemma

The effect of the Privy Council ruling is that if the province now imposes the tax proposed, it will not commit a breach of contract with the railway company. But at the same time, it appears clear that by imposing the tax, the province would commit a breach of contract with the Dominion.

This is because of the arrangements under which in 1883 the railway company was endowed with the lands to induce it to build and operate the railway line up Vancouver Island.

The arrangements were in the form of two contracts. First of these contracts was between the province and the Dominion. By the province undertook to enact the Settlement Act which it did in 1884. This act provided that certain provincial lands should be conveyed to the Dominion in trust to aid in the construction of the railway from Esquimalt to Nanaimo and that these lands should be exempt from taxes.

The second contract was between the Dominion and the incorporators of the railway company. By it the company was to construct and operate the railway in consideration of a cash payment from the Dominion and the railway lands which had been granted by the province to the Dominion for this purpose. The contract provided that the railway lands should be subject to the provisions of the Settlement Act.

### Missing Contract

However, there was no written contract between the company and the province corresponding to these other two contracts. It was the absence of any contract between the company and the province that is now causing the difficulties. For, on its absence, the Privy Council ruling was based. The effect of this ruling was that if the province now imposes a tax on these lands, it will not commit a breach of contract with the railway company. However, by imposing a tax, the province will commit a breach of the contract with the Dominion.

So, now the members of the provincial government feel themselves obligated by the Privy Council decision to implement their commissioner's recommendation that a tax be imposed. But in doing so, they face the unpleasant fact that they will commit a breach of the province's contract with the Dominion. The Domi-

ion would then undoubtedly be called upon by the railway to disallow the provincial legislation on the grounds of breach of contract. This the Dominion would undoubtedly do, however humiliating as it might be to the provincial government.

### Moral Obligation

Thus, the B.C. government is finding itself in an embarrassing position. Having committed itself to the taxation by its court actions and by promising it in the Speech from the Throne this week, it fears attack in and out of the House by the Opposition if it does not follow through. But if it does follow through it is almost certain to be humiliated by disallowance at the hands of the Dominion.

There is more to it, of course, than the fine legal point made possible by the absence of a contract between the province and the railway company. This is the realization which is now beginning to dawn on members here that by imposing the tax the province would commit a breach of a very clear moral obligation owed it to the railway company.

Through the two contracts that were made, there was no doubt that it was the intent of both Dominion and province in 1882 to exempt the railway lands from taxation. The exemption was maintained without challenge for 57 years. To go back on that moral obligation now, it is felt, would be a blow to confidence in the stability of government policy in British Columbia.

It is clear from the judgments in favor of the province, that the judges felt themselves bound to give effect to the technical legal position and even on that question judicial opinion was fairly evenly divided.

### Uncomfortable Spot

But altogether apart from the technical legal question, it is abundantly clear that the members of all three courts considered that the province is under a moral obligation to continue tax exemption of the railway lands and that it would be a breach of faith for the province now by imposing the tax to take away from the company a substantial part of the consideration which was held out as an inducement to the company in 1883 and on which the company relied.

It is an uncomfortable spot for the government to be on.

It can either back down and abandon the legislation to which it has hastily committed itself, or it can go through with it bringing upon itself censure for breach of its moral obligations and with the practical certainty that it will have added the humiliation of seeing its legislation disallowed.

No matter which course it pursues, it looks now as if the \$6 to \$10 million which the provincial treasury has been hoping to garner from the railway is fading over the horizon.

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## DAY IN THE HOUSE

## Frank Calder 'Baby' Of BC Legislature

By J. K. NESBITT  
VICTORIA—We had a fairly good day of speechmaking in the House Monday.

It was not an exciting day, but some good ideas came out. The speeches were short and to the point. Usually when there are three speakers two are from the government, one from the Opposition.

But this year the Opposition's so small there was nothing for it but three government supporters all on the one afternoon.

And we heard who the new "baby" of the House is. We knew it was a toss-up between J. D. McRae of Prince Rupert and Frank Calder of Atlin. Mr. Calder won by a few months. Both are 34.

A. R. MacDougall, the bouncy,

pleasant, fun-loving lawyer from Point Grey started the day off. He put his hands on his hips in statesmanlike style, preparing himself for the day when he'll be a cabinet minister. He said his piece with a certain flamboyancy that kept his hearers on their toes.

He was duly whimsical in congratulating Madame Speaker. He noted—and he said he must say this with a smile—that perhaps Mrs. Hodges hadn't shattered as much precedent as first appeared, for after all, Madame Speaker, "it must be a truism that woman is the speaker in every house in which she is to be found." Madame Speaker smiled a mask-like smile and Mrs. Rolston snorted as if to say "Oh, yeah?"

## Hospital Scheme 'Too Hasty'

Mr. MacDougall said there was no doubt too much haste in getting hospital insurance going. He said some consideration should be given to limiting length of stay in hospitals and of lessening the number of incidents which at present are free.

But he really didn't get annoyed until he contemplated the main highways leading into Vancouver.

No city on this continent, he said, has such disgraceful approaches. The Marpole Bridge he termed "this monstrosity."

Mr. McRae showed all the calmness of a political veteran as he stood to make his maiden speech.

He took everybody up the

northern coast and told them all about his riding. Said there should be a Canadian coast guard to safeguard the lives of those who make their living on deep waters.

He urged a better social service deal for Indians. Then he urged Canadians, of Japanese ancestry, be not allowed back on the coast in the fishing industry.

Mr. McRae showed himself a member who will be fairly forceful once he gets going.

He noted the premier is going to London next month to sell timber and probably apples and eggs, and would the premier put in a plug for salmon?

And he sent a page boy hurrying to the premier's desk with a tin of red sockeye.

## Franchise Urged For Douks

Walter Hendricks, new member for Nelson-Creston, tall, white and distinguished-looking, made a nice maiden speech too. He boasted about his home riding, said it's the finest district in B.C.

He made a good speech on the Doukhobor problem, show-

ing a new approach, a sensible approach.

He said jail doesn't do any good; he said give them full rights of citizenship, the franchise, he said, and they'd make good citizens in a short time. "What is citizenship without the right to vote?" he asked.

## MLA Opposes Return Of Japanese Fishermen

VICTORIA—(CP) — Return of Japanese fishermen to B.C. waters was opposed by J. D. McRae (Coalition—Prince Rupert) in the House Monday.

The northern member believed it would doom commercial fishing for native Indians.

While protection from Japanese fishing from Japan was afforded by action of the International Pacific Fisheries Commission in ruling against fishing by foreign vessels off the West Coast, this protection would be of no avail if B.C. Japanese were permitted to resume operations, he said.

The fisheries industry had been able to maintain full production during the war, owing to help of Indian fishermen who took over fishing grounds from the Japanese after the latter were expelled.

The natives proved they were better commercial fishermen than the Orientals.

## THREAT TO INDIANS

However, return of the local Japanese to the scene would force the native Indian out of business, he claimed.

The provincial government should take over the entire field of social welfare in this province for all citizens, including native Indians, Mr. McRae also said.

With fishing and hunting two of the most advertised attractions for tourists in the BC boundary country, the game department should be given all

necessary financial support, said W. Hendricks, Nelson-Creston.

Two of the border crossing points in his riding showed the biggest increase of any border crossing in B.C. east of the Okanagan, Mr. Hendricks said.

Nelway, south of Nelson, had a 56 percent increase in 1949 over the previous year, while Rykarts, south of Creston, showed an increase of 40 percent over 1948.

East and west travel crossing on the Castlegar ferry totalled 65,000 passengers, an increase of more than 11,000 passengers as compared with 1948.

## SCHEME SCORED

The BC Hospital Insurance Scheme was too hastily devised, which accounts in large measure for the position in which it now finds itself, A. R. MacDougall (Point Grey) told the House.

More study should have been given to the questions of premiums and administration generally, and more advantages should have been taken of factual figures then available, he added.

"I cannot help but feel that having regard to the experience of the existing scheme, it should, from the outset, have been apparent that benefits offered under the government plan could not possibly be given for the premium set, unless a substantial loss was to be suffered.

"While it is too late to argue that point now, I believe the province-wide hospitalization scheme could have been better handled by private enterprise."

## \$2 Million, If Necessary, For Nurses

Premier Johnson's proposal for the provincial government to make large grants for the training of nurses makes sense.

"If it is necessary to spend \$2 million a year to train nurses, we will do it," he said to the legislature. That sounds as if the government means business.

Such a program would have a twofold benefit. It would help overcome the shortage of nurses and it would relieve the hospital insurance fund of a heavy load. Nurses can be trained only in hospitals, and the cost of training them in these days of high prices adds to hospital expenses.

It was absurd for the provincial government to enter the hospital insurance business without making advance plans for increased accommodation. It is just as absurd now for

the federal and provincial governments to aid in hospital construction without making special provision for staffing the hospitals with nurses.

People who know what they are talking about have been hammering on this topic for a long time. The federal government gives substantial grants for hospital construction and medical research. But it does practically nothing for the accommodation and teaching of nurses.

Dr. Charlotte Whitton, an expert on social work, recently warned: "The nation's entire planning for the health service of all the people threatens to buckle and bog down in the morass of nursing and auxiliary personnel shortage."

Premier Johnson's statement shows that the B. C. government is aware of this danger and plans to do something about it.



## Don't Raise The Hospital Fee

Premier Johnson has given a warning that revenue of the hospital insurance plan must be sufficient to meet the costs.

If this means that unnecessary expenditures are to be eliminated to put the plan on a sound financial basis, he has the right idea. If it means that there should be no contribution from the provincial treasury and that premium payments should meet all costs, he is wrong.

The hospital insurance fund has been saddled with expenses that do not properly belong to it. The training of nurses is a costly educational process that would better be a government responsibility. Hospitalization for automobile accident cases should be borne by automobile insurance. These items would save the hospital insurance fund up to \$3 million. Economies of efficient administration and collection of fees would save more money and bring more revenue.

Even so, the fees paid by individuals may not be sufficient to meet the cost of hospital services. In that case the fee should not be increased. Any deficit should be met out of gen-

eral revenue. That is the only fair way.

It is contrary to the basic principle of state service to make everyone pay the same fee. The man who earns \$2000 a year or less ought not to pay as much as a man who earns \$10,000. One of the purposes of provincial hospital insurance is to make hospital service available to persons who would not otherwise be able to afford it. To make them pay for the service on the same basis as a well-to-do person is to defeat the purpose of the legislation.

Some of the revenue must be obtained on the basis of ability to pay. The obvious way to do this is through the income tax. The provincial government collects income tax indirectly from the federal subsidy through the federal-provincial financial arrangement.

Health Minister Pearson is expected to make a statement on the hospital insurance plan this week. If he has any idea of announcing an increase in the fee, he had better reject it. If he does not, the people may reject the government.

## Small Mills Fear Threat Of Monopoly

VICTORIA, B.C.—(CP)—The small logging operators fear that the forests may pass into the hands of a few large corporations by the granting of forest management licenses covering a huge area, B. M. MacIntyre (Coalition-Mackenzie) told the house today.

"We know it is not the intent of the existing legislation to permit this monopoly, but the possibility does exist. Small operators realize the necessity for sustained yield and will do their part in co-operating with the government, provided they are assured they will not be squeezed out by having all available timber tied up under forest management licenses."

On highways, Mr. MacIntyre recommended that secondary highways be given more consideration both in respect to maintenance and means of dust-laying.

## DAY IN THE HOUSE

### Coalition's Election Spending Hit By CCF

By J. K. NESBITT  
VICTORIA—We heard from veteran CCF'er Ernest Winch of Burnaby on Tuesday and from two members—Coalitionist B. M. MacIntyre of Mackenzie and CCF'er B. W. Hagen of Grand Forks - Greenwood.

Mr. Winch who has been performing hereabouts for 17 years, was fiercer and stormier than he has been in some years. This made everyone glad. It showed Mr. Winch in good health and everyone loves Mr. Winch. He hoped Madame Speaker would make some more history by showing democracy is a reality and not always tell opposition members they're out of order. Mr. Winch expressed annoyance at what he termed antiquated rules of order.

He was philosophical as he contemplated last June's punch

### E. E. Winch Champions Underdog

He made his annual plea for the underdog—the old people who are lonely and cold in the sunset of life; for the poor and the underprivileged. He does it with a moving sincerity, a fight and an indignation that is good.

Young Batt MacIntyre, speaking in a clear and concise way, showed he, like Prince Rupert's Mr. McRae, is one of the stalwarts of the future. He told us how shabbily we've handled the

in the nose for the CCF. He said politics have their ups and downs. "We know we'll up permanently one of these days," he said. "The jig's up for you," he butted in somebody from the Coalition.

He lectured the government on what he called an all-time high for election expenses last June. If the CCF had been willing to sink to the depths the Coalition sank to the story would have been different, he said. He said the attorney general had used the provincial police for political purposes. They're under your thumb," said Mr. Winch. Then he gave us a little lecture on socialism, as he always does. Socialism, he said, is the bogey of free enterprisers like coalitionists but the hope of intelligent people like CCF'ers.

native Indians. He said Indian children should go to the same schools as white children. He wasn't any too happy about roads in his home riding. MLA's never are. One of the things a member must do to please the folks back home is grouse about roads and Mr. MacIntyre grouse.

Mr. MacIntyre was glad. "As a Coalitionist," he said, "I am a child of that union."

## PGE Expansion Program Rapped

Mr. Hagen, a homespun sort of person, is slow and deliberate. He didn't fawn over madame speaker, as most members do. He merely said "good luck to you." He told the Coalition, with its huge majority not to be too smug, reminded them that McBride, with 40 of 42 seats, eventually collapsed. Of the CCF he said "We're not down hearted even if some people think we're decimated."

He delivered himself of a great weight on his conscience these 30 years. He confessed that in 1920 he had worked for the Liberals. He didn't think much of Premier Johnson's plans for extension of the PGE. He asked what's the use of spending millions on the PGE when railroads are obsolete, except for handling heavy freight.

He took a dig at Mr. McRae

who the day before said Canadians of Japanese ancestry shouldn't be allowed back in the fishing industry. Canadians of Japanese blood in his riding have been good citizens. "For heaven's sake don't let us have any more of this racial intolerance," he said.

The session drags on. Nothing has been done yet. The budget won't come until next week. Then there'll be speech making all over again.

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DAY IN THE HOUSE

# Education 'Frills' In B.C. Hit By MLA

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — Four legislative speeches in one afternoon aren't easy to take. That's what happened in the house Wednesday. We heard from three coalitionists—C. W. Morrow of North Okanagan, Sydney Smith of Kamloops; Andrew Whisker of Cowichan - Newcastle; and CCF'er Leo Nimsick of Cranbrook.

Mr. Morrow attempted to stir up the opposition, but didn't get far. He said Opposition Leader Winch just whistles in the dark when he talks about the CCF having huge support.

Mr. Morrow wanted abolition of the poll tax, better roads, more money for fish and game development, and a liquor plebiscite. He announced sadly he knows now B.C.'s booze is really well-watered because it froze on the shelves of Vernon's shabby dirty liquor store.

Mr. Smith, in a big, booming voice, said we've got too many frills in our education and it's costing too much money. He thought we shouldn't try to keep up with the Joneses in this regard, the Joneses being the U.S.

"One of these days," said Mr. Smith, "the taxpayers will find themselves paying for courses in fly fishing, weight-lifting and calf-roping, as in the U.S."

"We have travelled far from the little red school house," he said, "and it appears we've lost the three R's on the way," he added.

This, it turns out, is a "praise the native Indian" session. For some reason which isn't quite clear, the Legislature is deliberately wooing the Indians. After ignoring the Indians for years, Coalitionists are now falling all over them with loving words and fond caresses. Everybody is expressing burning devotion to the Indians.

Mr. Whisker, in a quiet, telling sort of way, said his riding at long last threw off the CCF socialism last June.

But now it's back in the free enterprise fold, all it wants the government to do is kill the fatted calf and give a great feast of roads in the way of a thanks offering.

"Surely," said Mr. Whisker, "a few hundred thousand a year isn't too much to give the people of Cowichan-Newcastle for having thrown out good old socialist Sam Guthrie, without whom the house is a duller place."

Mr. Nimsick, in a vigorous way, with a good clear voice was easy to listen to. He was all for public ownership, of course. He said it was odd to him that the Coalition boasts of free enterprise, yet the premier beams all over when he talks about the publicly-owned PGE.

Mr. Nimsick stayed mostly in Cranbrook, said farmers in isolated areas should have more of the conveniences of the city, like electricity and medical aid. He warned there won't be a forest industry soon unless there's more conservation and he said the government gives away minerals, which belong to the people.

DAY IN THE HOUSE

# Indian MLA Seeks Aid For 'Poor White Man'

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — Thursday was a memorable day in the House. The first Indian MLA in our history, Frank Calder of Atlin, made his maiden speech. He was given what amounted to almost an ovation.

There he stood, slight and dark, black of eye, soft of voice. The Premier looked just as proud as Calder's own political chief, Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

It was quite a day of talking—five speeches, as the Premier cracked the whip to get the feast of words over, and the budget on. We heard from, in addition to Mr. Calder, Coalitionists A. B. Ritchie of Salmon Arm; R. C. Steele of Omineca; Angus McLean of Cariboo and CCF'er Randolph Harding of Kaslo-Slocan.

Mr. Calder was humorous as well as serious. He said, in reference to wooing of Indians going on this session, "I've heard so many Honorable members going to bat for the poor Indian that I believe I should go to bat for the poor white man."

Congratulating Madam Speaker he said, "We both caused a bit of noise—just between the two of us, it's a great feeling, don't you think?"

Madame Speaker looked as if she agreed and everyone laughed aloud. Mr. Calder then asked for better roads and more medical aid for his constituents and a better deal for Indians, and wound up by quoting Booker T. Washington to the effect that no race can hold another race in the ditch without staying in the ditch too.

## Liberals Have The Jump

Mr. Ritchie was in good form. He pleaded for better roads; up his way in the summer, he said, automobiles become as destroyers laying down smoke screens. He said he doesn't want any more excuses from the Minister of Public Works.

Young Mr. Harding proved himself a debater of growing strength.

He chided Coalition and said "You're afraid to go to the country as separate political parties because if you did you'd be pushed into the corner and we'd be over there." Mr. Harding took comfort because the Tories had lost as well as the CCF.

"Oh don't bring that up," said Burnaby's Mr. Winch.

## Omineca, Cariboo Lauded

And then Mr. Harding rubbed the Conservative wound: "The Liberals have at long last a complete majority in this House." To which Conservative Mr. MacDougall sniped, "You know that that's not true. We're all Coalitionists."

Mr. Harding congratulated the

Premier and Liberal organizers for out-organizing the Tories last June, said that it appears the boss of the Coalition now has his Tory partner under the bed. Mr. Johnson looked pleased and Mr. Anscob didn't look anything at all.

Mr. Steele stayed mostly in Omineca and told us all about the place, how pleased his people would be to have an aluminum industry, and that it wouldn't hurt the salmon industry one little bit.

Mr. McLean, as might be suspected, spoke out in good Scots burr and he too stayed at home in the rolling Cariboo. He said there should be better provision for storage of potatoes and a lot of homey and important things like that.

At the end of the day Premier Johnson offered 58th birthday greetings to Finance Minister Anscob. The minister got up and said thanks but he didn't want all the glory. He extended the same kind of greetings to Mrs. Rolston who, he said, was born on the same day, but 45 years later.

DAY IN THE HOUSE

CCF Members Sport Carnations For Labor

By J. K. NESBITT
Special to The News-Herald
VICTORIA—Friday was a good day in the Legislature. It put a bit of a lively end on an otherwise rather dull week.

We heard from good old Tom Uphill—the daddy of the House, for he's been here 30 years; methodical Arthur Turner of Vancouver East, and warm-hearted Earnest Charles Beard of Esquimalt.

Attorney-General Wismer was in fine fettle and kept heckling Mr. Turner. Everyone enjoyed this, especially Mr. Wismer.

The British election took

much of the spotlight. The seven CCFers marched in wearing red carnations in their lapels in celebration of the Labor victory, though Coalitionists thought it was a hollow one. Mr. Turner claimed the Labor party will have a working majority of 20 members.

"Quite different from last time," crowed Conservative Mrs. Tilly Rolston.

Mr. Turner said Socialism is responsible for what few benefits B. C. has. Mr. Wismer said that was nonsense, that benefits started before the CCF was ever heard of.

A. G., Turner Heckle Away

"I think that's a very weak reply," said Mr. Turner. "It's the truth," rumbled the A. G.

At one point Mr. Turner said something about Madame Premier. "Please," said the Premier, "it's Madame Speaker."

"Your system has failed," said Mr. Turner to Coalition benches. "There's no use standing there speaking generalities," said Mr. Wismer.

Mr. Turner, wearing a flaming red tie, congratulated Madame Speaker, sadly said it seems men's sphere of influence in the world is almost wiped out. He hoped Mrs. Hodges would have good judgment.

"She's got good judgment," said Mr. Wismer. "I have?" asked Turner. "She has," said the A.G. "We both have," said Mr. Turner.

Then he said he didn't agree with Mr. MacDougall that hospital insurance came too speedily.

"Don't talk in obsterical

language," said Mr. MacDougall. Mr. Turner then said the M.D.'s had helped sabotage hospital insurance. He said the B.C. Electric should be taken over and that the government had better get going on a huge housing project to help the unemployed.

Mr. Uphill put on his annual performance, but he was more serious than usual. He wanted a better deal for old age pensioners, sweepstakes for hospitals, a search for oil in the Flathead area, some better roads.

He complained because he said there had been some strange election tactics in his riding last June. "But the good Lord was on the side of the righteous," he said, "and I'm still here."

He congratulated Madame Speaker and said that because he's an old friend of hers he hoped she wouldn't put the screws on too tight.

Bring Back The Spittoons

He said it's all very well to have the women taking over, but it's gone too far. He implored Madame Speaker to put back the big brass spittoons in Legislative corridors. Madame Speaker maintained a complete poker face and didn't even smile when Mr. Uphill hoped God would bless her and all the other pretty girls.

Mr. Uphill said he doesn't like hard work, that it's much softer being an MLA. "At least you're honest Tom," said Mr. Welch of Comox.

"Honesty's my middle name" said Mr. Uphill.

He struggled through his notes, announced he'd have to take Saturday off to straighten up his desk and said he's like the PGE—starts nowhere, finishes nowhere and goes nowhere.

Mr. Beard made a good speech. He's easy to listen to. He's brief. So few hereabouts are.

He said he's worried about soaring expenditures and

thought there should be a cut, even though it might be unpopular. However, he didn't want any cut in his riding and asked more money for roads.

He said he's fed up with high taxes and they should be cut, too.

He suggested the whole legislature go riding the PGE to see what it's really like. He said the public will think it's a joy ride, but he said fear shouldn't hold anyone back. All in all, Mr. Beard was effective.



LEFT AND RIGHT ARE HAPPY in Victoria today following win of Britain's Labor party. Opposition leader Harold Winch (left) commented: "It is an endorsement of socialist policies and a recognition that the people have achieved greater social security than ever before." B.C. Tory leader Herbert Anscomb replied: "There has never been such a smashing victory against socialism. As we look at the western world we find socialism denounced, disputed and discarded by thinking people."

DAY ML Co

By VICTO debate lature decks fo comb's Lands T. Ken winding the gov confider Mrs. T able, sp for Van ed the a as usual with fa She I ever an ing to L her mi what an Being so stau wasn't crowd election noted, L Leader "Wel just a The underno housew and soc servativ everyth land or Mrs. at the s years h feated the floo "It e it takes pay, an familie She MLA's should age of sham, s "Tha said M Arm. Marg ston, is she pa many with th unrolli it in a ing in, it and having wash, hungry their b "Our do wit snappe her arr looking the san Mr. admini has a v that n dull fa citing, such a of this He v branch



DAY IN HOUSE

# MLA Raps Sales Tax, Colorless Margarine

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—Throne Speech debate wound up in the Legislature Monday, clearing the decks for Finance Minister Anscomb's budget today.

Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney had the honor of winding up the debate, showing the government has complete confidence in him.

Mrs. T. J. Rolston, the smiling, able, sparkling third member for Vancouver-Point Grey started the afternoon. She was bright as usual, in a shapely black suit with fancy corsage.

She has as much punch as ever and everyone liked listening to her. She says what's on her mind and doesn't worry what anyone thinks of her.

Being a staunch Conservative, so staunch she wishes Coalition wasn't necessary, Mrs. Rolston crowed a bit about the British election. British socialism, she noted, had long been Opposition Leader Winch's guiding star.

"Well," she said, "the star is just a faint glimmer now."

The exasperated, overworked, undernourished, over-queued housewives did it, sang Tilly, and soon they'll put the Conservatives in entirely and then everything'll be rosy in England once more.

Mrs. Rolston took another dig at the sales tax, over which two years back she would have defeated the government right on the floor of the House.

"It exploits the people because it takes no account of ability to pay, and falls heaviest on large families," she said.

She stirred up the farmer MLA's by saying margarine should be colored. The percentage of coloring is just a legal sham, she said.

"That's good enough for it," said Mr. Ritchie of Salmon Arm.

Margarine now, said Mrs. Rolston, is mournful looking. And she painted a grim picture of many kitchens these mornings with the poor, tired housewife unrolling the pale stuff, putting it in a bowl, emptying the coloring in, whipping it and beating it and then reolling it and having lots of extra dishes to wash, and all the time her hungry children howling for their breakfast.

"Our mothers have enough to do without that extra work," snapped Mrs. Rolston, waving her arms about effectively and looking mad and attractive at the same time.

Mr. Kenney, one of the best administrators in government, has a vim and vigor about him that makes listening to even dull facts and figures sound exciting. He presents them in such a way that we get a picture of this vast province.

He went through the many branches of his two big depart-

ments, told what is being done to encourage an aluminum industry and to find oil.

He defended B.C.'s oil regulations, said the government is going to make sure the people get their proper share in their own resources if oil is found. He defended also the forestry policy, had figures to prove the little fellow isn't being discriminated against, as some people say.

This wiry little minister, who comes from Skeena, needled at the opposition. He likes doing that. He does it well. But the opposition didn't fight back. They took it, conserving their strength for battles yet to come.

Mr. Kenney said he sure admires the pleasure the CCF get out of their defeats. Why, he said, after 16 years, they're right back where they started—seven members.

The reason they're not making progress, Mr. Kenney said, is that people won't subscribe to their peculiar philosophy. He said he didn't want to rub salt into their wounds—and so did by saying after the next election there won't be any CCF'ers at all.

Mr. Kenney made a fighting defence of Mr. Pearson's administration of hospital insurance, said no man has done more for the poor and the sick than George Pearson and everyone, including the CCF, pounded their desks.

After nearly two weeks of talk, MLA's got around to thanking the Lieutenant-Governor for his gracious speech on opening day. This cleared the way for the budget and Mr. Anscomb got up to move that the House go into committee to consider ways and means of granting supply to His Majesty.

John Hart came calling Monday and took his place for the first time in the Legislative Press Gallery, of which he is an honorary life member.

## MLA Scores Lack Of Tourism Drive

VICTORIA — (CP) — Propaganda issued by the government to attract tourist exhibits a lack of imagination.

Mrs. T. J. Rolston (Coalition-Vancouver-Point Grey said this in the House Monday.

Advertising should have zip; it should stress mountain climbing, parks and recreation, fishing and shooting, she contended.

The game branch should be put on some kind of permanent financial basis so they know how much money they can expect from year to year, she added.

# Kenney Sees New Era In Gas, Oil Line

VICTORIA—(CP)—A bright future for the construction industry and labor in British Columbia, was forecast Monday by Lands Minister E. T. Kenney.

Speaking of an all-Canadian route to pipe gas and oil from Alberta and northern B.C. fields, Mr. Kenney said that such a project would mean:

Cheaper fuel, a huge amount of US dollars, Canadian employment in construction, maintenance and servicing, creation of new industry through assured full fuel supply and vital requirements for national defense.

### SURVEY BEGUN

Winding up the Throne Speech debate in the Legislature, Mr. Kenney said the West Coast Transmission Co. Ltd., comprising Canadian and American capital, has had preliminary surveys made and plans to spend \$100,000,000 on the gas pipeline alone.

It will run from Edmonton through the Yellowhead Pass to the coast—from there as far as northern Oregon.

A branch line will run from Peace River to Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Prince George, then join the main line at Tete Jaune Cache. The main line will come south through Kamloops to Princeton, break through the Coast Range via the Hope-Princeton Highway and on to Vancouver and south.

### BRANCH LINE

A proposed branch line from Kamloops would serve Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton, Oliver and east to Trail.

The oil line would follow the same route of 725 miles.

# Efforts To Aid Nechako Salmon 'Not Justified'

VICTORIA—(CP)—Proposed efforts to assist the salmon run on the Nechako River by the Aluminum Company of Canada were termed "unjustifiable" in the Legislature Monday.

Lands Minister E. T. Kenney told the House that construction of the aluminum plant at Kitimat might or might not affect the well-being of Nechako salmon. He added that there is a serious lack of scientific data concerning fish requirements.

Therefore, he said, construction of works, channel improvements and the release of unspecified quantities of water with the object of assisting the runs would be purely experimental.

"It would be unjustifiable to saddle the company with the cost of these works," he added. **SURVEY MADE**

A study of public attitudes made in 1949 by a Toronto company showed 93.9 per cent B.C. voters favored the project; less than one per cent are opposed and about five per cent are either indifferent or reserved opinion, he said.

Salmon spawning would not be affected if the company developed the Eutsuk-Kimsquit or Tahsa-Kemano Lake systems, but spawning beds in the Chilco-Southgate areas would be, if that system were chosen, Mr. Kenney said.

### POWER PROJECTS

The Aluminum Company of America also proposed to develop B.C. waterpower, the minister told the House.

It wishes to divert Atlin and Tagish Lake waters for power purposes at Skagway. If Alcoa is granted a license, fees and rentals should be computed on the basis of full power which could be developed, he said.

# Seymour Mountain Road To Be Ready By Summer

VICTORIA—(CP)—The six-and-half mile road up Mount Seymour will be completed this summer, Lands Minister E. T. Kenney told the House Monday.

Parks, he said, were fast assuming the status of necessities with the modern tendency to crowd into great city communities.

His department, therefore, he said, followed the policy of seeking the most desirable and valuable recreational sites, reserving them for public use.

This guarded against thoughtless alienation before the urgent need for the areas developed and before funds were available for improving, he said.

The policy also is to seek such funds as the budget will stand and spend it where it will provide the widest variety of recreation for the greatest number of people.

Present program calls for improvement of Little Quailcum Park, on the Nanaimo-Alberni Highway; John Dean Park near Victoria, and the Peace Arch near Blaine, Wash.

First priority will be given to Seymour Park near Vancouver and Manning Park on the Hope-Princeton Highway.



## Hospital Levy Already Too High

One of the few lively issues the legislature has to tackle this session is that of the method of financing provincial hospital insurance services. The members will have to be careful about this.

The hospital plan has had its difficulties. Administrative troubles are being ironed out. The government is considering ways of relieving the fund of some of the burden of costs. But it is reported to have suffered a deficit of around \$4 million in the first year of operation. It is evident that the present rate of fees will not meet future costs.

Debate in the legislature on the hospital services plan has been sporadic. The government has received little advice from the members. On the other hand, the government has shed precious little light on the subject. A statement from the minister is still to come.

There are reports that the government is considering a raise in the hospital services tax to make up for the fund's deficit. This would be a major blunder. Arthur Turner of Vancouver East says the deficit should be taken care of by the general revenue. He is right.

Hospital insurance is a welfare matter. The costs are so great that it has to be contributory. But there is a limit to the amount the "little" fellow can pay. The share that he cannot meet must be met by the treasury.

The government recognizes this principle by paying hospital costs for pensioners and persons receiving social assistance. But there are many persons on small income who find it difficult to pay even the present rate.

There are people between 60 and 70 who are not on pension and whose earnings are scarcely sufficient to make both ends meet. There are people on fixed incomes whose revenue does not increase to meet rising costs. There are low wage earners. These people ought not to be further burdened. The hospital levy on individuals is already too high.

Liquor profits are soaring. The three per cent sales tax is expected to yield this year far more than the estimate. Revenue accounts such as those for which the public is being heavily mulcted, could be quite properly tapped to make up the hospitalization deficit.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1950

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## Anscomb Predicts \$273,000 Surplus

Special to The News-Herald  
VICTORIA — Highlights of Finance Minister Anscomb's budget address to the Legislature Tuesday:

Expenditure in fiscal year starting April 1 next of \$105,831,189, increase of \$12,850,600 over current year, surplus expected of \$273,000.

Three per cent sales tax bringing in \$24,000,000 a year; two years ago estimated \$12,000,000.

Increased liquor profits of \$550,000, for total of about \$17,000,000.

Deficit in Hospital Insurance from January 1, 1949, to March 31, 1950 of \$4,587,000.

Provincial debt last December 31 was \$146,100,363, increase of \$18,474,426 in preceding 12 months, due to new roads, bridges and buildings.

Per capita net debt reduced from \$190 in 1931 to \$131; average interest rate now 3.28 per cent, lowest ever.

Value of sinking funds last December 31 \$30,070,000, or \$4,067,000 greater than previous year.

To be spent from capital borrowings: \$10,000,000 for new school buildings; \$7,000,000 for PGE construction; \$7,700,000 on provincial buildings; \$10,500,000 on new roads and bridges; \$2,579,000 on UBC buildings; \$625,000 on Okanagan flood control; total of \$38,404,000.

Ottawa taking \$158,000,000 a year from B.C. in taxation, but returning only about \$27,000,000; if B.C. still collecting its own income tax province would have \$44,000,000 a year.

Revenue during nine months ending last Dec. 31 amounted to \$74,378,053, greater by \$15,290,139 in same period of 1948.

These increases in revenue expected in coming fiscal year—motor vehicle licenses, \$625,000; land registry fees, \$250,000; amusement tax, \$500,000; gasoline tax, \$1,200,000; mining tax, \$600,000; pari-mutuel betting \$200,000; timber sales, \$600,000.

Department of Health and Welfare will spend \$22,314,040 in coming year, increase of \$3,560,000 over current year; Department of Education will spend \$15,454,871, increase of \$630,654.

Collections in fiscal year ended last March 31 were \$92,000,910, greater by \$14,000,400,000 than estimated.

Great floods of 1948 cost \$19,500,000, of which Ottawa paid nearly 75 per cent.

Hospital insurance premiums for old-age pensioners to cost \$358,000.

Municipalities get from sales tax and motor licenses \$10,000,000 a year.

B.C. to borrow \$5,000,000 to co-operate with Ottawa in housing project.

## Municipalities To Get \$26,778,000 From Govt.

VICTORIA — (CP)—Financial relationships of the province with the municipalities are in a most satisfactory state, at least from the standpoint of the latter.

Bringing down his fourth budget Tuesday, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb said estimates for the forthcoming fiscal year provided the sum of \$26,778,000 to municipalities as against \$2,965,000 in 1941-42.

### GRANTS LISTED

These comprised direct grants as follows: Motor vehicle revenue grant of \$1,650,000; sales tax, \$7,875,000; basic and supplementary education grants, \$5,500,000; conveyance grant, \$366,000; teachers' pensions (employers' share), \$830,000; and school buildings, \$6,200,000.

Indirect aid is provided for as follows: Indigent relief, municipal cases, \$2,666,000; indigent medical services, \$635,000; hospitalization of indigents (now under the Hospital Insurance Act), \$726,000; keep and of prisoners, \$100,000; local roads, \$100,000; and interest on certificates of loan re municipal superannuation, \$130,000.

### REPORT FOLLOWED

For all practical purposes, the finance minister said, the government had implemented the entire recommendations of Dr. Carl Goldenberg, Montreal expert on municipal affairs who reviewed provincial-municipal relations three years ago. In addition, the government will grant municipalities \$7,875,000 more in the next fiscal year from the sales tax.

## Anscomb Tells House BC Floods Cost \$19 Million

VICTORIA — (CP) — Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb told the Legislature Tuesday the 1948 B.C. floods cost up to the end of last year \$19,827,317.

The province paid out \$5,704,785 and the Federal government \$14,122,532.

In the Fraser Valley, \$1,884,899 was spent in emergency flood control and relief; the Rehabilitation Authority spent \$4,125,038; the dyking board \$8,062,500 (Dominion share) and \$2,687,500 from the province, with restoration of roads and bridges costing \$733,727.

Outside Fraser Valley, flood control and rehabilitation cost \$1,036,235 with restoration of roads and bridges costing \$1,259,792.

The Okanagan flood-control project will cost \$2,200,000 of which B. C. will pay one-half if the recommendation of the joint Dominion-Provincial board is implemented.

Flood conditions in November and December last year, Mr. Anscomb said, caused damage amounting to \$398,300 to roads and bridges.

**F E B**

**1950**



## PRECEDENT SET

Indians Help  
'Open' House

(Report of throne speech, more stories on House opening on Page 9.)

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—With all of the traditional pageantry and several colorful innovations, the first session of B.C.'s twenty-second Legislature was officially opened this afternoon.

In accordance with time-honored practice, members and guests on the floor of the House and the packed galleries heard Lt.-Gov. Banks read the throne speech, Attorney-General Wismer introduce the first legislation, and the presentation of reports by each of the 11 cabinet ministers.

In traditional fashion the House chose a new Speaker, but tradition was shattered when Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Coalition, Victoria) mounted the dais.

Preceded by his aides, Commander Hew Paterson, Lt.-Col. Brooke Stevenson and Wing Commander D. D. Campbell, and his private secretary, Capt. J. G. Cromack, he entered the chamber.

Then finding there was no Speaker, he and members of his party withdrew.

On a motion presented by Premier Johnson and seconded by Opposition Leader Harold Winch, Mrs. Hodges was elected and escorted to the throne by the premier and opposition leader.

Madam Speaker then left the chamber to put on her robes of office, and on her return, the Lieutenant-Governor again entered to deliver the throne speech.

After that, he again left the chamber and the House launched the first business of the session.

Mr. Wismer introduced Bill No. 1, an act to amend the "Laws Declaratory Act."

On a motion by Premier Johnson, seconded by Finance Minister Anscob, a five-man committee was set up to prepare lists for the Legislature's eight standing committees.

There was another innovation—a National Film Board movie camera, set up on the floor of the House, recorded the scene as Mrs. Hodges was escorted to the throne to become the first woman Speaker of any legislative body in the British Commonwealth.

More color was added following the throne speech when Chiefs William Scow and Frank Assu, in full dress, paraded to the bar of the House to thank the Legislature officially for giving the vote to native Indians.

## INSPECTS GUARD

Shortly before 3 p.m., as guns of the 75th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery fired a 15-gun salute, the Lieutenant-Governor arrived at the Parliament Buildings.

He inspected the guard of honor from Esquimalt garrison, then entered the buildings.

Revenues  
Surpass  
Expectation

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C.'s revenues for 1948-49, estimated at \$77,600,000 in the budget for that year, actually totaled \$92,000,000.

Figures contained in public accounts for the fiscal year, filed today in the Legislature, show, however, that expenditures, estimated at \$77,000,000, finally amounted to \$87,400,000.

The revenue surplus for the 12-month period was \$4,600,000, and the revenue surplus fund at March 31, 1949, totaled \$5,000,000.

During the year \$9,000,000 of the revenue surplus fund was spent on schools, hospitals, public buildings and roads, and another \$23,000,000 was utilized from capital borrowings.

In the 12 months ended March 31, servicing of the provincial debt cost \$13,000,000, of which \$7,700,000 was used for debt redemption and the remaining \$5,200,000 for payment of interest.

Liquor Profits Jump  
\$1,500,000 In Year

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Liquor profits in the fiscal year 1948-49 netted the provincial treasury \$18,073,767, an increase of nearly \$1,500,000 over the previous year.

Total sales in government liquor stores for the 12-month period, according to the Liquor Control Board report filed today in the Legislature, amounted to \$56,954,898.

In 1947-48 sales totaled \$55,249,375.

Comparatively higher profits were recorded in 1948-49, Liquor Commissioner W. F. Kennedy said, because of a substantial increase in the sale of hard liquor. Beer sales dropped slightly.

There is more profit in liquor than in beer, Mr. Kennedy explained.

Sales of hard liquor were

Throne Speech Sets  
Record for Brevity

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A tax on timber in the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway belt, establishment of closer liaison between the government and the native Indian population of the province, and improvement of the hospital insurance administration procedure were forecast today in the throne speech.

The 500-word address delivered by Lt.-Gov. Banks at the opening of the Legislature was the shortest in recent years.

House  
To Debate  
Finances

From the Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Hospital insurance, education costs and housing are major issues in the 1950 session of the Legislature.

Private members of the House, arriving for their annual discussion of the affairs of the province, are concerned primarily with these subjects.

Among back benchers on the government side of the House there is marked concern over the problem of provincial financing, and it is evident the need for economies will be closely linked with the debate on the future of the hospital insurance and school programs.

The session, it is expected, will start slowly. It will be a week or two before the 16 new members get used to the routine. Most of them plan to do more listening than talking until they find out what it is all about.

Work of the session will get under way Wednesday, when A. D. Turnbull (Coalition, Rossland-Trail), and Alex Hope (Coalition, Delta), move and second the address in reply to the throne speech.

Thursday, Opposition Leader Harold Winch will launch the CCF criticism of government policy, and Friday afternoon Premier Johanson delivers his policy speech.

It referred briefly to government plans for housing legislation, and amendments to the Municipal Act to permit municipalities to participate in joint home-building projects.

Government plans to provide UBC with more money for new buildings, forecast last week by The Vancouver Daily Province, were announced.

## DYKE MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of reconstructed dykes in the Fraser Valley and other districts will be provided for.

The speech noted with satisfaction that the Hope-Princeton Highway had been completed and disclosed the government proposal to present a mace, on behalf of the people, to Newfoundland to mark its entrance into confederation as Canada's tenth province.

"Outstanding success attended the dominion-provincial conference called for the purpose of considering ways and means to amend our constitution," the speech said.

"A dominion-provincial conference on economic matters has been called for the fall, and I am pleased to learn my government has indicated its willingness to attend."

## HOUSING PLANS

Concerning new legislation, the speech read:

"There will be legislation enabling my government to enter into agreement with the Government of Canada to share responsibility in connection with projects designed to alleviate the existing housing shortage.

"Concurrently, there will be legislation enabling cities and municipalities to participate with my government in housing plans devised by various districts to meet their particular needs.

"There will be a proposal designed to establish closer liaison between our native Indians and the government in all matters coming within the jurisdiction of the province.

"As a result of the decision of the Privy Council, you will be asked to consider legislation in respect to taxation on Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway belt lands.

## HIGHWAY AGREEMENT

"It is the hope of my government that before the conclusion of the session, you will be enabled to consider an agreement between the Dominion and Provincial Governments with respect to the construction of the Trans-Canada Highway.

"Legislation will be submitted ensuring proper maintenance of the reconstructed dyking system in the Fraser Valley and elsewhere in the province on which public money has been spent with such beneficial results.

"A Bill will be placed before you seeking amendments to the Hospital Insurance Act with the object of improving administrative procedures under this act.

"Provision will be asked to assist the University of B.C. to continue its building program."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1950



"MADAM SPEAKER" made British Commonwealth history in Victoria today when Mrs. Nancy Hodges presided over the formal opening of the Legislature. The distinguished parliamentarian is only woman Speaker ever to be appointed in the Commonwealth.

### Israel Sends Greetings To B.C. House

VICTORIA—Greetings from the people of Israel to B.C.'s Legislature were contained in a brief message read to the House today by Speaker Mrs. Nancy Hodges.

The letter, signed by Joseph Sprinzak, speaker of the Knesset, the parliament at Tel Aviv, was given Opposition Leader Harold Winch during his European tour last summer.

It expressed thanks for the greetings from B.C.'s speaker to the people of Israel.

"Ours is a very young state, and we are very keen to learn from the example of the legislative assemblies which have grown up during the past century in the wide areas of the British Commonwealth of Nations," it said.

### B.C.'s Liquor Bill Totals \$57 Million

VICTORIA—B.C. spent almost \$57,000,000 on beer, wine and liquor in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1949.

About \$30,000,000 of the total went to provincial and Dominion governments as taxes and profits.

Here is the breakdown: Provincial liquor store profits, \$18,073,767; Dominion taxes and duties, \$11,031,630; provincial sales tax, \$1,025,333.

The remaining \$27,000,000 went to distillers and brewers and for handling charges.





SIGNING THE REGISTER at the Legislature today prior to the opening were Vancouver-Point Grey members Leigh Stevenson (foreground) and on his left Reg McDougall. E. K. De Beck, clerk of House, presides over swearing in. Opposition Leader Harold Winch (right background) awaited arrival of his father, E. E. Winch, for the joint ceremony, their fifth.



INDIAN MEMBER of B.C.'s Legislature, Frank Calder (CCF-Atlin), is the first of his race to sit in a provincial House or the Commons at Ottawa. Mr. Calder, 34, kisses the Bible at the swearing-in ceremony prior to the House opening.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1950



PAGE BOYS AT THE LEGISLATURE were excited today as the House opened its twenty-second session in Victoria. Most spend every minute studying pictures of the MLA's, who must be instantly recognized by the boys to deliver messages with the greatest speed. Checking pictures carefully were (from left, rear) Neil Stables, Carl Sinding, Peter Williamson and Dick Pomeroy, and (front, from left) Robert Dovey, Colin Creighton, Malcolm Sexton, Gerald Cove and Glen Stewart.



## Feminine Hats Take Back Seat Today To Madam Speaker's Tricorn Model

Special to The Daily Province  
VICTORIA—Smart and attractive as feminine guests are this afternoon at the opening of the legislature, admiring eyes pass over them briefly to settle on Mrs. Nancy Hodges.

She is seen only briefly in the frills and furbellows that women usually wear. Then these disappear under the Speaker's robes.

But despite this it is her day.

And as she leaves her seat on the floor of the House to be presented by Premier Byron Johnston as Speaker of the Legislature Mrs. Hodges is not only savoring a personal triumph, she is passing on to every woman in sitting in the legislative chamber, and for that matter to every woman in Canada, some bit of reflected glory.

For she is accepting a position that no woman in the British Empire has ever held before.

What is she wearing for this great occasion?

As she first appears in the legislative chamber it is in a navy blue taffeta two-piece ensemble, styled with straight slim skirt, the jacket flaring into a slight peplum over the hips. Only trimming is three metal button clasps touched with red.

Her hat is also navy blue, small and off-the-face, with quill trim in red and blue. Later, of course, after the traditional procedure that makes her Madam Speaker is completed, she will retire to her rooms to don the Speaker's robes.

This is a slim straight woolen skirt, street length; and a fine wool fitted vest, styled something like a naval officer's mess jacket, buttoned up the front, with long sleeves and fitted neckline finished with a crisp white linen split jabot, cut in the legal tradition.

Over this goes the full black silk robe, floor length, with sleeves reaching half way to the elbow.

There is a long loop on the hem of the robe that Madam Speaker may place over her hand, so that when she walks or when she is mounting the steps to the Speaker's chair, she will not trip on the flowing gown.

The hat is tricorn shape, slightly flattened on top. The three-cornered brim is large and sits well down on the forehead and at the back.

There are no flowers, no ribbons, in fact, no trimming of any sort on the Speaker's hat.

But when Mrs. Hodges places it on her head and pulls it down firmly over her classic hair styling, cut close and short, it assumes an air of femininity that does not in any way detract from the dignity of the Speaker's robes.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1950-

## THANK LEGISLATORS FOR VOTE

# Indian Chiefs At House Opening

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Two Indian chiefs, dressed in the native garb of their rank, stood at the bar of the Legislature Tuesday afternoon to thank the white man's government for embracing them as full citizens of British Columbia.

While whirring moving picture cameras recorded the scene for posterity, Chief William Scow, president of the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia, and Frank Assu, president of the North American Brotherhood, expressed the gratitude of their people at the extension of the franchise.

The scene was one of several unique in the annals of Commonwealth parliamentary history that marked the opening of the first session of the twenty-second Legislature.

Earlier Mrs. Nancy Hodges, (Coalition, Victoria) was officially elected Speaker of the House, bringing poise, dignity and a pleasant feminine touch to

the office that in the past has invariably been held by a man.

Mrs. Hodges smiled and chatted with Premier Byron Johnson and Opposition Leader Harold Winch, who escorted her to the Speaker's chair, and her performance throughout the opening day's ceremonies indicated that the affairs of the House are in capable hands.

The choice, Premier Johnson told the House, was made "in view of the fact that she has at all times shown a keen interest in parliamentary affairs and because she has those qualities which I am sure will give to this House impartial decisions in all matters concerning our deliberations."

"Mrs. Hodges," he continued, "has made a very great contribution to the public life of this province and also in the national field of endeavor.

"She will bring to her task a broad experience in public affairs gained from her activities as an outstanding journalist

both in Canada and Great Britain."

The petitions of the two Indian chiefs drew ringing applause from the members and the galleries.

Chief Scow, garbed in an ermine headdress and robe that hung over a beaded gown, was grateful to the Legislature for extending to the native Indians the right to vote for the first time in Canadian history.

Chief Assu, wearing a feathered headdress with buckskin coat and trousers, recalled that the Indian wars of Eastern Canada were not repeated in the west.

Both chiefs outlined the task of getting the Indians on the voters' list for the general elections last June.

## Earrings Add Touch of Femininity To Madam Speaker's Traditional Robes

Special to The Daily Province

VICTORIA — When Madam Speaker appeared for the first time Tuesday afternoon on the floor of the House, robed in her hat and gown, there was a feminine note added. She wore large round pearl earrings, the one concession to her sex Mrs. Nancy Hodges allowed herself.

The earrings, rather than detracting from the severity of Madam Speaker's robes, added a touch that at least every woman present would enjoy.

Mrs. Hodges' hair was another touch of femininity. For, although it is shingled at the back and cut fairly close at the sides, it had been styled in wide waves that shone under the kleig lights — mounted along the sides of the Legislative Chamber for moving pictures — each time she doffed her tricorn hat in the course of opening session procedure.

Madam Speaker's voice never quavered or cracked, even in the excitement of her first speech, in which she said: "Honorable members, permit me to return my humble acknowledgment to the House, and to express my grateful thanks for the great

honor you have been pleased to confer upon me by unanimously choosing me to be your Speaker."

And when she questioned the House as to presentation of bills

from the various ministers, and put the motion—for or against—her words were clipped and business like, with no wasted minutes for any feminine drawl.



INDIAN GREETING TO "MADAM SPEAKER" was given Mrs. Nancy Hodges when the B.C. Legislature opened its twenty-second session in Victoria Tuesday. One of the most colorful in province history, it drew Chief William Scow (left), president of Native Brotherhood of B.C., and Chief Frank Assu, head of North American Brotherhood, to give their thanks for granting of the franchise to Indians last year. For the first time in Canadian history a native Indian sat in a legislature when Frank Calder (CCF-Atlin) took his seat as an MLA.

## Tax Increase Suggested To Pay Hospital Costs

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
**VICTORIA**—An increase of 2 percent in the sales tax to pay hospital insurance costs instead of collecting premiums was suggested in the Legislature Wednesday as a solution to the insurance scheme's financial headache.

"It is a debatable point," said Alex Hope (Coalition, Delta), who proposed the change.

"Old age pensioners and social service recipients are exempted from paying premiums, but there are many receiving war veterans' allowances and dependents who should be given consideration."

Both Mr. Hope and A. D. Turn-

bull, (Coalition, Rossland-Trail), who referred to hospital insurance at the opening of the throne speech debate, believed the public is satisfied with general principles of the scheme.

Both attributed present difficulties to the fact that the scheme is new, and believed they would be ironed out as the staff gains experience.

## Plan Cost \$2,758,451 In 3 Months

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

**VICTORIA**—B.C.'s hospital insurance plan, in the first three months of operation collected \$6,092,000 in premiums and spent \$2,758,451.

Public accounts for the year ending March 31, 1949, show that to that date the Hospital Insurance Commission had paid out \$2,017,069 to hospitals and \$741,382 in administration costs.

While the actual payment of claims was started Jan. 1, administration costs date back to July, 1948.

Total revenues for the period were \$8,064,360, including, in addition to premiums, \$1,445,573 from the amusement tax, \$476,786 from payments under the Hospital Insurance Act, and \$50,000 advance from the hospital insurance stabilization fund.

Revenues for the period cannot be used as a basis for calculating the annual income of the commission because premiums were payable for the six months ending June 30, and in some cases premiums for the full year were paid.

From Jan. 1 to March 31 the commission made payments to 75 hospitals outside B.C., including institutions in other provinces, many states and in Mexico for the treatment of B.C. residents covered by the insurance plan.

## Game Budget Boost Urged

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

**VICTORIA**—An increase in the annual budget for B.C. Game Commission was urged in the Legislature Wednesday by A. D. Turnbull (Coalition, Rossland-Trail).

"I am told this province spends less on its game department than the game department collects," he said.



# Winch Hits Handling Of Jobless Problem

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Failure of the Coalition government to assume responsibility for unemployed in B.C. was assailed in the Legislature Thursday as Opposition Leader Harold Winch, chief government critic, delved into its "short-comings."

In an 80-minute address Mr. Winch also demanded full citizenship rights for B.C. native Indians, urged a full government statement on hospital insurance, and charged the coalition with conducting a "despicable campaign of fear" on the provincial hustings last June.

## MILD ATTACK

Altogether, it was a comparatively mild attack but sniping by a half dozen Coalition members and Mr. Winch's ability as a parliamentary debater combined to provide an interesting afternoon.

Mr. Winch and Premier Johnson crossed swords briefly on the unemployment question.

The opposition leader's charge that the Dominion Government, having officially declared itself responsible for unemployed employables, had failed to do anything about the present problem in B.C., brought the Premier to his feet.

Unemployment insurance payments in B.C. totaled more than \$1 million in December, nearly \$2 million in January, Mr. Johnson retorted.

"Between 90 and 95 percent of B.C. unemployed have jobs and will go back to work as soon as weather improves," he contended.

## FRODS SORES

Mr. Winch asked: "What provision has been made for those whose unemployment insurance has run out, what has been done for those not covered by unemployment insurance?"

Mr. Winch wondered if the marriage of Liberals and Progressive Conservatives was still a happy one, and he referred particularly to differences between Finance Minister Anscomb and Attorney-General Wismer over the appointment of King's Counsel.

It is disgraceful, he declared, that the idea that the appointments are small political plums being handed out by the government should emanate from a cabinet minister.

Mr. Wismer, he added, should maintain his stand that the King's Counsel be named solely on merit.

Mr. Winch countered coalition claims of a landslide victory in June with argument that nearly one-quarter of a million people in B.C. had expressed faith in the Socialist Party.

## FOR INDIANS

The CCF leader charged that while the Native Indian has been given the vote in B.C., he is still a second-class citizen.

Pensions, social security and other rights of citizens are not extended to them. He urged that the Provincial Government petition Ottawa to amend the Indian Act to rectify these differences.

Frank Calder, (CCF-Atlin) first Native Indian elected to the Provincial Parliament, is a member of the Legislature when he is sitting in the House, but an In-

dian when he is outside the House, Mr. Winch contended.

His reference to hospital insurance was brief, but he indicated he will deal more fully with the subject when it is debated.

In view of publicity given to the hospital insurance organization, he said, it is essential that the government present the fullest facts on the operations of the commission in 1949.

The Legislature, Mr. Winch declared, is entitled to explanation as to why the Hospital Insurance Commission got into such a mess.

In the 90-minute Wednesday sitting, members heard the maiden speech of A. D. Turnbull (Coalition, Rossland-Trail), who moved the address in reply to the throne speech, and a pithy defence of the farmer from Alex Hope (Coalition, Delta), the seconder.

## DOUK PROBLEM

The Doukhobor problem, he said, must be permanently settled.

He asked provincial co-operation with the U.S. Government in development of the Columbia Basin's hydro potential.

In a plea for a federal super-annuation plan, Mr. Turnbull said the problem has been accentuated by increasing life expectancy provided through improvement in nutrition and medical care.

## CO-OPERATION NEEDED

Employment for persons over 45, he continued, demands co-operation of the state and industry. He suggested development of secondary industries to process B.C.'s primary products could be an important source of jobs.

For his own constituency, he asked the highway construction and maintenance program be augmented.

Mr. Hope recalled that provincial grants to municipalities have increased from \$3,000,000 to \$21,000,000 in nine years.

In spite of this increase, the cost of unemployment has become a serious drain on the finances of some municipal governments, particularly in the Fraser Valley, he said.

Loss of export markets, for agriculture products and the resultant drop in prices has left many small ranchers in Langley and Surrey without adequate means of support, Mr. Hope declared.

# Depends Where You Live

Premier Johnson's speech to the Legislature today, outlining government's plans to complete the PGE from Squamish to North Vancouver, through West Vancouver, got two receptions on the North Shore.

Said Mayor Frank Goldsworthy, North Vancouver:

"It's the greatest thing that could happen for us. I've dreamed of this for years now and it's going to happen. It opens up a great future."

Said Reeve Tom Brown, West Vancouver:

"If the government insists we can't stop them. It will cut our assessment totals at least 5 percent. We'll fight, but...!"

## "WE GAIN NOTHING"

Other reaction was less restrained.

Bill Lord, president of West Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, declared:

"The government seems determined and they have the right. West Vancouver will gain nothing, and will suffer tremendous loss in property values. We can't even take advantage of the railroad to develop an industrial area."

In North Vancouver, Jack Burchell, president of the Board of Trade, was exultant:

"It's just like being given a gold mine," he said.

## CHEAPER ROUTE

Reeve Brown added:

"We cannot stand in the way of a proposal that would make the PGE a profitable enterprise. We realize that someday the railway must be linked with the coast."

"But the government does not seem to have examined the alternative routes possible. We'll fight for that."

"We know the PGE could be linked with the CNR and CPR from Clinton to Savona for a fraction of the cost of bringing the road from Squamish to North Vancouver."

"If they build the road through West Vancouver we'll have to demand crossing signals all along the route, and probably have to look into possibility of developing an industrial area east of Lions Gate bridge, a project that would wreck plans to develop the harbor entrance into a park area."

In contrast, Mayor Goldsworthy said:

"I was born in North Vancouver. I've always looked forward to completion of the PGE. North Vancouver was built because of the PGE and now, for the first time, we can see a real future."

## READY FOR FIGHT

"Our entire town planning has been based on supposition that the PGE would finally have a terminal here."

West Vancouver organizations made ready to fight.

Al Hoover, president of West Vancouver Real Estate Board, said his directors would meet Monday.

Municipal Council will discuss it at the next meeting. The Chamber of Commerce plans defensive action.

Said one real estate man: "It isn't only that presence of the railway will deface the finest residential area in Canada, but vibration of trains will wreck much of the property along the right-of-way."

"This is a disaster."

# Garibaldi Park Plan Proposed

VICTORIA—A delegation representing the Alpine Club, natural history and mountaineering groups in B.C., today petitioned the Cabinet to remove Mount Garibaldi playground committee and place Garibaldi Park under supervision of the parks division of the department of lands and forests.

The delegation, headed by Dr. Bert Brink of the Alpine Club of Canada, argued that the present Garibaldi committee has no authority to obtain funds from consolidated revenue for development of the Mount Garibaldi Park region.

If such authority were granted, they said, it would then be financing two administrative bodies with a resultant wasteful duplication of administrative costs.

Delegates drew the Cabinet's attention to the statement of Chief Justice Gordon Sloan in his report on forest resources that "in my opinion parks should be administered by a parks branch of the forest service."

# PGE Must Extend Line To North Van

## Only Feasible Route Via West Van

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway from Squamish to North Vancouver, utilizing the old right-of-way through West Vancouver, will be given "serious consideration" by the Provincial Government.

Premier Johnson, in his annual policy speech to the Legislature today, declared officials of the railway have advised him construction of the link between Squamish and the North Shore is the only means of making the PGE pay its way.

At the same time, said the Premier, PGE engineers have reported the only possible route for such a link is along the shoreline of Howe Sound.

Premier Johnson also announced:

A \$10 million loan bill will be submitted to the Legislature to finance the government's share of new school construction in B.C.

The Legislature will be asked

## Highway, Railroad Surveys Continue

A bill to empower the Provincial Government to participate in low-cost housing projects with the Dominion will be submitted.

Outstanding in the 75-minute address, however, was the Premier's confirmation of the report published in The Vancouver Daily Province that the government is contemplating extension of the PGE into Vancouver.

Mr. Johnson said he realized the many difficult problems which lie in the way of extending the line through West Vancouver.

"However, there is one thing we must keep in mind—that the deficits of the PGE are paid by the taxpayers of the province.

"It is a recognized fact," he declared, "that the railroad eventually must have a terminus

## PGE Must Follow Coastline

"Our information from the PGE engineering department is that there is only one way to get the railway to North Vancouver, and that is along the water level of Howe Sound and over the right-of-way which the company has kept intact through West Vancouver to the site reserved for a terminal on the North Shore of Vancouver harbor.

A year ago J. A. Kennedy was made general manager of the PGE "with instructions from directors to take full charge of operation of that railroad, with a view to getting it on a paying basis.

"Mr. Kennedy has had a full year of operation and his report to me is that the only way the

to vote an additional \$750,000 for construction of new buildings at University of B.C.

Business management experts have completed survey of the motor vehicle branch and similar surveys will be conducted in the entire government service.

on Vancouver harbor.

"The policy, outlined during the election, proposed to construct a lumber assembly plant at Squamish, and defer extension of the railway into West Vancouver until such time as the extension from Prince George to Dawson Creek was completed.

"In the meantime, it was proposed to construct a highway from Squamish into West Vancouver to give access to the North Shore until such time as the railroad was extended to that point."

The highway surveys, he continued, are now being completed. Until plans and estimates are prepared the government will not know how much it will cost or whether the road can be built without interfering with the railroad grade.

railroad can be placed on a paying basis is to construct the section between Squamish and North Vancouver, making possible a rail service from the North Shore to Quesnel, and when the extension is completed, a complete rail service to Prince George.

"This will do away with costly barge service between Vancouver and Squamish with all the attendant costly delays, and at the same time increase earnings of the PGE by increased passenger and freight revenue between Vancouver and Squamish.

"I was of the opinion that extension of the line from Prince George to Dawson Creek should have priority over construction from Squamish to Vancouver,

## Must Have Terminus on Harbor

"However, in the light of the recommendations of our general manager, the dual surveys—rail and road—between Squamish and Vancouver will be continued.

"When reports are available, the government proposes to give serious consideration to Mr. Kennedy's recommendation, with a view to determining the policy to be followed."

Suggestion the line could be built along the watershed of the Capilano River, crossing the summit and striking Howe Sound near Britannia has been ruled out.

The summit is 1600 feet above sea level and the distance is only eight miles from summit to Howe Sound.

It would be impossible, it is said, to construct a line there

that could be operated economically.

Also, snow conditions at the Capilano headwaters would create a serious winter operating problem.

Premier Johnson said that in the original PGE Act, 1912, the route from North Vancouver around Howe Sound to Squamish was laid down.

The Premier revealed that original plans to have the line connect with the CNR on the outskirts of Prince George and use the C.N. terminals in that city have been abandoned.

Revised plans call for a crossing over the Fraser River at South Fort George and construction of the line north from that point to the west of Central Fort

George.

## C.N. Plan Abandoned

"Main reason for this change was that it was considered that the important terminal in Prince George should be under control of the railway.

"It is inevitable that there will be a large movement of freight originating on the CPR, Great Northern and other U.S. lines destined for Prince George area and the north.

"It is the policy of this government to extend the line from Prince George to Dawson Creek when conditions are favorable, and with completion of this link, a rail connection with the Alaska Highway will be complete."

On the section between Quesnel and Prince George contracts have been let on 37.5 miles, and tenders will be called for the remaining 35 miles this spring.

Suitable foundations for the railway bridge across Cottonwood River have been found, and tenders for its construction will be called shortly.

In his announcement of a \$10 million loan bill for school construction, Premier Johnson reminded that several years ago the government undertook to pay 50 percent of the cost of constructing and equipping new school buildings.

Under this policy, the \$10 million to be contributed by the government would result in a \$20 million building program.

The \$750,000 grant for UBC would ensure continuation of the building program laid down four years ago.

Plans for housing legislation were identical with previous announcements by the premier.

The bill submitted to the House will empower the Provincial Government to enter into agreements with the Dominion and with municipalities involved for construction of groups of homes.

## HOME OWNERSHIP

"It is the intention that houses in each project will be available for purchase or rental, rent being established at as low a level as construction and maintenance costs will permit. Encouragement will be given to home ownership."

Report of the firm and business management experts employed to survey methods of accounting and general office

practice in the Motor Vehicle Branch contained recommendations which could result in substantial savings.

The administration, he said plans a survey of the entire government service, "to take advantage of any possible savings by modernizing accounting and general office procedures."

## HIGHWAY PLANS

There was hint of some modifications in the highway construction program in a short review of public works.

Cost of snow removal this winter was extremely heavy and appropriations of the public works department were reduced by this drain.

"It is the government intention, however, to pursue its policy of improving and completing our main trunk roads and this work will be pushed forward as rapidly as funds will permit.

"At the same time the government will continue to increase its activities with respect to secondary highways."



## The People Should Say

THE attorney-general of British Columbia, and the cabinet, have listened to many solicitations on the subject of liquor. So long as the government is handling a business which grosses \$57 million and nets a profit, with sales tax, of over \$19 million, they are going to hear a good deal of complaint from its customers.

The government is in business, profitable business, and its customers are the people who buy its whiskies, gins, brandies, rums, wines and beer. Some of its customers want liquor handled one way, some another. Some of those who are not customers would like to see the sale of liquor prohibited.

Governments do not rush into changes in the liquor laws. The subject is considered "political dynamite." Never

"open" the liquor act is considered a good, safe political rule.

Most of the present liquor acts in Canada were brought into being as the result of plebiscites which ended prohibition. In British Columbia we voted on a liquor plebiscite in 1920. Since then there has been no general expression of opinion by vote.

The time has come for the government to find out what the people of this generation want in the way of liquor laws. It should find out by holding a plebiscite. The questions asked on that plebiscite should be framed so that they will give a fair answer.

Having done that, then the government should ask the Legislature to pass a new law. Then we could make a new start with a law that has a basis of popular approval.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1950

## Don't Make A Bad Tax Worse

IN HIS speech in the Legislature on Thursday, Mr. Alex Hope, Coalition member for Delta, made a suggestion which should interest every taxpayer in British Columbia. And who isn't a taxpayer?

The Provincial Government needs money and more money for its hospital insurance plan and is finding some difficulty in collecting premiums. Mr. Hope suggested that instead of premiums, it put the 3 percent sales tax up to 5 percent.

Mr. Hope, who is a private member, may have put the suggestion forward entirely on his own responsibility. Or he may have been flying a kite on the part of the government which he supports. In either case, he is entitled to have his plan discussed.

The plan has one merit and a number of defects. The merit is that the cost of collecting the hospital premiums would be saved. The government has an efficient organization for the collection of the sales tax, now, and it could collect 5 percent as cheaply as it could collect 3.

That is the bright side. The dark side is dark, indeed.

The sales tax is a bad tax to begin with. It is bad in principle because it cannot be graduated in accordance with ability to pay and so falls with greater relative weight on the man of small means than on the man of substance.

Equity, of course, is approximate. A taxing authority can never achieve it

completely but can only get as close to it as possible. With a small sales tax, the injury done the taxpayer of small means is not necessarily great. But as the tax goes up, the injury is multiplied. It would be much greater with a 5 percent tax than with a 3.

To increase the rate of the tax would be setting a bad precedent. It would amount to an invitation to any government which found itself in financial difficulties—and we shall, no doubt, have such governments—to use a higher sales tax as a way out.

What that would do to business may be imagined. Even the 3 percent tax induces a lot of people to think twice before they buy certain commodities which they would buy freely if the tax did not exist. A 5 percent tax would induce more hesitation, and a still larger tax still more.

In fixing its insurance premiums, the government recognized that there are a lot of people in the province—old age pensioners and other receiving social assistance—who are financially unable to pay the premium.

For these people the government pays the premium itself, taking whatever sum is necessary out of the consolidated revenue fund. To abolish premiums and boost the sales tax would be transferring a burden to people who are admittedly unable to bear it.

It would be trying to get blood from a stone. When the stone is a human being, it is also cruel.

## Hospital Conflict Avoided

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Carefully avoiding any reference to reports of conflict and mismanagement in the provincial Hospital Insurance Commission, Premier Johnson, in his policy statement, Friday told the Legislature that the scheme has relieved hospitals of financial worries and taken the fear of high cost of sickness from the people of the province.

Concerning internal problems in the organization, the Premier said only that the firm of James A. Hamilton & Associates, appointed by the government to make a survey of the commission, is now studying the setup.

He added that during the session questions on administration would be dealt with by Health Minister Pearson.

In a brief review of the history of hospital insurance, Mr. Johnson recalled that end of 1947 the hospitals came to the Provincial Government to ask for financial aid.

### PAID \$15 MILLION

At that time, he said, the financial position of some institutions was so precarious that without a government grant they would have had to close their doors.

In 1949, first year of its operation, the Hospital Insurance Commission paid \$15 million to B.C. hospitals, covering 170,000 patients.

For residents of B.C. who were treated in hospitals outside the province during the year, the commission paid \$115,000, covering 1800 cases.

### DEGREE OF SECURITY

"I feel sure that I can say," declared Mr. Johnson, "and I am not unmindful of the fact that there is still a shortage of beds, that we have given the people of the province a degree of security as far as hospital bills are concerned, and the financial position of our hospitals is much better than before the insurance service came into effect.

The wide scope of services provided by the hospital insurance plan had been a heavy drain on its revenues, he said.

"I venture to say that nowhere on the continent is so wide a hospital service given for so reasonable a premium.

"All these phases of the service must be examined in order to bring about modifications that may be necessary to improve the plan."

## New Garibaldi Deal Urged Upon Cabinet

VICTORIA — (CP) — Administration of Garibaldi Park by the Parks and Recreation Division of the provincial department of lands and forests rather than the Garibaldi Park Board was requested today.

A five-man delegation presented to the provincial cabinet a brief to this effect which had the support of 18 organizations.

It was argued the government parks division had greater facilities, technical trained men, finances and enterprise to administer a park of the magnitude and potential of Garibaldi.

In addition to W. Tildesley of Victoria, members of the delegation included Dr. Bert Brink, Vancouver Natural History Society; Don Buchanan, Community Planning Association of Canada; Dr. Neil Carter, Alpine Club of Canada; and Roy Howard, B.C. Mountaineering Club.

The resolution was supported also by the Local Council of Women at Vancouver and the Native Daughters of B.C.

## Johnson Raps Winch For Stand

VICTORIA — In an attack aimed directly at Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, Premier Johnson objected strongly to "people who try to build a political party by criticizing the efforts and the work of our national government."

Before presenting his prepared policy statement to the Legislature, the Premier devoted 10 minutes to a sound verbal spanking directed at the leader of the opposition for his suggestion Thursday that Ottawa had done nothing to reduce unemployment and had been niggardly in its donations to Britain.

The Premier reported the Dominion in December and January had paid \$6,600,000 in British Columbia unemployment insurance claims and family allowances.

Emphasizing the Federal Government's generosity in its treatment of the United Kingdom, he declared that from 1945 to 1948 a total of 54 million tons of food had been shipped from this country to Britain as gifts.

"There is no reason why anyone should attempt to belittle the efforts of the people of this country," he declared.

## Hospital Rate Rise In Prospect

VICTORIA — An amendment to the Hospital Insurance Act to permit an increase in premiums is probable during the present session of the B.C. Legislature.

However, it does not necessarily follow that the present premiums will be increased in the immediate future.

As the act now stands, the maximum premium that can be charged is \$33 a year, and Premier Johnson told the House Friday that the deficit in the first year of operations has been "large."

This deficit, he said, must be wiped out, and the Hospital Insurance scheme must pay its own way—but, he added, he did not know whether rates should be increased or the service modified.

Authoritative sources here predict the government will make every attempt to reduce costs before resorting to increased premiums.

As premiums are payable in advance it would be necessary to pass such legislation this year in order to allow any increase for 1951.

## New Ottawa Conference Next Fall

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Government experts have started preliminary studies on questions of finance in preparation for a Dominion-provincial conference in Ottawa this fall, Premier Johnson said Friday.

The Premier outlined to the Legislature the work of the January conference on constitutional amendments, declaring that a genuine spirit of co-operation had prevailed between representatives of the Dominion Government and heads of the 10 provincial governments.

This had been a major factor in the important accomplishments of the conference.

At present in accordance with resolutions passed at that meeting, Attorney General Wismer is directing a study of constitutional matters insofar as they concern British Columbia, and will prepare a brief to be placed before the conferences continuing committee.

## Winch Lauds Veterans In House

VICTORIA — (CP) — Hope that Madam Speaker Hodges would not rule on "outworn decisions made years ago by mere man," was expressed here by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Mr. Winch recalled that since he first took his seat in the House in 1933 there had been many changes, but eight who sat in the chamber then are still members.

These include Tom Uphill, (Labor, Fernie), who has sat continuously since 1920, Dr. J. J. Gillis (Lib.-Yale) 1928; Hon. George Pearson (Lib.-Nanaimo) 1928; Tom King (Lib.-Columbia) 1928; Hon Herbert Anscumb (PC-Oak Bay); Hon E. T. Kenney (Lib.); Mr. Winch (Vancouver East), and his father, E.E. Winch, (CCF-Burnaby), 1933.

He paid tribute to the veterans, but did not mention the rumored movement for a pension for them.



## We'd Like The Details, Mr. Johnson

PREMIER JOHNSON, in his policy speech to the Legislature yesterday made it pretty plain the government feels it has no alternative but to extend the PGE from Squamish to Vancouver by rail, instead of by road as originally intended.

He says the railway's officials advise him that construction of a link from Squamish to Vancouver is the only way to make the PGE pay its way.

He says the engineers report that the only possible route for such a rail link is along the shoreline of Howe Sound.

And, finally, he reminds us that PGE deficits are being paid by the taxpayers of this province.

If this is a final, incontestable summary of the situation, few British Columbians will have much more to say. The PGE has been a white elephant too long for anybody to oppose anything that will definitely turn it into a paying proposition.

But it is pretty sweeping to say that there is only one way to make the PGE pay its way, or that there is only one possible route for a Squamish - Vancouver extension.

As the Premier points out, every British Columbian is something of a shareholder in the PGE and, since these shareholders hold varying views on how the line should be extended, we should like to hear more about how the Premier's railway and engineering advisers reached their decision.

Thousands of residents in communities on the coast and in the interior are directly interested in the PGE's future and particularly in the route of its southward extension.

If Premier Johnson wants the province solidly behind him in his plans for the railway's future he should tell us the whole story, what alternatives have been considered, why they were discarded and why the experts are convinced there is only one way to solve the PGE problem—that is to get the railway out of the red—and how they can be so certain their plan will actually provide a solution.

The shareholders have put out a lot of money for the PGE already. They are apparently to be asked to put out a lot more and are entitled to full information and full assurances.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1950

## Stop Exporting Our Jobs

IF British Columbia is to grow and prosper she must stop exporting so many jobs.

That, in effect, is the advice we got the other day from Alexander D. Turnbull, Coalition member for Rossland-Trail, in a speech to the Legislature.

Mr. Turnbull hammered home the point that the future of B.C. depends on our ability to create and support secondary industries.

Then, instead of shipping out millions of dollars worth of raw products, we will be able to manufacture, fabricate and process them before we export them. By so doing we would create thousands of new jobs and receive far more from the sale of finished products than raw materials.

Mr. Turnbull, whose riding possesses our greatest processing plant, the Trail smelter, is in a position to know what he is talking about.

He urges us to manufacture our timber to the highest possible degree

before exporting it and to fabricate our metals and minerals into articles ready for use.

Right now, Mr. Turnbull reminds us, the livelihood of four out of ten British Columbians depend on exports of primary products. When times are poor in other countries the first things to be hit are raw materials; the big manufacturing nations stop buying them.

More secondary industries would give B.C. a thicker "cushion" against such world-wide fluctuations and guarantee high employment levels at all times.

Of course we can't ignore the fact that in many instances we would have a hard time competing in world markets for certain classes of manufactured products.

But it should be evident we can't have a big, stable economy in B.C. as long as we are content to sell so much of our natural wealth in its raw state.

# PGE Construction Hinted This Year

## Surveys Will Be Ready Within Two Months

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
**VICTORIA**—Construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway from Squamish into Vancouver harbor may start this year.

While Premier Johnson reported today that no plans would be made until surveys now under way between Squamish and Horseshoe Bay are completed, railway officials said the surveys would be ready for consideration within two months.

It is understood the railway directors and the government will decide on the extension at that time.

Premier Johnson said today a study by railway officials has convinced them that the route along Howe Sound and through West Vancouver is the only practical one available.

### CAPILANO RULED OUT

At the same time, he said the original act authorizing construction of the PGE, passed in 1912, fixes the route from North Vancouver along Howe Sound to Squamish.

In his reference to routes, the Premier said the terrain rules out possibility of building a line up Capilano River and across a divide to reach Howe Sound near Britannia Beach.

The pass at the headwaters of the Capilano is 1600 feet above sea level and from there to Howe Sound the distance is only eight miles.

In order to get a grade that is economically feasible, engineers say, it would be necessary to have about 20 miles to climb the 1600 feet.

### WOULD LOSE HAUL

A cutoff from Clinton to Savona or from Lillooet to Lytton would provide a connection with Vancouver, he continued, but it would mean the PGE would cut more than one-third off its present main line and turn the haul into Vancouver over to one of the transcontinental lines.

"We would be very foolish," he said, "to build the PGE from Prince George to Dawson Creek and then give the CPR or CNR the haul into Vancouver."

Jack Ratcliffe, past president of Kamloops' Board of Trade and chairman of the railway committee, arrived in Vancouver today to see rail officials and West Vancouver Municipal Council regarding the proposed new rail link between Clinton on the PGE and Savona on the two transcontinental lines near Ashcroft.

Kamloops' Board of Trade wants this cutoff in the interests of natural resources development and defence.

Mr. Ratcliffe saw Ralph Chetwynd of PGE and this afternoon was scheduled to meet Reeve Tom Brown of West Vancouver. He will meet West Vancouver Council tonight.

In West Vancouver tonight opposition to the PGE coming through the municipality will begin to shape its campaign against the railway.

The subject is certain to come up at the meeting of the Municipal Council, while the West Vancouver Real Estate Board will decide its policy at a meeting of its board of directors.

Aldermen sitting in civic harbors, industries and parks committee today stalled at endorsing extension of the PGE into Greater Vancouver area.

They were asked by letters from North Vancouver Board of Trade and the Corporation of the District of North Vancouver to endorse resolutions petitioning the Provincial Government to complete the railway from Squamish to North Vancouver, as now proposed.

Aldermen expressed opinion they should seek further detailed information from both organizations before committing themselves to a full endorsement.

## Car Licence Total Shows Sharp Gain

**VICTORIA** — (CP) — Total of 258 more motor vehicles were licenced in B.C. during January than in the corresponding month last year, motor vehicle branch of the attorney-general's department reported.

More passenger vehicle licences were taken out this year, but fewer commercial licences.

Here are the figures:  
 January 1950, passenger licences, 17,705; January 1949, passenger licences, 1277.

January 1950, commercial, 431; January 1949, commercial, 601.

For the licence year to Jan. 31, 223,359 licences for passenger and commercial vehicles were issued compared with 196,478 in the preceding year.

There were increases in both passenger and commercial licences: 163,516 passenger compared with 142,994; and 59,843 commercial compared with 53,484.

## Legislative Groups Named

By Canadian Press

**VICTORIA** — Select standing committees of the Legislature have been named as follows:

On standing orders and private bills: C. W. Morrow (CLN.-North Okanagan), Dr. J. J. Gillis (CLN.-Yale), Thomas King (CLN.-Columbia), Mrs. T. J. Rolston (CLN.-Vancouver, Point Grey), D. C. Brown (CLN.-Vancouver-Burrard), A. J. McDonnell (CLN.-Vancouver Centre), L. F. Stevenson (CLN.-Vancouver, Point Grey), J. G. Gould (CLN.-Vancouver, Burrard), S. J. Smith (CLN.-Kamloops), A. Maclean (CLN.-Cariboo), H. E. Winch (CCF-Vancouver East), A. J. Turner (CCF-Vancouver East), F. A. Calder (CCF-Atlin).

### ACCOUNTS

Public accounts and printing: MacDougall King, W. A. C. Bennett (CLN.-South Okanagan), McDonnell, A. M. Whisker (CLN.-Cowichan-Newcastle), A. W. Lundell (CLN.-Revelstoke), Smith, H. E. Winch, R. W. Haggen (CCF-Grand Forks-Greenwood), Turner.

Mining and railways: Gillis, H. J. Welch (CLN.-Comox), G. E. Braden (CLN.-Peace River), Lundell, A. D. Turnbull (CLN.-Rossland-Trail), Tom Uphill (Lab.-Fernie), James Mowat (CLN.-Alberni), E. E. Winch (CCF-Burnaby), Haggen, Randolph Harding (CCF-Kaslo-Slocan).

Agriculture: King, A. C. Hope (CLN.-Delta), Stevenson, A. B. Ritchie (CLN.-Salmon Arm), C. T. Beard (CLN.-Esquimalt), Bennett, MacLean, M. P. Finnerty (CLN.-Similkameen), R. C. Steele (CLN.-Omineca), Braden, E. E. Winch, Harding, Haggen.

### FORESTRY

Municipal matters: Hope, Bennett, Morrow, Ritchie, Brown, Arthur Ash (CLN.-Saanich), Walter Hendricks (CLN.-Nelson-Creston), Finnerty, D. J. Proudfoot (CLN.-Victoria City), H. E. Winch, Turner, Haggen, L. T. Nimsick (CCF-Granbrook).

Forestry and fisheries: Welch, Stevenson, Beard, Whisker, B. M. MacIntyre (CLN.-Mackenzie), Hendricks, Steele, J. D. McRae (CLN.-Prince Rupert), E. E. Winch, Calder, Nimsick.

Labor: Gillis, McDonnell, Welch, MacDougall, Brown, Whisker, MacLean, MacIntyre, Uphill, E. E. Winch, Turner, Nimsick.

Social welfare and education: Mrs. Rolston, Ash, MacIntyre, Proudfoot, Gould, Turnbull, McRae, Mowat, E. E. Winch, Harding and Calder.



# \$1 Million 'Leak' In Hospital Act

## Insured Accidents Paid For; Loophole To Be Plugged

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—B.C. Hospital Insurance Commission paid \$1,000,000 in hospital bills last year for persons whose car accident insurance covered such payments.

Following disclosure of this today, officials said an amendment to the Hospital Insurance Act will be introduced this session to relieve the commission of payment in such cases.

Premier Johnson disclosed today the government also is studying the cost of training nurses and internes in provincial hospitals.

The Premier, expanding his brief statement to the legislature Friday, said training costs are estimated to run nearly \$2,000,000 annually.

So far it has not been decided what changes will be made. But there is a general feeling among cabinet members that these costs should not be a charge against hospital insurance.

One possibility is that training of nurses will be removed from hospitals entirely and placed under the department of education, possibly as a university course.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1950

# Housing Plans Laid In Victoria

## 'Authorities' to Administer Each District Project

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Legislation to authorize establishment of a joint federal-provincial-municipal housing organization in B.C. will include provision for setting up of housing authorities in each district of the province, it is reported.

The plan, as outlined here, would empower the housing authority, which will be appointed by the Provincial Government, in consultation with federal authorities, to decide what homes are required and where they are to be built.

Government officials here report that no plans for the construction of low-cost housing in Vancouver under the new plan have been arranged.

It is unlikely, they said, that any discussions will be undertaken as to details of any projects until the housing authority for Vancouver has been set up and been given an opportunity to study the situation.

Representatives of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation have suggested that it would be feasible to extend the present Fraserview project and a parcel of land in the University endowment lands adjoining the city boundary has also been mentioned as a possible site for a 3600-home project.

However, it will be up to the housing authority to decide how many homes are needed and what site or sites can be most economically utilized.

# Pledge to Construct Highway Recalled

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The government was told Monday that it must remember, in preparing plans for construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway through West Vancouver that:

- (1) The electorate has been promised that a highway will be built from Vancouver to Squamish; and
- (2) "Only something of a most urgent and compelling nature would justify the serious deterioration which would result to the present very beautiful area."

A. R. MacDougall (Coalition, Vancouver, Point Grey) in an examination of the proposed extension of the Government-owned line into Vancouver harbor, ruled out the proposed connection between Clinton and Savona on the grounds that any running rights "would be altogether too great for the Pacific Great Eastern to assume."

### FOR SCENIC USE

At the same time, he reminded the House, the Government had undertaken to build a highway from Horseshoe Bay to Squamish.

Mr. MacDougall said he had understood that the highway was to be constructed as much for its scenic beauties as for its practical use as a link with the PGE.

"Actually, it seems to me that its cost would scarcely be justified if it were merely to serve as a point of trans-shipment from the present terminus of the PGE."

The member for Vancouver-Point Grey noted that Labor Minister John Cates—who represents North Vancouver in the House, "... is unenviably caught in a riding divided against itself."

### CHANGE ENTIRE AREA

"I understand that North Vancouver is most anxious to have the railway completed to its terminal on Burrard Inlet, and that West Vancouver, which is rapidly becoming one of the most delightful residential areas in the province, is naturally very opposed, for the very good reason that steel laid on the old right-of-way would change the whole character of the district."

Although the original rails had

been taken up 22 years ago, leases on the PGE right-of-way in West Vancouver had been issued only on a year to year basis, "and perhaps the residents of the area had no right to assume that the line would not again come into use."

"However, human nature being what it is, it is perhaps understandable that, having regard to the financial condition of the Pacific Great Eastern itself and the costs of any further extension, it seemed very unlikely that any government would undertake the task."

# Housing 'Authorities' Planned

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

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However, it will be up to the housing authority to decide how many homes are needed and what site or sites can be most economically utilized.

# City MLA Suggests Limited Hospital Stay

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Some refreshingly new ideas, an occasional touch of humor, and promise of sound, informative contributions to the work of the House in the future, brightened Monday's sitting of the Provincial Legislature.

Speakers' fourth day of the throne speech debate, A. R. MacDougall (Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey), J. D. McRae (Coalition, Prince Rupert), and Walter Hendricks (Coalition, Nelson-Creston), dealt with a variety of subjects, including coalition, need for a coast guard and resources that could support a pulp mill on the Columbia River basin.

Mr. McRae and Mr. Hendricks, understandably proud of the constituencies that sent them to the Legislature, devoted considerable of their maiden speeches to a glowing account of their ridings.

## WIDE RANGE

Mr. MacDougall dealt with a half dozen issues, some relevant to the province as a whole, and others of particular interest to Vancouver.

The member for Point Grey was insistent the Hospital Insurance Commission must carry cost of operations from premiums paid and its budget must be balanced—by limiting stay in hospital and reducing incidents now provided if necessary. He suggested also a sliding-scale premium.

He declared a continuance of Coalition is "the greatest safeguard against those who would seek to destroy our way of life," and chastized that section of the press that refers to the respective strength of Liberal and Progressive Conservative groups in the Legislature.

## NEW BRIDGE

And he urged upon the government need for immediate action in construction of a new Marpole Bridge and an express highway into Vancouver from New Westminster.

Usual compliment to Madam Speaker on her appointment was slightly varied in Mr. MacDougall's text.

"Perhaps," he said, "precedent has not been shattered quite as much as would appear at first blush, because it must be a truism that woman is the speaker in every house in which she is to be found."

Reference to Liberals and Progressive Conservatives in the House was strange talk, he continued, because in his recollection of the ballot paper last June there was no reference to either party.

"The members on the government side of the House were elected as Coalitionists, and let there be no mistake about that, and if there is a tendency on the part of anyone to go contrary to the intention of the electorate which sent him or her here, then I venture to predict that that electorate will hold him or her strictly to account."

## COAST GUARD

It was only logical that Mr. McRae, whose riding extends along the coast from Ocean Falls to the Naas River and westward to the Queen Charlottes, should be vitally interested in establishment of a coast guard.

Increased water traffic has resulted in an increase in the number of wrecks and loss of life.

"In view of the fact our coast is the highway of trade to the north and south it is reasonable that this government should urge upon the Federal Government importance of establishing a coast guard service at an early date."

Six billion feet of timber suitable for pulp wood in the area tributary to Arrow Lakes and the vast hydro development on Kootenay River offer basic materials for a pulp mill development, declared Mr. Hendricks.

"This is not a flash in the pan possible industry. It is one that would keep a large-sized pulp mill operating indefinitely."

## Better, Not Bigger, Legislature

MR. ALEX HOPE of Delta has been complaining in the Legislature that his constituency has grown too big—too big in population, that is. There are 35,000 people there, now, and he is supposed to represent them, whereas a member for Victoria represents only 12,000 and a Vancouver member only 25,000.

Mr. Hope points to a situation which is creating injustices not only in his constituency but in various others. Our system of government is based on representation by population. That means that each person in the province should have, as nearly as possible, the same representation at Victoria. As things stand, the representation is wholly out of line. There has not been a complete redistribution of members of the Legislature since 1932 and, in the meantime, the population of the province has very nearly doubled and has shifted greatly. A new redistribution is imperative before the next provincial election, and the government should be thinking about it.

There has been a suggestion that the Legislature should be increased in size. This is neither necessary nor desirable. We have a Legislature of 48 members, quite large enough for a population of 1,100,000. A larger house would only re-

sult in more expense and more talk and would decrease rather than increase efficiency. We need a better Legislature, not a bigger one.

There will be some difficulty, of course, when redistribution comes, in dividing representation fairly between the cities and the country. It is people who are represented, not mountains and forests and lakes, and the people are congregated in the cities.

It is recognized, however, that it is much easier to represent a few thousand people in a city than it is to represent the same number scattered over a great and sparsely-settled constituency. The city people live within a few blocks of one another. They can be easily reached and they have pretty much the same needs. Some of our country constituencies, on the other hand, are enormous and are split up by all sorts of natural barriers. The people are in tiny communities far apart and often their interests are diverse.

If representation were strictly on a population basis, Greater Vancouver, with its half million people, would have half the seats in the Legislature. That would be neither fair nor practicable. It is highly desirable, however, that we should get as close as is practicable to equal representation.



WINCH IN TOP FORM

Government Lashed, Praised

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau  
By GORDON ROOT

VICTORIA — E. E. Winch (CCF, Burnaby) is a man of many moods.

He can plead for government aid for a new mental hospital, portray the full horror and pathos of an overcrowded jail, or castigate the administration for its shortcomings, both real and imaginary.

Tuesday, the venerable member for Burnaby devoted a greater part of his throne speech address to a well-worded and masterfully-delivered attack on the government.

Caustically he hammered at Coalition tactics in the election campaign and the administration's "Pollyanna" attitude on unemployment.

He mellowed as he described the building program of the New Vista Society—a non-profit organization devoted to providing homes for senior citizens, in whose welfare he is actively interested.

But in the main, he subjected the government benches to a withering attack.

Coalition expenditures in the election campaign reached an all-time high, he charged.

"The newspapers, of course, were subsidized, large and small, and they were ably supported by industry."

He accused the Coalition of issuing countless misstatements in the campaign, adding "If we had had the money you had, we would have nailed those lies to the mast."

While the cost of the election to the government, he continued, was high, the cost in ethics was higher.

As an example of "The new low level" to which the Coalition candidates had sunk, he quoted Attorney-General Wismer as saying: "As attorney-general I know the LPP is collecting funds for the CCF."

"You were using the provincial police for spying on the opposition," he charged, glaring at the attorney-general.

"The police had nothing to do with it," replied Wismer.

"Then how could you find out about it as attorney-general?"

"Everybody knew about it," retorted Mr. Wismer.

"Everybody but the CCF," Mr. Winch retaliated.

There was a great mixture of tragedy and comedy in politics, he continued.

There was tragedy in the stand taken by the minister of finance (Herbert Anscomb) that king's council should be appointed on the basis of political patronage.

"And there was comedy in the stand of the attorney-general, of all people, in opposing it."

To clarify his own position and political beliefs, Mr. Winch read from the Regina manifesto, the CCF "bible," that "No CCF government will rest content until it has eradicated capitalism."

He attacked the provincial hospital insurance plan on the ground it was collecting premiums when it could not provide hospital accommodation.

And he contended the government should employ a "considerable number of medical person-

nel" to prevent illness instead of concentrating solely on treating it.

On the unemployment question he was "astounded at the Pollyanna, unrealistic attitude of the Premier."

He quoted statistics to show the number of unemployed is steadily increasing, adding that in New Westminster, the Premier's riding, it is the worst in 10 years.

Liquor 'Baring' Sought

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Operations of B.C. Hotelmen's Association and details of beer sales to hotels by the Liquor Control Board are covered in a series of questions to be asked in the Legislature by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Mr. Winch wants to know if licensed hotels are paying the Hotelmen's Association a monthly levy of 10 cents a barrel and two cents a case on beer sold, and if so, for what purpose.

He also asks if the Liquor Control Board supplies a monthly statement of licensed hotel beer sales to the Hotelmen's Association and if so why.

The opposition leader wants to know if hotels are divided into four different categories by the Liquor Control Board, if the holder of a licence in a low category pays more for beer than one in a higher category, and if so, why.

A third group of queries directed at the attorney-general asks if Liquor Commissioner W. F. Kennedy is solely responsible for decisions on policy of the Liquor Control Board, or if the minister of finance exercises any control over its policy, purchases, or expenditures.

Urges Rights For Indians

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — British Columbia's native Indians, as contributors to the provincial treasury on the same basis as their white brethren, are fully entitled to the same benefits, J. D. McRae (Coalition, Prince Rupert) told the Legislature.

The extension of the franchise to include the Indians, Mr. McRae declared, was just one step in granting them full citizenship rights. It is equally important they be given the pensions and other social services benefits enjoyed by other citizens.

B.C.'s Rural Problems Occupy Legislators

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Schools, roads and the native Indians are issues peculiar to virtually all B.C.'s rural ridings, and B. M. MacIntyre (Coalition, Mackenzie) dealt with all three in his maiden address to the Legislature Tuesday.

It was another of the surprisingly well-planned and competently delivered speeches the House has heard from its new members in the past week.

Mr. MacIntyre urged greater consideration for Indians, stressed need for more schools and recommended a program of surfacing secondary roads as an economic necessity.

PROGRESSIVE STEP

Continuation of the restraint in issuing forest management licences is essential, he declared, to assure the small logger he is not frozen out by larger operator.

Action of the last Legislature in extending the franchise to Indians, he said, was "the first progressive step in Canada to eradicate racial discrimination between the red man and the white man."

It was essential, however, that the work be continued.

"I believe the Dominion should be approached regarding educating Indian children in B.C."

ONE STANDARD

"If they would place funds they now spend on education in the hands of our educational department, these children could be taught in our schools."

Such a step would result in only one educational standard and the Indian child would not feel inferior.

Argument that social services cannot be extended to Indians because they are wards of the government should be abandoned, he argued. The provincial share of social welfare payments should be given them.

Need for competent educational facilities is obvious, he said.

BETTER ROADS

"For the past 30 or 40 years very few new schools have been built, and today we are paying for our sins of omission."

Expenditure each year on maintaining gravel roads, he argued, could be reduced by surfacing these thoroughfares.

"So often the gravel truck is followed by the grader, and the grader removes the gravel into the ditches. Rainwater can't get away, so it floods the road and the well-known B.C. pothole is born."

Hospital Changes Advocated

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Compulsory payroll deductions for provincial hospital insurance premiums, removal of premiums from recipients of veterans' pensions, and a program to accentuate the prevention of illness rather than treatment were advocated Tuesday in the Legislature.

B. M. MacIntyre (Coalition, Mackenzie), told the House "hospital insurance is the government's reply to a demand from the people. And we know the people expect us to provide this essential service within the existing premiums."

"A system of compulsory payroll deductions or payments at the source of income is vital to the success of this undertaking," he said.

The member warned that the government, in its efforts to reorganize the plan, must not try to centralize control of hospitals.

He recommended a revision in the selection of local hospital boards, making them elective on the same basis as school boards, but warned that "to maintain our democratic principles, the autonomy of the Hospital Board must be guarded, and guarded jealously."

Alberni MLA, Liberals 'Reunited'

VICTORIA — James Mowat, Liberal member for Alberni in the last House, who failed to secure the nomination in the 1949 election, ran as an Independent and was elected, joined the Coalition caucus Tuesday and declared himself a Liberal.

He said he would attend Liberal caucuses in future.

Winch Asks B.C. Rent Plan

VICTORIA—Opposition Leader Harold Winch has given notice of a resolution calling for "serious consideration" by the government to the introduction of legislation setting up a provincial authority to control rents in B.C.

## CCF Man Hits Race Prejudice

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

By BRUCE MEKELVIE

VICTORIA — Square-built Rupert Hagen (CCF, Grand Forks-Greenwood), was the second CCF speaker Tuesday, and from an experience of 48 years residence in B.C. advised members of the Legislature and the government on a variety of subjects.

He was particularly interested in the PGE Railway; in flood control; advancement of Indian citizens, and oil production within the province.

He demanded abolition of race prejudice against the Japanese, and took an oblique slap at Senator Tom Reid.

Mr. Hagen recalled political history of the past half century to show that governments with unwieldy majorities soon collapsed.

The PGE, he said, had been stultified by politics; after the 1920 election, platform promises of its completion were not fulfilled. Now, he thought, the day for railways was passing, except for heavy freight, but he did want to see the Cariboo served by a proper railway.

The Indians here, he said, should be treated as well as the Maoris in his native New Zealand.

He declared experience in his riding had proved the Japanese to be good citizens.

"For goodness' sake," he exclaimed, "don't let us have any more racial discrimination such as was stirred up by one man, now in the Senate."

## CCF Asks Explanation On Hershey

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Filing of all correspondence between Health Minister Pearson and former Hospital Insurance Commissioner J. M. Hershey in the Legislature is sought by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Mr. Winch has given notice of a resolution asking the tabling of correspondence between the minister and Dr. Hershey relative to complaints or doubts by either regarding administration and policy in the hospital insurance; correspondence relative to matters leading up to the resignation of Dr. Hershey and reports on administration and policy received under directives of the minister and (or) Dr. Hershey.

Hospital insurance operations for the past year would be aired before the Legislature's select standing committee if a resolution to be moved by Randolph Harding (CCF, Kaslo-Slocan) is approved.

## A Costly Blunder All 'Round

BEFORE there is any more talk about another increase in hospital insurance rates we British Columbians want some solid assurance we are not being asked to pay for more blunders in insurance administration.

The acknowledgement at Victoria that the B.C. Hospital Commission paid out \$1,000,000 in hospital bills last year for persons whose car accident insurance covered such payments, has badly shaken public confidence.

Naturally the government is hastening to retrieve the error and will amend the Hospital Insurance Act to relieve the commission of such payments.

But participants in the hospital insurance scheme want to know why they should be billed for such costly adminis-

trative mistakes, and whether they are going to be asked to pay higher premiums to cover other "leaks" that may subsequently be discovered.

So far our hospital insurance has suffered from poor management and the blame cannot be sloughed off on subordinates. In the final analysis the responsibility rests at the ministerial level.

This \$1,000,000 "leak" can't be shrugged away as a mere misfortune. It is too costly, reflects too much sloppiness and casts too much discredit on the whole government to be dismissed lightly.

Premier Johnson's government should try to retrieve public respect for itself and its hospital scheme by putting the plan on a sound, efficient basis under a minister who can run it.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1950

## B.C. Education Costs Hit Hard

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Legislature Wednesday turned its attention to cost of education in B.C. with a blunt warning from two Interior members that school costs in rural districts are imposing too heavy a burden on the land.

Sydney Smith (Cln-Kamloops) told the House that "We are bequeathing to our children, along with a higher education, a burden of debt."

Charles W. Morrow (Cln-North Okanagan) declared "It is not difficult to see the almost calamitous position into which the farmer has been driven."

Both speakers agreed the government has limited tax levy for operating cost of schools to eight mills, but capital expenditures have driven the mill rate up to as high as 20 mills costs in some districts.

There have been commendable advances in education, com-

mented Mr. Smith, advances that have encouraged production of experts and specialists; but in the process educationalists have replaced the public as the directors of school costs and the public must still foot the bill.

"It is high time we approached this problem with courage and frankness — even at the cost of being charged with a lack of appreciation of modern education," he said.

The education tax burden, he argued, is unevenly distributed. "A great mass of the people who benefit most are making little contribution, whereas landowners are called on to pay a direct educational tax out of all proportion."

In Kamloops school district, Mr. Smith reported, school costs in 1949 were \$383,000, an increase of \$30,000 over the previous year, and it is estimated there will

be a further increase of \$40,000 in 1950.

"The time has arrived," said Mr. Morrow, for something specific in the way of assistance; and by assistance I mean a solution, not a temporary grant to alleviate a particular year."

## Liquor Lacks Anti-Freeze Qualities

VICTORIA — C. W. Morrow, Coalition MLA for North Okanagan, isn't too happy with the liquor vendor's store at Vernon.

During the cold snap, he told the House Wednesday, liquor froze and customers had to eat it or thaw it out.

He wants a new store with proper heating facilities.



## B.C. Road Conditions Featured In House

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Legislature Wednesday, after hearing four rural members discuss road problems relative to their ridings, and need for more tourist attractions, wound up the day's work in turmoil and confusion over who should adjourn the throne speech debate.

The four speakers, three new members, addressing the House for the first time, presented a list of thought-provoking recommendations.

C. W. Morrow (Cln., North Okanagan), recommended removal of the poll tax, adoption of the Big Bend route as the official Trans-Canada Highway, and revision of Hospital Insurance plan to place it on a self-sustaining basis.

### MINING TAXES

Sydney Smith (Cln., Kamloops) urged support for the proposed natural gas line into B.C. through Yellowhead Pass, and a continuation of the efficiency survey, launched in the Motor Vehicle Branch, to cover all departments of government.

Leo T. Nimsick (CCF, Cranbrook) wanted higher taxes on the mining industry, a new labor code to replace present Industrial Conciliation Act, and more benefits for unemployed.

Andrew Whisker (Cln., Cowichan-Newcastle) sought government support in obtaining new industries for his riding and a flood-control program to forestal the danger from rivers.

### CONFUSION DEVELOPS

Confusion developed when Arthur Ash (Cln., Saanich), who was to have been the day's fifth speaker, adjourned debate on the grounds he could not complete his address by the 8 p.m. deadline.

Now, among members of the House, it is considered a high honor to adjourn the debate.

That honor Wednesday had been promised to A. B. Ritchie (Cln., Salmon Arm) and Mr. Ritchie was incensed when the privilege was usurped. In fact, he rose and told the House about it.

### ONLY FOUR

Opposition Leader Harold Winch noted that there had been only four speakers at the sitting instead of the five announced, and he wondered how the government planned to wind up the debate in order to bring down the budget Tuesday.

If necessary, replied the Premier, the budget would be delayed a day. At any rate the debate had been adjourned and that was that.

The poll tax, said Mr. Morrow, is an unjust levy that falls on all taxpayers, regardless of income. Vancouver had set an example that the Provincial Government should follow, by abolishing the tax.

### ROAD CONDITIONS

Condition of highways and need for more and greater expenditures on roads, was presented with local variations by each of the four speakers.

for a few pieces of silver."

Mr. Nimsick declared he was not directing his criticism at management of industry.

It was the representatives of the people in whom this trust has been placed who must accept the responsibility for the loss of these resources, he said.

Mr. Whisker member for Cowichan-Newcastle had an imposing list of requests on secondary roads.

The CCF member from Cranbrook, Mr. Nimsick, renewed his party's cry for heavy mining taxes to meet growing expenditures.

The ore dug from the mines, he declared is a resource that could not be replaced and the people should be entitled to a fair share of its earnings.

"I believe the government is giving away its natural resources

## Anscomb, CCF Both Like Vote

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The outcome of the British elections was acclaimed today as "a major victory" by the leaders of both Socialist and Conservative parties in B.C.

Paradoxically, both CCF Leader Harold Winch and Progressive Conservative Leader Herbert Anscomb found reason to acclaim the verdict.

The provincial Liberal leader, Premier Johnson, had no comment.

Mr. Winch described the outcome as "a declaration to the world that democratic socialism is the answer to fascism and communism."

### GREAT VICTORY

"The re-election of the Labor government is a great victory," he said. "The people have re-elected a government which has proven under most difficult circumstances it is the bulwark of economic recovery in western Europe and the guiding star to the world as to how democratic procedures and principles can be used to move from one economic system to another."

The Conservative Party showing was described by Mr. Anscomb as a "smashing victory."

### "LAST GASP"

Chief result, Mr. Anscomb said, was the assurance that "by no stretch of the imagination could a Socialist government continue its nationalization program.

## Too Long Without Mandate

THE fact that it has been profiting from the liquor business for thirty years without asking its customers how they feel about the service was drawn to the attention of the government recently by Charles W. Morrow, Coalition member from North Okanagan.

It was a very proper reminder, and it was also proper to remind the government that it is depending on liquor profits for almost one-fifth of its budget.

The government should be jolted out of its state of mind about liquor, apparently a mental state that remains static so long as the money rolls in. Incidentally, that money is rolling in on liquor that

remains diluted as a heritage from war regulations that were canceled long ago.

Mr. Morrow told them that their liquor was so watery and the Vernon liquor store so poorly built that the stock froze this winter.

It is a fair thing to ask the government today to sample public opinion in a plebiscite that asks questions that will give a proper reflection of opinion.

The government should have done this long ago, and it is hoped that other members will try to stir it into action before this session ends. Surely the government is not taking any desperate chances by asking its customers a few questions.

## U.K. Results Occasion Little Stir in House

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—British elections results were major topic of conversation in the parliamentary corridors Friday, but there was no great enthusiasm over the outcome from either government or opposition benches on the floor of the House.

Arthur Turner (CCF, Vancouver East), first of the day's three speakers, hailed it as "an endorsement of the Socialist Government."

And Tom Uphill, (Labor, Fernie), was happy to see his own party had been returned to power in Britain.

### RED CARNATIONS

The six CCF members in the House (Rupert Hagen of Grand Forks-Greenwood was absent) all wore red carnations in their button holes in honor of victory.

But jibes across the floor, which could have been expected if either party had recorded a substantial majority, were noticeably lacking.

It was not a busy day for B.C.'s legislators but contributions of Mr. Turner, Mr. Uphill and Cmdr. Charles T. Beard (Coalition, Esquimalt) evoked considerable interest.

### STIRRED IT UP

The member for Vancouver East, who has a tremendous faculty for arousing government members, drew repeated fire from the Coalition benches with his caustic criticism of the administration's handling of housing, hospital insurance, and the unemployment problem.

Commander Beard explained hospital insurance difficulties with the comment that the original premiums were too low, and sharply rebuked a colleague who had been critical of the scheme.

The unemployment question was debated across the floor as Mr. Turner declared mass unemployment is inevitable and the capitalist system powerless to prevent it.

### CHILDREN SUFFER

There are children in Vancouver suffering malnutrition, the Vancouver East member charged, quoting from a letter by Hugh Allan, director of the Vancouver Community Chest.

On any day at the back entrance to St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, he continued, you can see up to 100 men lined up to receive sandwiches from the sisters.

"The sister told me this has been going on regularly for the past three months and that they have had up to 120 in one day.

"There has been nothing about this in the press."

### SOME PROGRESS

The member for Vancouver East was pleased to note there had been some progress on the part of both Federal and Provincial governments in an attempt to find a solution to the housing problem.

Report of campaign expenditures in the federal election, particularly in Vancouver Centre, convinced him there is an urgent need for a major change in the Elections Act.

The fact the Liberal campaign in the riding cost \$20,000 while the CCF spent \$500 emphasized unfairness of the present system, he said.

### CUTS A CAPER

Mr. Uphill, in welcoming new members to the Legislature, paid particular attention to one old timer.

"I'm glad to welcome back one member. He has been here before and he has been through great trials and tribulations—and that's me.

"I sure had a tough time." (Mr. Uphill won the Fernie riding by nine votes).

In a riotous half hour, the Legislature's lone Labor member divided his time between a plea for government-operated sweepstakes in the province, a hearty commendation of John L. Lewis, and the collection of election bets.

### MORE WINNINGS

Periodically he was interrupted by a page boy with an envelope containing another instalment on his winnings.

As usual, his notes were scattered across the top of his desk and he admitted his speech was like the PGE—"it starts nowhere, ends nowhere, and goes nowhere."

Threat of reduced revenues in British Columbia, declared the member for Fernie, also threatens curtailment of the social services, and he suggested the licence fees from cocktail bars and the revenues which could be derived from a government sweepstakes and the licencing of bookmakers would be an important factor in maintaining these services.

The Fernie member also

warned of the danger of unemployment, adding that this time the white-collared man would also be out of work and he would not be prepared to sit around accepting a dole.

Commander Beard was opposed to the criticism of the hospital insurance plan voiced early this week by A. R. MacDougall (Coalition, Vancouver Point Grey).

### WOULDN'T SIT AROUND

"I would like to point out to him that he, like myself, voted for this measure.

"Fundamental fault was that the premiums charged were not large enough to cover costs," he declared.

He also expressed concern over increased expenditures, commenting that "the province could not afford the luxury of an unbalanced budget."

## Fernie's Tom Uphill Begg For Return of Cuspidors

VICTORIA—(CP)—Cuspidors, which have stood in the lobby of the B.C. Legislature for more than 50 years have disappeared, observed Tom Uphill, veteran Labor member for Fernie, in The House Friday.

They were here last year, complained the member mildly, but like whiskers and bustles of 50 years ago, have gone. Election of a woman as Speaker has only emphasized the fact that men are being shoved into the background, he said.

Who knows but what majority of the members in future years may be women, said Mr. Uphill.

## B.C. Budget Plans Cuts In Spending

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Finance Minister Anscomb will present B.C.'s first hundred million dollar budget to the Legislature Tuesday afternoon and with it he is expected to deliver a blunt warning that both current and capital spending will have to be curtailed.

Observers believe the cost of running the government of B.C. for the next 12 months will be close to \$105,000,000, an increase of nearly \$13,000,000 over the current year's estimate.

At the same time it is expected Mr. Anscomb will report that anticipated revenues will be sufficient to balance expenditures.

It is understood revenues from the sales tax in the past year have been much higher than anticipated.

Mr. Anscomb expected to point particularly to the government's capital expenditures in his demands for economy.

The provincial net debt is expected to be shown at about \$145,000,000. The government still has borrowing powers for nearly \$90,000,000.



## IN THE LEGISLATURE

# Young Business Men Present New Outlook

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The first two weeks of the first session of British Columbia's twenty-second Legislature has produced comparatively little news, but it has shown that the House lost little in stature at the 1949 general elections.

Among the 16 new members occupying back benches in the present Legislature, there is a group of comparatively young men who give promise of becoming outstanding members of the provincial law making body.

So far the House had heard from eight or ten of them and the impression they have left in their maiden speeches has been highly gratifying to themselves and highly complimentary to the electors who sent them to Victoria.

### NEW OUTLOOK

Generally they are successful business men in their own constituencies and they have brought to the Legislature a refreshingly new outlook on the current provincial problems.

A. D. Turnbull (Coalition, Rossland-Trail), better known in the parliamentary corridors as "Doug," is an engineer with the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. As mover of the address in reply to the throne speech he presented a thought-provoking review of British Columbia's major issues.

Battleman M. MacIntyre, Coalition, Mackenzie), whose Christian name is universally reduced to "Batt," is a hotel proprietor in Powell River. His maiden speech was notable for its recommendations in improving the hospital insurance service, including the devising of the method of electing local hospital boards.

Sydney Smith (Coalition, Kamloops), is the proprietor of an automobile agency and garage in his home town. His practical examination of education costs was closely tuned to the current demand in government circles for a curtailment in spending.

### WINS APPLAUSE

John D. McRae (Coalition, Prince Rupert), better known among his friends as "Jack," is a merchant in the northern port. He won the applause of his colleagues in the House with his presentation of the case for equal rights for the native Indians.

Walter Hendricks (Coalition, Nelson-Creston), is another automobile man. As was to be expected, he dwelt largely with the Doukhobor problem, a major issue in his constituency, presenting as the only permanent solution the eventual assimilation of the sect with the rest of the population in the province.

Among the new CCF members, the outstanding, of course, is Frank Calder of Atlin, not only because he is the first native Indian to sit in the Legislature and one of the youngest members in the House, but because he also shows promise of developing into a first-class debater and legislator.

# Budget Flatly Rejects Municipal Aid Boosts

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, in his budget address today, ended the hopes of British Columbia municipalities who have been seeking further financial aid to alleviate cost of education with the flat statement that "in all fairness, that sort of thing must cease."

The Provincial Government, said Mr. Anscomb, has been generous with the municipalities in recent years.

He presented statistics to show that between 1941-42 and the estimates for 1950-51 direct grants to municipal governments from the province have increased from \$2.5 million to \$22.4 million.

### BIG JUMPS

In the same period, he said, indirect financial assistance has jumped from \$400,000 to \$4.3 million.

"I have not included in this statement," he said, "any of the reduction of the municipal hospital aid resulting from hospital insurance, the deficit of which, for the time being, is financed by this government."

There may be criticism of the size of the Provincial Government's budget for the next fiscal year but the total of \$105.5 million could well be reduced by \$10 million because one-third of the sales tax and one-third of the collections under the Motor Vehicle Act automatically go to the cities, towns, villages and district municipalities of the province.

### STILL ASK MORE

"It is now three years since Mr. Carl Goldenberg made his report on provincial-municipal financial relations. Your government has implemented, for all practical purposes, his entire recommendations, and in addition will grant the municipalities \$7,875,000 more in the next fiscal year from the Social Security and Municipal Aid Tax.

"Notwithstanding this, we still have some municipalities asking the government for contributions toward specific undertakings of one kind or another.

"In all fairness that sort of thing must cease.

"There is, however, one more point.

### MUST CO-OPERATE

"Mr. Goldenberg pointed out in his report quite bluntly that 'the municipalities must co-operate in meeting their own problems.'

"This, many of them have done, but others have not.

"I can assure the municipalities of our utmost co-operation in all fields of mutual interest, for when we disagree it is but a disagreement on the best method of achieving the same end—the public good."

# Lumber Picture 'Brighter'

VICTORIA—(CP)—While the lumber industry has been "uneasy" for the last two years, there seems to be no saturation point reached in building and prices are on the uptrend, Lands Minister E. T. Kenney told the House Monday.

Although the short-term picture is uncertain, it is not disturbing and the long-term outlook is brighter, he said.

Sustained yield basis for logging meant that in both mill and woods operations, there is much closer utilization of wood.

Last year a new mill began operations, another one begins this year and in 1951 still another large mill opens. There was a good prospect that the Port Mellon pulp mill would reopen, he said.

"All these new operations, tending to produce refined products, multiply values and will be able to continue in competitive world markets," he said.

# B. C. Curtails Spending In \$105-Million Budget

## Hospital Insurance Plan Deficit \$4,587,000

(Further details, charts, Page 6)

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — British Columbia has balanced its budget for the coming fiscal year at \$105.5 million, but in the process has been compelled to curtail some branches of the government service.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, in his annual budget address to the Legislature today, with a grim warning of the danger of overspending, disclosed that for the first time since the war there would be substantial cuts in the estimates of some departments in 1950-51.

There will be no new taxation.

In the 75-page prepared text of his statement on government financing, Mr. Anscomb told the House, either directly or by inference, that:

The hospital insurance service, in the first 15 months of operations, will have an estimated deficit of \$4,587,000.

Hospital insurance deficit in 1950-51, estimated at \$2,545,000, will be paid out of current revenues — thereby avoiding an increase in the premiums.

Although expenditures in the current fiscal year were originally estimated at \$92.3 million, supplementary expenditures have raised the estimate by \$13 million and anticipated spending for the year is now placed at \$105.3 million.

Revenues for 1949-50 are expected to be at least \$13,000,000 higher than the \$93,000,000 estimated, thereby covering the increased spending.

Sales tax returns have been much higher than anticipated and will yield an estimated \$24,000,000 in 1950-51.

In order to balance the budget in 1950-51 estimates have been reduced on such services as cancer control, Mothers' Allowance Act, provincial parks, homes for the aged, maintenance of public buildings and roads and bridges.

In the revision of the Dominion-provincial tax agreement,

British Columbia must insist on a substantial increase in the annual grant to get its fair share of income and corporation taxes levied in this province.

Municipalities are being generously assisted by the Provincial Government and will get no further aid.

Leveling off in the provincial economy has dictated a halt in increased government spending and supplementary expenditures in 1950-51 will be held to a minimum.

## Buoyancy In B.C. Revenue

Capital expenditures totaling \$38,400,000 are planned for the coming fiscal year.

The Legislature will be asked to approve new loan bills totaling \$20,000,000 at the present session.

Throughout the two-hour address the basic theme was economy and the pressing need for pegging down provincial expenditures to hold them within the government's income.

But between the lines there were signs that the finance minister has utilized the expanding economy of the past few years to build a solid bulwark around the province's present high financial position.

And here and there, in the mass of figures that he placed before the House, were signs of an amazing buoyancy in British Columbia's current revenues.

It is now estimated, said Mr. Anscomb, that expenditures for the year ending March 31, 1950, will amount to \$105,300,000 and that the expenditures in the following year will be \$200,000 higher.

Estimates for 1950-51, however, include an additional \$1,100,000 for salaries necessitated by the granting of another cost-of-living

bonus to civil servants in October, \$2,500,000 to meet the anticipated deficit in hospital insurance, and \$1,000,000 for expanding social services.

These increases are partially offset by a reduction in the amount required to service the provincial debt and the absence of flood relief charges in the coming fiscal year.

However, in order to institute the necessary reduction in total spending, estimates have been reduced in a number of the branches of the government service including: Cancer control (reduction, \$146,000), tuberculosis control (reduction, \$134,000), Mothers' Allowance Act (reduction, \$100,000), provincial parks (reduction, \$183,000), grants for mining roads and trail and grubstaking (reduction, \$100,000), contribution to superannuation funds (reduction, \$170,000), Provincial Elections Act (reduction, \$425,000), mental hospitals (reduction, \$136,000), homes for the aged (reduction, \$138,000), Parliament Buildings maintenance (reduction, \$43,000), maintenance of other government buildings (reduction, \$109,000), roads, bridges, etc. (reduction, \$774,000), miscellaneous flood relief and control (reduction, \$441,000).

## Reduced Budget Reduces Services

In some cases lower estimates were made possible because expenditure in 1949-50 was peculiar to that year. The Elections Act costs, for example, were unusually high because of the general election.

In other cases, however, it appears the reduced budget can mean only a reduction in the service.

The \$4,587,000 deficit in the hospital insurance service incurred from Jan. 1, 1949, when the scheme was launched, until March 31, 1950, the end of the present fiscal year, will be met by withdrawing \$2,000,000 from the stabilization fund established as a part of the hospital insurance setup, and \$2,500,000 to be voted from the revenue surplus fund.

In 1950-51 the estimated deficit of \$2,545,000 will be met by payments from current revenues.

Two chief purposes of the insurance plan, said Mr. Anscomb, were to provide coverage for everyone, thereby eliminating threat of heavy hospital bills, and to end the drain on government funds to meet hospital losses.

"It is true, of course that had there been no hospital insurance scheme, the government would still be contributing to the deficit of the hospitals."

At the same time, continued Mr. Anscomb, it was necessary to face the fact that there is a deficit to be covered at the present time.

"But what does bother me is that we are going into another year faced with the same problem."

The minister's report on the financial position of the province left little to be desired but his insistence that the budget be held within its present limits was uncompromising.

Sinking fund shortages in the past three years, he disclosed, have been reduced by \$9,000,000 and now amount to \$13,000,000.

This sum will be further reduced by a bill to be introduced at the present session authorizing the transfer of \$2,500,000 from revenue surplus to the sinking funds.

In the present fiscal year, despite the demand for heavy supplementary expenditures in other branches of the service, Mr. Anscomb found it possible last July to retire two provincial bond issues totaling \$3,042,000 by payment from current revenue.

The government's ability to meet extraordinary expenditures such as this and the payment of \$5,705,000 on the 1948 flood relief costs from its current income is a fair indication of the province's financial position at the present time.

### INCREASED

The report of the comptroller general reveals that in the first nine months of 1949-50 — from March 31 to Dec. 31, 1949 — the government's revenue totaled \$74,400,000, an increase of \$15,300,000 over the same period in the previous year.

Of this increase, \$10,000,000 was due to increased sales tax returns, which in the previous year had been collected for only six months. But other revenue sources showed an increase of more than \$5,000,000.

In the same nine-month period, expenditures were \$68,600,000, \$9,000,000 higher than the first nine months of 1948-49.

While the minister presented in detail the revised estimate of expenditures for the present 12-month period, placing the total at \$105,300,000, his only comment on revenues for the same period was, "I have reason to hope that, on the basis of present information, we can be assured of sufficient revenue to meet actual expenditures."

At the same time, Mr. Anscomb pointed to the danger of comparing figures in the comptroller general's report because there is no way of knowing what expenditure vouchers were in hands of departmental officials or in transit when the report was made.

It is notable, however, that on Dec. 31, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$5,800,000 and on the basis of a formula that has proven reasonably accurate in the past 10 years the provincial income for the present fiscal year should total between \$110,000,000 and \$114,000,000, leaving a substantial revenue surplus for the 12 months.

### REVENUES

Throughout his statement, the finance minister stressed the vitally important factor that "our revenues have now reached a peak level and future gains, if any, will be moderate." Along with this, he said, "the level of the cost of our services has reached that of our revenues and any major new project cannot be undertaken unless changes are made in our revenue structure."

The one change that he proposed was a revision of the Dominion-provincial financial agreement to ensure a substantially larger annual payment from the Federal Government.

With the announcement from Ottawa that the Dominion Government is prepared to meet provincial representatives this fall to discuss revenues, it is essential, he said, that British Columbia examine its position.

As a condition to the present agreement with Ottawa, Mr. Anscomb explained, this province is compelled to impose a 5 per cent corporation tax which is collected by the Dominion and charged against the annual grant to British Columbia.

In 1948 this 5 per cent tax amounted to \$12,300,000. It was returned to the province as a part of the annual tax payment of about \$25,300,000 from Ottawa.

In other words, said the minister, the Federal Government in 1948-49 had paid only about \$10,000,000 out of its own funds to this province and in that year had collected in British Columbia in corporation and personal income taxes and in succession duties approximately \$158,000,000.



AMOUNT

"I raise that point simply to show that, in my view, the amount the province receives is entirely inadequate when compared with the amount of revenue taken out of it by the national government."

Although he emphasized the fact that he is personally opposed to dual taxation, Mr. Anscomb pointed out that if the Provincial Government were collecting income and corporation taxes on the basis of the rates in force in B.C. in 1941, revenues from that source would have totaled about \$43,000,000 in 1948-49.

"This indicates fairly clearly that, without entering into an agreement at all, we would have enjoyed some \$20,000,000 more revenue."

Tucked into a single unpretentious paragraph in the lengthy budget speech was a single paragraph that offered adequate proof of the government's intention of living within its means.

A \$200,000 salary contingency fund, the paragraph reported, has been established in the finance department, "to cover all necessary new appointments throughout the service. It is hoped by this consolidation to provide a closer control."

Actually the fund will provide the salaries for all new posts in the government that are created during the fiscal year.

In the preparation of the following year's estimates the government will examine these appointments and determine whether or not the expansion of the department involved is justified.

## Budget In Nutshell

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
Following are the highlights of British Columbia's budget as presented to the Legislature today by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

Expected revenue for the coming fiscal year (1950-51) is \$105,831,000, while estimated expenditures amount to \$105,558,000.

Estimated surplus for the year \$273,000.

No new taxation.

Total cost of B.C. flood relief amounted to \$19,800,000, of which the Provincial Government's share was \$5,700,000.

Capital expenditures in 1950 are expected to total \$38,404,000. Loan bills totalling \$20,000,000 are to be considered at the present session.

Hospital insurance deficit for the 15-month period ending March 31, 1950, is estimated at \$4,587,000.

Hospital insurance deficit estimated for the fiscal year 1950-51 is \$2,545,000.

Revenues for the first nine months of the present fiscal year (March 31 to Dec. 31, 1949) were \$74,378,053, an increase of \$15,290,139 over the same period in the previous year.

Expenditures for the first nine months of the present fiscal year were \$68,576,749, an increase of \$8,977,682 over the same period in the previous year.

## Hospital Insurance Critics Hit

VICTORIA — In a stirring defence of a cabinet colleague and government policy generally, Lands Minister E. T. Kenney, in the Legislature Monday, assailed critics who have attacked Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson for his handling of the provincial hospital insurance scheme.

Mr. Kenney scored "the unfair criticism that has been bandied in the press for the past year."

There had never been a major bill passed by any Parliament that did not require some revision, he said, and while there may be objectionable features in the Hospital Insurance Act the only way these features could be weeded out was by putting the act into operation.

Paraphrasing the Bible, the dynamic little lands minister shouted, "Let he who has never made any mistakes throw the first brickbat at the minister."

No one in this province, continued Mr. Kenney, has done so much to aid the poor the handicapped and the underprivileged as has the minister of health and welfare.

In all fairness he should be given the opportunity of working out the kinks in the hospital insurance plan.

## Flood Cost, \$20 Million, House Told

VICTORIA — Cost of repairing the damage wrought by floods that swept through virtually every one of B.C.'s main valleys in 1948, and of repairing and strengthening the dykes was just under \$20,000,000.

In his budget address, Finance Minister Anscomb listed total flood costs at \$19,800,000 and B.C.'s share at \$5,700,000.

Although a \$5,000,000 loan bill was passed at the special session of the Legislature in July, 1948, the full amount of the provincial share of flood control and relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction of dykes and restoration of roads and bridges, was met from current revenues.

Largest single item was the rebuilding of the dykes in the Fraser Valley at a total cost of \$10,700,000 toward which the Dominion Government contributed 75 percent.

Apart from three minor projects, which cannot be undertaken until the spring freshets, work of the Fraser Valley Dyking Board has been complete, Mr. Anscomb reported.

## Revenue Surplus Used Up

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—British Columbia's revenues surplus account, which has accumulated \$50.1 million in the past 10 years, has been virtually wiped out.

At April 1, 1949, appropriations had accounted for \$45 million of the total and during the present session the Legislature will be asked to approve the expenditure of the remaining \$5 million to cover hospital insurance losses and reduce the sinking fund deficit.

In his budget speech today, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb disclosed that of the moneys allocated \$32.7 million has been used for capital works and, apart from the session's appropriation, \$6 million for debt redemption.

In addition to revenue surplus funds utilized for capital development there have been substantial sums withdrawn from current revenues for the works program.

## Great Interest Shown in Oil

VICTORIA — (CP) — While no oil production has been established in B.C. in 1949, great interest has been shown in potentialities and much geological work and some drilling has taken place, Lands Minister E. T. Kenney told the House Monday.

At the end of last year 4,163,222 acres were under location or applied for and deep tests were being drilled in Peace River, Gulf Islands, Queen Charlottes, Fraser Delta and the flathead district of southeast B.C.

## Budget Cuts Won't Hit Service

VICTORIA — Investigation of reductions in estimates of some branches of the government service reported in the budget today by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb discloses there will be no reduction in the service in these branches.

Estimates for cancer control list a reduction of \$146,000, but departmental officials explain this was done because the full amount of grants made by Federal and Provincial Governments last year for this purpose has not been used up.

Mothers' Allowance Act estimates have been reduced by \$100,000 because previous estimates of the requirements of this branch have been higher than the amount actually required.

The \$183,000 reduction in provincial parks estimates, it is understood, results from the fact that last year extra money was provided for the construction of the road up to Mount Seymour Park.

## \$5 Million Housing Bill Set

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Authorization for a \$5,000,000 loan to cover B.C.'s share of a joint Federal-Provincial housing scheme will be contained in a bill to ratify the plan, Finance Minister Anscomb said in his budget speech.

In addition, said Mr. Anscomb, the bill will contain provision for establishment of a revolving fund to permit the use of rentals and other revenues collected under the act to be used for further construction.

"It is my understanding," said the finance minister, that neither the Dominion nor the province is anxious to engage in housing activities such as would interfere with the normal construction of new houses from private sources.

"Certainly I would not."

The minister understood that priority would be given "to the kind of financial assistance that would promote increasingly the supply of new houses through ordinary channels."

He believed the plan to be undertaken jointly by Federal and Provincial governments on a 75-25 percent basis should be "the assembly of lands and their improvement so as to fit them for residential purposes."

## Where Money Goes

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Following is a summary of the division of Provincial Government expenditure presented by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his annual budget speech including actual and percentage expenditures.

Services	1947-48	1948-49	1950-51
Debt charges	\$ 5,873,000.00	\$ 5,895,000.00	\$ 7,441,000.00
Sinking funds and debt redemption	5,250,000.00	7,885,000.00	6,993,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$11,123,000.00</b>	<b>\$13,580,000.00</b>	<b>\$14,434,000.00</b>
Percentage of total expenditure	(17.52)	(15.53)	(13.67)
Social Services	\$16,422,000.00	\$22,721,000.00	\$29,824,000.00
Education	11,265,000.00	12,806,000.00	14,992,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$27,687,000.00</b>	<b>\$35,527,000.00</b>	<b>\$44,816,000.00</b>
Percentage of total expenditure	(43.62)	(40.63)	(42.46)
Agriculture	\$ 598,000.00	\$ 696,000.00	\$ 762,000.00
Forests, mines	5,024,000.00	7,953,000.00	7,253,000.00
Highways, bridges, ferries, etc.	8,858,000.00	11,976,000.00	13,195,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$14,480,000.00</b>	<b>\$20,625,000.00</b>	<b>\$21,210,000.00</b>
Percentage of total expenditure	(22.81)	(23.59)	(20.09)
<b>General:</b>			
Justice	\$ 2,457,000.00	\$ 3,024,000.00	\$ 3,066,000.00
Legislation	596,000.00	608,000.00	304,000.00
General Government	5,604,000.00	7,691,000.00	12,203,000.00
Other expenses	1,529,000.00	6,383,000.00	9,525,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$10,186,000.00</b>	<b>\$17,704,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,098,000.00</b>
Percentage of total expenditure	(16.05)	(20.25)	(23.78)
<b>Grand totals</b>	<b>\$63,476,000.00</b>	<b>\$87,436,000.00</b>	<b>\$105,558,000.00</b>

## Departmental Spending

VICTORIA—The following summary, presented by the Legislature by Finance Minister Anscomb in his budget speech shows the revised departmental expenditures for the current fiscal year and the estimates for 1950-51.

Department	Anticipated Expenditure 1949-50	Main Estimates 1950-51	Increase or Decrease (—)
Public Debt	\$ 15,085,668.03	\$ 13,815,882.42	\$ -1,269,785.61
Legislation	190,900.00	198,900.00	8,000.00
Premier's Office	33,188.00	32,959.00	-229.00
Agriculture	1,003,070.00	911,123.00	-91,947.00
Attorney-General	5,037,989.00	5,414,920.00	376,931.00
Education	14,824,216.47	15,454,871.00	630,654.53
Finance	17,021,060.51	14,342,714.00	-2,678,346.51
Fisheries	37,060.00	36,387.00	-673.00
Health and Welfare	18,753,774.00	22,314,040.00	3,560,266.00
Labour	404,870.00	407,023.00	2,153.00
Lands and Forests	6,640,358.68	6,427,520.00	-212,838.68
Mines	712,140.00	636,974.00	-75,166.00
Municipal Affairs	99,590.75	105,491.00	5,900.25
Provincial Secretary	9,870,966.00	9,223,865.00	-647,101.00
"Public Utilities Act" and "Motor Carrier Act"	285,414.00	307,082.00	21,668.00
Public Works	16,652,710.52	15,264,472.25	-1,388,238.27
Railways	36,408.00	40,261.00	3,853.00
Trade and Industry	634,277.60	623,933.00	-10,344.60
Recoverable Expenditure	100.00	100.00	
	107,325,871.57		
Less—Savings (Appr.)	2,000,000.00		
	<b>\$105,325,871.51</b>	<b>\$105,558,517.67</b>	<b>\$ 232,736.10</b>

## Grants to Municipalities

VICTORIA—The following table, included in the budget presented to the Legislature today by Finance Minister Anscomb shows contributions made by the Provincial Government to municipalities in the fiscal year 1941-42 together with estimates of these contributions for 1950-51.

AID TO MUNICIPALITIES		
Direct Grants	1941-42 (Actual)	1950-51 (Estimates)
"Municipalities Aid Act," 1948—		
Motor-vehicle Revenue	\$ 570,000.00	\$ 1,650,000.00
Social Security and Municipal Aid Tax		7,875,000.00
<b>Education</b>		
Basic and Supplementary Grants	1,774,000.00	5,500,000.00
Conveyance	86,000.00	366,000.00
Teachers' Pensions (Employers' share)		830,000.00
School Buildings	95,000.00	6,200,000.00
	<b>\$2,525,000.00</b>	<b>\$22,421,000.00</b>
<b>Indirect Aid</b>		
Social Assistance, Indigent Relief, Municipal Cases		2,666,000.00
Indigent Medical Services	415,000.00	635,000.00
Hospitalization of Indigents (Now under Hosp. Ins'ce Act)		726,000.00
Keep and Transport of Prisoners		100,000.00
Local Roads	25,000.00	100,000.00
Interest on certificates of loan re Municipal Superannuation		130,000.00
	<b>\$2,965,000.00</b>	<b>\$26,778,000.00</b>

## PGE Cost To Date Totals \$115 Million

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
VICTORIA—Cost of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway to B.C. to date has been \$115 million, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb said today in a review of the PGE financial position in his budget address.

Mr. Anscomb reported that of this amount \$49.3 million covers payment of interest on direct provincial borrowings, interest charges with respect to other advances and discounts on loans charged to the PGE. Another \$23.2 million cover interest payments made by the province on behalf of the railway and \$42.6 million has been direct cash advances. Provincial Government obligations incurred on behalf of the railway and outstanding at Jan. 1, 1949, total \$24.6 million.

## Increase In Estimates

VICTORIA—Anticipated deficit in the Hospital Insurance Plan, increased payments to municipalities from Sales Tax revenues and higher cost of Social Services are three major items in the \$13 million increase in estimates for 1950-51.

Original estimates for 1949-50 were \$92.5 million. Following items have contributed largely to the increase:

Hospital insurance deficit	\$2,545,000
Additional sales tax payments to municipalities	2,000,000
Health and welfare increases	2,500,000
Education cost increases	1,200,000
Cost of living bonus for civil servants	1,750,000
Serving the provincial debt	2,500,000



# Bigger Tax Rental Needed From Ottawa

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—B.C. must insist on a substantial increase in the Federal Government payment in lieu of income and corporation taxes when the present agreement is under discussion in Ottawa this fall, Finance Minister Anscomb told the Legislature today.

In a factual presentation of his case for the province, Mr. Anscomb disclosed, during his budget speech, that in 1948 the Dominion collected \$158,000,000 in B.C. and returned to the Provincial Government only about \$10,000,000.

It is essential, he told the House, that the grant be increased in order that the B.C. Government can continue with the development of natural resources.

Any alternative plan, he said, whereby the Federal Government would assume responsibility for social services "which essentially belong to them in any event," would not solve the problem.

## WOULD BE \$42,000,000

Although he expressed his own personal opposition to dual taxation, he argued that in 1948-49 income and corporation taxes and succession duties, if levied by the province on the basis of the 1940-41 taxation, would have provided revenues totaling between \$42,000,000 and \$43,000,000.

This would be nearly \$20,000,000 more than was received on the Dominion-Provincial agreement, he declared.

The finance minister explained that he was not criticizing the present agreement.

"I want to make it quite clear, very clear indeed, that anything I say should not be construed, in any way, to mean that I am critical of the tax agreements that were made in the past, bearing in mind economic conditions at the time they were made; or critical at all of my predecessors who took part in the negotiations of those agreements."

## DIFFERENT SET-UP

"I am not criticizing the agreement at the time it was drawn up, and, in any event, whether it is good or bad, it has to be carried out.

"Now that we have to consider a new agreement, however—and I repeat that I do not want to see double taxation—we must be very careful to see that B.C. has a different set-up altogether from the existing system."

After reviewing the history of income and corporation taxes in Canada, Mr. Anscomb turned to the present agreement whereby, in lieu of an annual grant, the province withdrew from these taxation fields for a five-year period.

As a condition of the agreement, the Federal Government required the province to set up a separate 5 percent corporation tax, to be collected by the Dominion and turned over to the province.

## DEDUCTED AMOUNT

But, in returning these revenues, the Dominion insisted on deducting that amount from the annual payment in B.C.

The net result of this arrangement, continued the finance minister, was that in 1948-49 the 5 percent corporation tax produced about \$12,300,000 and the Federal Government, which had collected about \$158,000,000 in

B.C. from its own corporation and income taxes and succession duties, paid back only about \$10,000,000 of its own revenues to this province.

Examining the problem from another angle, Mr. Anscomb reported that, on the basis of figures supplied by Ottawa, the province would have collected in corporation taxes alone, if it had remained in that field on the basis of the rates in effect in 1940-41, "something in excess of \$24,000,000.

"My own view is that it would have been appreciably more than that, because we would have taken into account corporate incomes of companies whose main offices are not in B.C.

## INCOME TAX

"Added to that, we would have had our own individual income tax, which, at our former rates, would have produced in excess of \$17,000,000, making a total of, say, speaking broadly, between \$42,000,000 and \$43,000,000.

"This indicates fairly clearly that without entering into an agreement at all, we would have enjoyed some \$20,000,000 more in revenue."

The original discussions on Dominion-provincial financial relations in 1945, Mr. Anscomb recalled, had included the presentation to the Federal Government of a number of measures to nationalize social security and public works.

## NO SUBSTITUTE

It had been the understanding that these proposals would become operative when "a sufficient number of provinces" had signed taxation agreements.

Since this province gave up the corporation and income tax fields the Dominion had instituted "certain social services of a modest nature, such as contributions to the cost of hospital beds, preventive health program and such like, none of which, however, would be considered as a substantial substitute for or a substantial implementation of the Green Book proposals.

"When I speak so of the Green Book proposals, I am not intimating that I agree with them by any means.

"I am merely saying that they were there as part of a bargain.

"We have, at best only a million and a quarter people spread over a vast area, including many sections of mountainous country which are costly to service.

"We should have thousands upon thousands more people and a highly industrialized and prosperous province but we have neglected the full development of our natural resources: agriculture, fisheries, mining and forestry, on which the very basis of our future rests, and this neglect was mainly due to the lack of necessary funds.

## BROAD OUTLOOK

"I think you will see that, when this proposed conference takes place, we shall need a very broad and realistic outlook of B.C.'s needs."

The past few years, with wheat prices at their peak and the discovery of extensive new oil fields, the prairie provinces have moved out of the "have-not" category.

"Therefore, much as we may wish to help others, let us consider our own essential needs first.

"Let me add that I do not consider that the Dominion's taking over some of our social service problems, which essentially belong to them in any event, such as old age pensions and the like, would solve our difficulties.

"The very nature of our economy requires that we have ample funds to develop our resources and to promote industrial progress.

"These funds cannot be had except by securing a much greater proportion of the corporation and personal income taxes and the succession duties now taken from our people by the national government."

# Additional Expenses \$15 Million

VICTORIA — B.C. Government in the present fiscal year has spent \$15 million from current funds not included in the estimates presented to the Legislature a year ago, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb disclosed today.

## ORIGINAL VOTE

In his budget speech, Mr. Anscomb said that of the original \$92.3 million voted by the House there would be approximately \$90 million spent.

However, statutory and supplementary votes, and special warrants have accounted for \$15 million bringing the anticipated total for the year to \$105.3 million.

Major items in the additional expenditures include:

Public debt charges — redemption of maturing debentures and treasury bills and increase interest and exchange costs \$3,850,000.

Flood Relief Act, \$2,850,000. Additional distribution to municipalities for sales tax revenues, \$2,000,000.

## OLD AGE PENSIONS

Increase in old age pensions \$403,000.

Provincial Elections Act, \$215,000.

Under special warrants the government paid for such items as:

Policing costs in Doukhobor disturbance, \$100,000.

Sundry public works projects, \$113,500.

Flood damage to roads and bridges, \$398,000.

New school outside organized school districts, \$84,558.

The \$398,000 flood damage item covers costs of repairs necessitated by flash floods in November and December. Major item in this account was construction of an additional span across the Capilano River on Marine drive in West Vancouver.

# Revenues, Spending Still Rise

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Following are estimates and final figures on revenues and expenditures of the Provincial Government for the fiscal years, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51, as presented to the Legislature today by Finance Minister Anscomb.

## 1948-49

Estimated revenues, \$77,600,000.

Actual revenues, \$92,000,000.

Estimated expenditures, \$77,442,000.

Actual expenditures, \$87,436,000.

## 1949-50

Estimated revenues (budget speech, 1949), \$92,981,000.

Revenues for first nine months, \$74,378,000.

Estimated expenditures (Budget speech, 1949), \$92,308,000.

Expenditures now anticipated, \$105,326,000.

Expenditures for first nine months, \$68,577,000.

## 1950-51

Estimated revenues, \$105,831,000.

Estimated expenditures, \$105,559,000.

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# Capital Outlay Total \$38 Million

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Provincial Government expenditures on capital works in the coming fiscal year will total a maximum of \$38.4 million, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb disclosed today.

In presenting his annual budget address to the Legislature, Mr. Anscomb reported that while much of the money required for these projects has already been authorized by the House, there will be loan bills totaling \$20 million introduced during the present session.

One of these bills, he said, will provide the government with authority to borrow \$10 million to finance its share of school construction and another will authorize loans totalling \$5 million, \$4,250,000 of which will be used for public buildings and the remaining \$750,000 for construction at the University of B.C.

## HOUSING BILL

In addition there will be authorization for a \$5 million loan in the bill ratifying the Dominion-provincial housing agreement.

Public works planned for 1950-51 are: School construction grants \$10,000,000, PGE construction \$7,000,000, Provincial Government buildings \$7,700,000, highways and ordinary bridges \$6,500,000, steel or concrete bridges and culverts \$2,500,000, University buildings \$2,570,000, Okanagan flood control \$625,000, TransCanada Highway \$1,500,000.

Total \$38,404,000.

## \$32.5 MILLION

In the past nine months, the comptroller-general reports, expenditures from loans and revenue surplus accounts authorized by the Legislature, totalled \$32.5 million.

Items included in the expenditures were: Roads and bridges \$19,000,000, equipment fund \$1,000,000, provincial buildings \$2,455,000, assistance to hospitals \$528,000, school buildings \$4,444,000, PGE \$2,400,000, hospitals stabilization fund \$1,800,000, University of B.C. buildings and equipment \$704,000.

## WILL YIELD \$24,000,000

# Sales Tax Becomes Juicy Melon

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C.'s Social Security and Municipal Aid Tax, better known to the common man as the sales tax, has proved a far more profitable venture than was at first anticipated.

Originally billed as a \$12,000,000 benefit for payment of the province's social services and a one-third contribution to the municipalities, the tax is expected to reap an estimated \$24,000,000 in 1950-51.

In his budget statement Finance Minister Anscomb disclosed that in the last nine months of 1949 revenues from

the levy totalled about \$18,600,000.

The finance minister listed social services payments totalling about \$10,000,000 for which the social security fund, made up of revenues from two-thirds of the sales tax, was used to defray in part.

On this basis the \$16,000,000 anticipated for the social security fund in the current fiscal year and in 1950-51 would more than cover the expenditures involved.

However, the Social Security and Municipal Aid Tax Act provides for payment of all health and welfare services from this fund and, as the estimate for

the health and welfare department is \$22,000,000, there is little hope of any surplus in the fund.

To municipalities the announcement that an \$8,000,000 melon will be divided as a result of sales tax revenues will be welcome news.

In a brief review of the tax, Mr. Anscomb said administration costs for collecting, exclusive of vendors' commissions, had been reduced to slightly less than 1 percent.

"The department sought and received from vendors splendid co-operation without which success would be most difficult to achieve."

# Financial Position Sound

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Examination of the provincial budget, presented to the Legislature today by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, reveals that while it would be folly to propose any major expansion of spending, either for current needs or on capital works, at present time, B.C.'s financial position remains extremely sound.

Bluntly Mr. Anscomb told the House in his budget speech that over-optimism concerning the future can have no place in provincial financing.

Provincial economy, he said is dependent largely on foreign markets and world trade and any significant deterioration would necessitate a downward revision in government expenditures.

## MANY DAYS

He reported "it required many days of intensive study and the lopping-off of millions of dollars of proposed expenditures" before the \$105.5 million budget for 1950-51 was reached.

Provincial Government revenues, he said, have now reached their peak and it is "the absolute duty of each department to confine its spending and to practice economies whenever and wherever possible."

On capital spending, too, he warned extreme caution is essential.

## MUST PROTECT

"We must protect to the fullest measure that high financial credit that now forms the very basis of all our capital undertakings."

The \$105 million budget, he declared, represents a tremendous sum.

Although 1949 was a year of great economic activity in B.C., he continued, there are evidences of a general levelling.

The short term picture in British Columbia points to a continued high level of business activity, but the long-term picture, while not being too clear, does not appear quite as favorable as B.C.'s economy is so tied up with world conditions."





MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN B.C. today is Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb (right), chatting with Premier Johnson. Mr. Anscomb brought down a record budget in the Legislature today and with a grim warning on the danger of overspending.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1950-

## City Businessmen Rap Record B.C. Budget

Businessmen were taking long and earnest looks today at the new B.C. budget—the \$105 million balance sheet which meshes with trade and industry at many vulnerable points.

First glances at nine-digit figures read to the Legislature by Finance Minister Anscomb brought buzzes of criticism and discontent.

But a carefully-weighed appraisal of the biggest balance sheet in B.C. history will have to await deliberations of the Board of Trade.

Committees of the board are giving careful scrutiny to the 75 pages of dollars and cents that make up the budget. On Thursday they will give it their yea or nay—the most penetrating if unofficial criticism the budget will get.

Meanwhile segments of industry have been sounding off individually on budget which—next to the Federal Government's estimates—most profoundly affects the conditions of doing business in B.C.

### APPROVAL

There is widespread approval of Mr. Anscomb's attempt to hold the line on spending. There is appreciation of his efforts to maintain economy in the face of insistent demands for more and more government assistance and social services.

There is universal agreement with his edict "on new taxation." But businessmen are not so pleased with the sales tax bonanza, which has yielded double the original \$12,000,000 estimate. Many feel the sales tax is an unnecessary deterrent to buying at a time when consumer demand must be strengthened wherever possible.

### SOME CRITICISM

And most businessmen cannot reconcile themselves to a budget which needs \$14,434,000—or 14 percent of its revenues—to service debts and sinking funds.

Cuts in appropriations for mines and forests were severely criticized, particularly in view of boosts in non-productive social services.

"We will never open up this country by curtailing the help to prospectors and miners," warned Chamber of Mines head Frank Woodside.

"Cutting \$100,000 off the grant for mining roads and grubstaking will be a serious setback.

"Prospectors and miners must be kept in the field. That's the way our great north and interior has been opened up, and that's the only way progress will continue."

### FORESTRY CLAMOR

A slash of \$212,838 from the lands and forests allocation brought clamor from the forest industries, but details on where the cuts would take effect were needed for full appraisal. District Forester Edward W. Bassett said details would not be available for several weeks.

One spokesman suggested that the government put away a reserve from their present high revenues from the forest industry, to be used for development in less prosperous times.

## Liquor Airing Due In House

VICTORIA — Members of the Legislature will have an opportunity of airing their views on the contentious liquor question when a resolution sponsored by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch calling for a study of the Provincial Liquor Act is debated in the House.

Mr. Winch asks a standing committee be authorized to investigate production, distribution and consumption of liquor in B.C.; and to hear views of interested persons and organizations on matters pertaining to liquor distribution and consumption.

## Fight Looms Over Police

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A major battle is looming in the Legislature over reports that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be invited to replace the B.C. provincial police.

Already some members of the coalition have expressed their opposition to the proposed change privately and they plan to make their views public when they speak in the budget debate.

CCF Leader Harold E. Winch will start the fireworks this afternoon when, as chief financial critic of the opposition, he opens the budget debate. Mr. Winch will tell the House that he is strongly opposed to any change that would take the policing of this province out of the hands of the Provincial Government.

Chief factor in favor of the change is the reduction in police costs which would drop substantially from the present estimated of \$1.5 million.

**F E B**

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1950

# Pageantry Marks Opening of B.C.'s 22nd Legislature



—Colonist Photos by Bud Kinsman and Jim Ryan.

Mrs. Banks, wife of Lieutenant-Governor, arrives to be greeted by Fred Hurley, assistant deputy provincial secretary. She was accompanied by Rear Admiral H. G. De Wolf, Mrs. De Wolf (coming out of car) and Flag Lieut. Michael Page (back to camera). Fine guard of honor appears in background.



His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks arrives to deliver Throne Speech. He is preceded by an aide, Wing Cmdr. Donald Campbell.

# History Made in Colorful Legislature

## Opening

The shattering crash of a 15-gun salute shortly before 3 p.m. yesterday signalled the most colorful opening in history of the British Columbia Legislature.

Hundreds of persons assembled outside the Legislative Buildings to await the arrival of Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks.

Inside invited guests, crowding the public galleries and floor of the House, witnessed a brilliant scene. For the first time the hard glare of klieg lights shone on the colorful hats and dresses of the women.

### HISTORIC EVENT

It was an historic occasion. Guests saw Mrs. Nancy Hodges, escorted to the Speaker's dais by Premier Byron Johnson and C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch, after her election as the first woman Speaker in the British Commonwealth. As she approached the dais she wore a navy hat with a colorful feather, a corsage pinned to her fur jacket.

After a short recess she returned to the Chamber with her formal black robes and tricorne hat and spoke in crystal-clear voice the traditional words: "I am little able to fulfill the important duties . . . assigned to me."

Guests craned their necks to observe Frank Arthur Calder, first Indian ever to take his seat in a Canadian Parliament. Graduate in theology, cannery worker and son of a chief, Calder is a slight, handsome man of 34, with piercing black eyes.

All the traditional rules of procedure had to be suspended to permit Chief William Scow and Chief Frank Assu appear before the Bar of the House to present a petition thanking the Legislature for being the first in Canada to give Indians the vote.

### IN CEREMONIAL DRESS

The two chieftains arrived in ceremonial dress. Chief Scow wore a full-length robe of ermine, with an ermine-decked "thunderbird" head-dress, complete with abalone shells.

Chief Assu, representing the Indians of all Canada, wore the eagle costume, with feather head-dress and buckskin coat, heavy with wampum and beads. He carried the speaker's staff of red cedar with the crest of the Kowis, sister of the Thunderbird.

Before the two chiefs presented their petition, they turned a full circle, while Chief Scow swung a rattle to show that the spirit of the Raven was happy.

Watching from the sidelines were two other "chiefs," white-thatched former premier John Hart and his predecessor T. D. Pattullo, complete with a brilliant red rose in his buttonhole.

In proposing Mrs. Hodges as Speaker, Premier Johnson stressed her "very great contribution to the public life of the Province and also in the field of national endeavor, from her activities as an outstanding journalist both in Canada and Great Britain," he said.

Mrs. Hodges went through all the formalities of opening day without a slip. One cabinet minister forgot himself momentarily, however, and addressed her with the time-honored Mr. Speaker.

The Lieutenant-Governor drew up to the Legislative Buildings in a big black limousine, escorted by siren-screaming motorcycle policemen.

The guard of honor was drawn from the 129th Heavy Ack Ack

Battery, R.C.A., under Captain R. R. Cottingham.

The 15-gun salute was fired by the 75th Heavy Ack Ack Regiment in charge of Captain F. D. H. Nelson. Also on hand was the band of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) under Lieutenant Harry Bigsby.

Aides to His Honor were Cmdr. Hew Paterson, Lt.-Col. Brooke Stephenson and Wing Cmdr. Donald Campbell.

## No Surprise Bills Seen During Current Session

By LAWRIE JOSLIN

There was no indication in the Throne Speech that the Government was concealing any surprise pieces of legislation up its sleeve for presentation to the 22nd Legislature.

The Throne Speech was delivered by Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks yesterday as he officially opened the first session of the new Legislature.

### TO TACKLE HOUSING

"There will be placed before you legislation enabling my Government to enter into agreement with the Government of Canada to share responsibility in connection with projects designed to alleviate the existing housing shortage," declared the Lieutenant-Governor. "Concurrently, there will be submitted legislation enabling cities and municipalities to participate with my Government in the housing plans devised by various districts to meet their particular needs."

### UPKEEP OF DIKES

It was promised that the Government would be asked to consider legislation in respect to taxation on E. & N. Railway belt lands; a proposal designed to establish "closer liaison between our native Indians and the Government in all matters coming within the jurisdiction of the Province; legislation to ensure the proper maintenance of the reconstructed diking system in the

Fraser Valley and elsewhere in the province on which public money has been spent with such beneficial results; a bill seeking amendments to the Hospital Insurance Act "with the object of improving administrative procedures."

### AGREEMENT ON HIGHWAY

Lieutenant-Governor Banks said it was the hope of his Government that consideration could be given an agreement between the Dominion and Provincial Governments over construction of a trans-Canada highway, before the end of the session.

"Provision will be asked to assist the University of British Columbia to continue with its building program," he continued.

### TO SEND MESSAGE

The Lieutenant-Governor noted the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation since the Legislature last convened. He said the new Legislature would be asked to frame a suitable message to accompany the mace British Columbia is sending as a gift to the new province.

The Lieutenant-Governor noted with pleasure the smooth course of the recent Dominion-Provincial Conference and welcomed prospects of a similar conference on economic matters slated for next Autumn.

He said it was his hope the new Hope-Princeton Highway would prove of "great economic value" to the province.

## With the Lawmakers

# Comical Gestures of Tom Uphill Liven Formality of House Opening

By FRED McNEIL

Irrepressible Thomas Uphill added a few drolleries to the otherwise stiffly formal opening of the Legislature yesterday.

As leader and sole member of the Labor Party in the House, Uphill always makes a great to-do about having his party caucus before each session.

He takes a delight, when things are too formal or dull, in pulling off some trick strictly against the rules and dignity of the House. Last year he carried a small radio into the Legislature, and members looked about puzzled as to the source of jazz music which mingled with the debate. A sharp frown from the Premier closed off the music.

Uphill gets away with his engaging nonsense as the daddy of the

House. He has been a member longer than anyone else in British Columbia history. He has been undefeated since 1920, a 30-year record.

At 75 he's as effervescent as ever. While members waited in dignified silence for the arrival of the Lieutenant-Governor or whispered to their neighbors, Uphill tossed genial remarks across to the Cabinet benches.

"Hello Herb," he called to Finance Minister Anscomb. "How are you? I'm getting tired of apologizing for that sales tax of yours."

### INAUDIBLE REMARKS

He continued down the line of ministers, making sallies inaudible from the press gallery and concluded with a clear "God bless you all. I love you," just as His Honor was about to enter the Chamber.

When the Premier nominated Mrs. Hodges as Speaker, Uphill gave his personal stamp of approval.

"You used good judgment there," he called across to Mr. Johnson.

Charles Beard, Coalition member for Esquimalt, was absent for the opening. He is in hospital, but is expected to take his seat later this week.

Harold Winch upset some carefully prepared plans laid for Chiefs William Scow and Frank Assu. The chiefs had planned to thank the Government for giving them the vote. Winch insisted that their petitions be changed to read so that they were thanking the entire Legislature, not only the Government.





Newsreel cameramen invaded Legislature for first time, whirl of cameras making it difficult to hear some of speakers. Above is John Foster, National Film Board.

## Yearly Cost Over \$51 Per Person Liquor Profits in B.C. Soar to All-Time High

British Columbia's profit from liquor sales soared to an all-time high of \$18,073,787 for the year ending last March.

This was \$4,573,000 more than the estimate made by the Department of Finance.

Report of the Liquor Control Board filed in the Legislature yesterday also showed that profits were \$1,475,337 above the previous fiscal year.

### ONE-FIFTH OF REVENUE

A cross-check with public accounts showed liquor accounted for more than 20 per cent of the entire \$92,000,000 revenue of the province.

During the year, British Columbians spent a whopping \$56,854,898 on liquor, more than \$51 for every man, woman and child in the province.

Sales in Victoria's two stores to-

taled \$3,995,000. Esquimalt liquor store sales amounted to \$1,029,817.

### MAY LEVEL OFF

Indications are that soaring liquor profits are due to level off this year. A six-month statement for the period ending last September showed profits of \$8,273,979, an increase of only \$150,000 over the previous year.

The Liquor Board statement showed British Columbians have an increasing thirst for "hard" liquor. Sales in this category jumped from \$31,817,731 to \$33,932,138.

Beer sales dropped slightly from \$21,650,000 to \$21,204,000. Wine sales showed little change.

## Pass \$92,000,000 Mark

# Public Accounts Show Government Revenues Up

British Columbia Government revenues for the year ending March, 1949, amounted to a record \$92,000,910, \$14,384,000 more than estimated, according to public accounts filed in the Legislature yesterday by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

Expenditures, however, were \$10,135,000 over estimates.

Net result is that the Finance Department reports an overall surplus of \$5,058,900, which includes carry-

over of unexpended surpluses from previous years.

### INTEREST RISES

During the year the Government spent \$13,010,914 for debt redemption and interest; \$2,023,000 more than was planned.

From previous surpluses the Government spent \$9,270,000, including \$50,000 for the hospital insurance fund, \$562,405 for grants to hospitals, \$182,504 for provincial buildings, \$2,654,170 for school buildings, and \$5,821,722 for roads, bridges and road equipment.

### CAPITAL BORROWING

In addition, \$22,944,000 spent was capital borrowing, including a loan of \$9,500,000 to the B.C. Power Commission.

Gross debt at the year-end was \$184,000,000, up \$18,000,000 from the previous year. Net debt, with allowances made for self-liquidating loans to the B.C. Power Commission, and \$25,799,000 in sinking funds, was \$129,600,000, an increase of \$5,500,000 over the previous year.

## Israel Sends Greetings To Legislature

Greetings from the Parliament of the new state of Israel were read to members of the Provincial Legislature by the Speaker, Mrs. Nancy Hodges, during opening ceremonies yesterday.

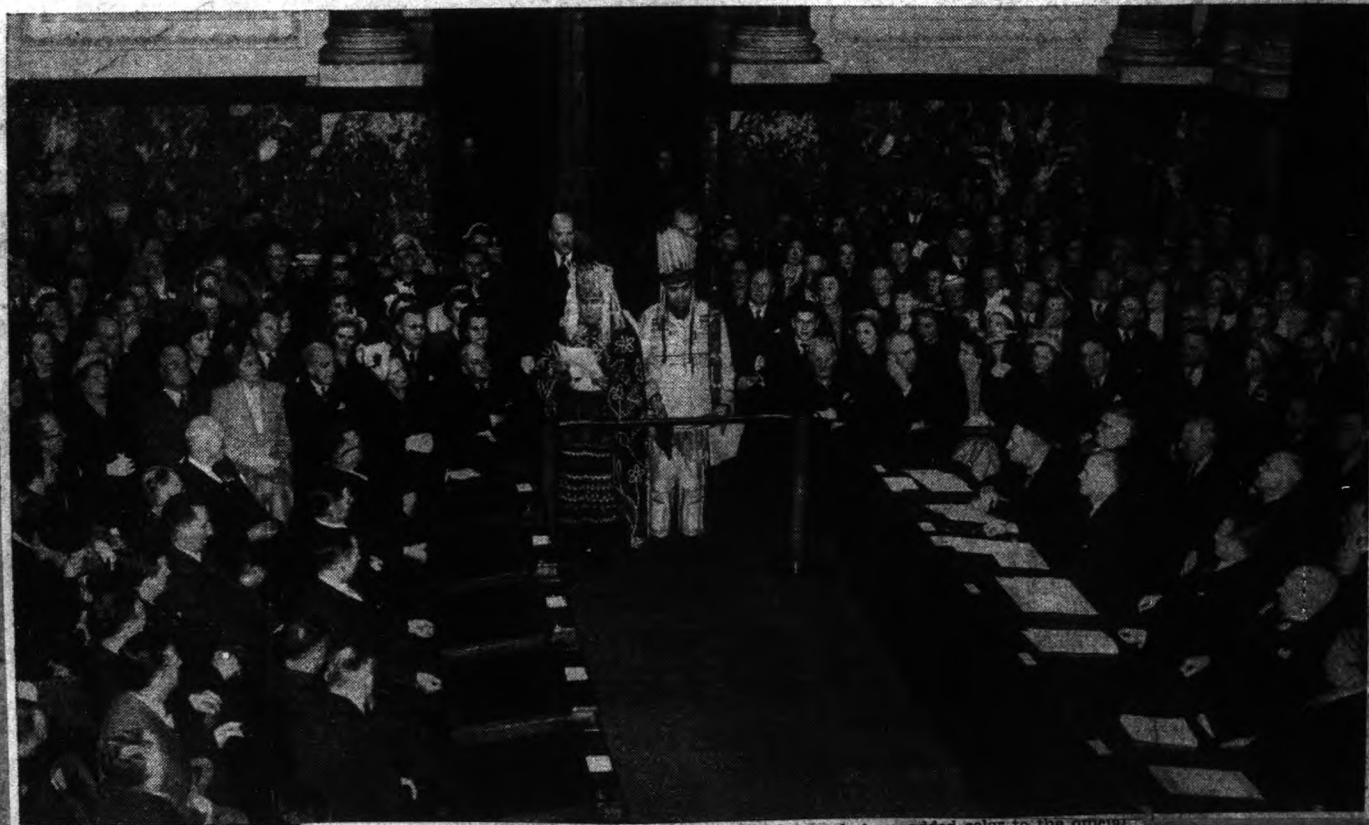
The message was signed by Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the Knesset, and written in Tel Aviv on September 6.

"Ours is a very young state and we are very keen to learn from the example of the Legislative Assemblies which have grown up during the past century in the wide areas of the British Commonwealth of Nations," it stated.

The message was given to Opposition Leader Harold Winch last year for presentation to the new Speaker of the Provincial Legislature. Mr. Winch delivered greetings to the Israel Government from the British Columbia Legislature during the course of a trip to Europe, Africa and Asia.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1950

# Indian Chiefs Present Petitions as Legislature Opens



Presence of two Indian Chiefs, William Scow (left) and Frank Assu, added color to the official opening of the first session of the 22nd British Columbia Legislature yesterday. They presented petitions thanking the Legislature for being the first in Canada to permit Indians to vote. Among the new members of the Legislature was Frank Calder, first native Indian to be elected to a parliament in Canada.

The salute day a ing in Ma I Hun outad await Gover Ins public House For of K ful h It v saw to th Byron Harol the the Britis proac hat w sage Aft to th black spoke tradit to fu assign Gu serve India Cana theol of a some eyes. All cetun mit C Frank of th than the dian The moon full- ermit dress Ch India eגיע dress with carrie cectar sister Bet their circic rattle the Wa Two o forme prece with butize In Speak her public in the from ing Je Great



# Government House Reception Follows Opening



—Colonist Photo by Bud Kinsman.  
His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Charles A. Banks are pictured chatting with Chief William Scow, president of the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia (left), and Chief Frank Assu, president of North American Brotherhood of Indians, at the reception at Government House yesterday afternoon following the opening ceremonies of the B.C. Legislature. Masses of Spring flowers and plants were placed throughout the halls, drawing-room and ballroom for the occasion.



—Colonist Photo by Bud Kinsman.  
Consul for The Netherlands at Vancouver, F. K. L. Coenen Van's Gravesloot and Madame Coenen Van's Gravesloot are pictured with Premier Byron I. Johnson.

Indian Chiefs Present Petitions as Legislature Opens

## Color of Ensembles Worn by Guests Highlight Legislature Ceremonies

Color was the keynote with accents on the new Spring hats of the ensembles worn by feminine guests at the opening ceremony of the 22nd Legislature of British Columbia at the Parliament Buildings yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Banks, wife of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, chose the new dress and jacket ensemble in soft rose pink with matching Quaker cap and fur coat. Later at the reception at Government House, Mrs. Banks pinned a bouquet of violets to the lapel of her jacket and carried a violet chiffon handkerchief.

Mrs. Byron I. Johnson, wife of the Premier, wore a smart grey suit with white pique lapels and smart grey beret trimmed with tiny white flowers.

Central figure of the afternoon's proceedings, Mrs. Nancy Hodges, M.L.A. Speaker, was in a navy ensemble with touches of scarlet.

### BLUE IS POPULAR

A sealskin coat over a soft blue crepe dress and blue hat was the choice of Mrs. Herbert Anscamb. Mrs. E. C. Carson wore a three-quarter length squirrel coat over a navy taffeta dress and pale blue straw bonnet trimmed with pink and blue flowers.

Mrs. H. G. DeWolf was in a dark green crepe dress with same green repeated in the feather of her oyster white hat. A dark squirrel cape completed her ensemble.

Mrs. Gordon S. Wismer wore an attractive two-piece crepe dress, navy blue coat and sable furs. With this she wore an English model white felt hat trimmed with white lillacs.

A tailored black suit was the choice of Mrs. Tilly Rolston, M.L.A. With this she wore a large off-the-face hat with a gardenia corsage.

Navy blue was the choice of Mrs. Norman Whittaker and with which she wore a grey-off-the-face hat trimmed with satin ribbon. Mrs. Paul

Meyers, wife of the United States consul, was also in navy with a natural colored straw hat trimmed with scarlet ribbon and veiling.

### BLACK ENSEMBLES

Mrs. E. T. Kenney's choice was a small straw hat trimmed with double black quills and a fingertip squirrel coat.

A black crepe afternoon dress was chosen by Mrs. John Hart with which she wore a small velvet hat trimmed with ostrich feathers. A moleskin fur cape completed her outfit.

Mrs. Olive, wife of the United States vice-consul, wore black with a small black hat trimmed with pink feathers and a fingertip coat of leopard.

A black afternoon dress was worn by Mrs. R. A. Wootton, over which she wore a wine topcoat trimmed with squirrel collar and a deep pink toque.

Mrs. Percy E. George wore a navy blue dress with navy blue hat fashioned in glazed straw trimmed with blue flowers and a blue coat and squirrel neckpiece.

Mrs. K. C. Drury wore a brown outfit with matching topcoat and small fitted hat trimmed with ostrich plumes. A grey suit with small lime hat trimmed with veiling and fur stole were worn by Mrs. W. T. Straith. Miss Janet Straith chose a grey wool dress with short fur coat and grey accessories.

A wine suit with small black felt hat and fingertip sealskin coat were worn by Mrs. C. H. O'Halloran.

Mrs. H. Bowman was in a soft pink ensemble with off the face pink hat. Her daughter, Mrs. Ean Paterson of North Vancouver wore a suit and hat in toast brown shade.

A pale gold hat of lacy straw and grey suit was the choice of Mrs. James C. Thow and Mrs. Gordon Cameron's pale gold and green tie silk dress was worn with a smart pale gold straw hat trimmed with sprigs of wheat.

A smart white straw hat trimmed with red roses, black suit and fur stole was worn by Mrs. J. L. Cates. An ermine cap with diamante trim, ermine neckpiece and wristlet complemented the black suit worn by Mrs. A. E. Dal Grauer of Vancouver.

A striking example of black dress with black velvet hat with sweeping side feather trim was worn by Madame F. K. L. Coenen Van Gravesloot of Vancouver. Mrs. Don Brown of Vancouver wore a suit of fine beige and brown check and beige hat with dark brown fan pleated trim.

Mrs. Gordon McG. Sloan wore a black suit, fox furs and small black Milan straw hat trimmed with a green rose.



—B.C. Travel Bureau.  
Central figure in the opening ceremonies of the B.C. Legislature yesterday afternoon was Mrs. Nancy Hodges, M.L.A., who was elected Madam Speaker at the proceedings.





—Colonist Photo by Bud Kinsman.  
 Captain and Mrs. J. A. Hobday and Mrs. Byron I. Johnson.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1950

## Redistribution of House Seats Long Overdue, Member Contends

A redistribution of seats in the Legislature was declared "long overdue" yesterday by A. C. Hope (Cln., Delta), in his address seconding the reply to the Speech From the Throne.

"I have made some calculations and find that in your fair city of Victoria there are three members representing 31,900 registered voters—an average in round figures of 10,600 voters to a member," he declared. "In the city of Vancouver there are nine members representing about 220,000 registered voters or an average of 25,000 voters to a member."

He estimated there were 25,000 voters to a member in the Greater Vancouver area and an average of 12,000 voters to a member in the Greater Victoria area.

### REPRESENTS 35,000

"In my own constituency of Delta, I find that I alone represent 35,000 registered voters," continued Mr. Hope. "I quite realize that in some sections of British Columbia the population is very scattered and it would be very difficult to make an equitable comparison, but I do feel the time has come when something must be done to give the people of Delta greater representation in this House, and I ask the Premier to give this matter very serious consideration."

Mr. Hope congratulated Mrs. Nancy Hodges on her appointment as Speaker. He congratulated Premier Byron Johnson, also, on the stand he has taken in Dominion-Provincial problems and the province's housing shortage.

### GRANTS INCREASED

Referring to provincial-municipal relations, Mr. Hope noted that municipalities received some \$3,000,000 through direct and indirect grants from the Province in 1941-42, while in 1949-50 they received an estimated \$21,000,000. Ten years ago the Province assumed only a 60 per cent share of social assistance costs, while today it pays 80 per cent.

"In spite of all this increased help the municipalities still have their problems and this Winter they are having a very definite problem with unemployed employables," asserted the member. He said severe weather conditions were forcing many small farmers in the Fraser Valley out of business, adding the situation "should be looked into immediately" by the Government.

### HIGHWAY BOTTLENECK

Mr. Hope welcomed completion of the Hope-Princeton Highway, but asked for action to overcome a bottleneck between Fry's Corner and the junction of the Trans-Canada and King George Highways. He recalled the Public Works

Minister and the Premier had promised last Autumn a survey for a new crossing over or under the Fraser River between Richmond and Ladner.

Hospital insurance was described by Mr. Hope as "a tremendous undertaking." He admitted "a year or two" would be required "to iron out the rough spots."

"It is a debatable point whether or not it would be better to add another 2 per cent to the sales tax and do away with the collecting of the premiums," he advised.

Mr. Hope suggested that persons receiving war veteran's allowances and dependents might be exempted from paying insurance premiums in the same way as old age pensioners and social service recipients.

The member declared the general picture of agriculture in the Province "is not too bright for the near future."

"The farmers see their export markets slipping away and in some cases completely gone," he stated. "It is bitter medicine to swallow when they see their former market gone in favor of countries who weren't too friendly during the war."

Mr. Hope declared some poultry producers, hog farmers and fruit growers were suffering from the loss of United Kingdom markets.

"The farmers become bitter when they see their prices falling and at

the same time other groups striking for more wages and getting them," commented the member.

*With the Lawmakers*

# Liquor, Motor Taxes \$34,379,000, Sales Levy \$14,335,000 for 1949

Outside of the Federal Government, the drinker was the biggest supporter of the Provincial Treasury for the year ending March, 1949.

He was almost the biggest of the five big pillars which supported more than 85 per cent of a \$92,000,000 money box.

The Federal Government came first with grants and tax rental agreement payments amounting to \$22,970,000. Right behind was the drinker who poured \$18,085,000 into the Provincial Treasury.

**MOTORISTS NEXT**

Breathing hot on the neck of the drinker was the motorist who contributed a whopping \$16,321,000, including \$10,191,000 in gasoline tax and \$6,130,000 in licence fees.

But it looks as if ordinary John Citizen will soon outstrip them all. He gave the Government \$14,335,000 in sales tax for a nine-month period in 1949 and it's estimated he'll pay well over \$20,000,000 in the current year.

Timber sales and royalties ran a poor fifth with contributions of \$7,459,000.

Remainder of the Provincial revenue came in dribbles. Only four other items exceed one million dollars and all were less two millions. There were land registry fees, amusement tax, fuel oil tax and property taxes.

**PROFITS LEVEL OFF**

Liquor profits, the biggest revenue prop within the Province, are starting to level off and this has caused the Finance Department to warn free spenders it's time to pull in the belt a bit on the Government's budgets of the past decade.

Liquor sales for the first six months of the current year were only \$150,000 above last year. Financial experts point out this does not even take care of the increased population and indicates per capita expenditure on liquor is on the down grade.

**DEBATES START SLOWLY**

Debates in the Provincial Legislature got off to a slow start yesterday with a polite speech from A. D. Turnbull, Liberal-side Coalition member from Rossland-Trail. Things livened up a bit when blunt farmer Alex Hope, from the farming community of Delta, took over to second the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Turnbull, an industrialist, apparently thought all was right with the world. Mr. Hope, full of fight and fire, was not so sure.

**STICKS TO FORMULA**

Turnbull stuck to the time-honored formula. He praised the Government on the selection of its two new ministers, John Cates for labor and Harry Bowman for agri-

culture, and added a few nice words for Mrs. Nancy Hodges, the new Speaker.

Turnbull went through the usual long list, congratulating the Government for building roads and bridges, aiding education, developing electric power and being good to old age pensioners, and stressing again the old theme about developing secondary industries. He thought discovery of oil would give British Columbia a tremendous boost and so would a pipeline bringing natural gas to the Coast from Alberta.

Turnbull thought there was little need to worry too much about the hospital insurance plan now that the Government had started to patch it up.

**SEES SATISFACTION**

"I'm very satisfied," he said, "that a large proportion of the people of this province are completely satisfied with this plan."

There were some plugs for his home district, too. Turnbull boasted that it produced 10 per cent of provincial wealth with only two and a half per cent of its population and paid 15 per cent of British Columbia's tax bill to the Dominion as well.

He wanted the Government to co-operate with United States in developing power in the Kootenay and Columbia River Valleys to increase prosperity and to extend the Hope-Princeton road closer to home.

**TURNS TO PROBLEMS**

Alex Hope, after briefer mention of the Government's achievements, got down to business on some of the province's problems. The general picture for agriculture was not too bright, with exports markets slipping, or gone altogether.

"It is bitter medicine to swallow when (farmers) see their former markets gone in favor of countries who were not too friendly to us during the war," he said, and added that farmers sometimes became more bitter still when they saw other groups striking for higher wages and getting them.

Drop in the egg market will mean the ruination of hundreds of small poultry producers, said Hope, and the recently established floor price will not save them.

"Eat another egg a day" should become a national motto, he considered.

**PREDICTS RUIN**

Hope said he had predicted margarine would ruin the dairy industry and that was exactly the way it was turning out. Prices for all milk, except that going to the fluid market, were going down and down.

The hospital plan had been kicked around a lot, said Hope, and it had

some rough spots, but most people were in favor of it in principle. Difficulties in administration could be expected and what scheme so difficult had all the wrinkles ironed out in a year?

To this Finance Minister Anson promptly replied: "The sales tax."

Hope said many people had suggested adding 2 per cent to the sales tax and this might be the solution to the whole problem of hospitals.

Hope wanted the Government to get along with the redistribution of seats in the Legislature. Victoria had one member, for every 10,000 voters, Vancouver one to 25,000, while Mr. Hope himself represented 35,000.

**TO OPPOSE ACT CHANGES**

Plans of the Department of Agriculture to make changes in the Margarine Act will be violently opposed by rural members from farming districts, it was indicated yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Harry Bowman is reported planning to change the act:

1. To permit inspection of plants where margarine is manufactured.
2. To remove the regulations which require "a substitute for butter" to be printed in large letters on every package of margarine.

Members from dairying districts don't want to see the act reopened. They are afraid it may pave the way for removal of some of the present hard-won restrictions.

They argue that there is plenty of authority now for Government inspectors to go into any plant manufacturing a food product. It is suggested now also that the words "a substitute for butter" have little effect on the sale of margarine one way or another, but it would be better to let sleeping dogs lie.

**SEEK "CLOSED SHOP"**

Victoria and Vancouver Real Estate Boards are reported seeking legislation to give them a virtual "closed shop."

So far it's all unofficial, but the story is that board members seek a law to prevent any dealer handling real estate unless he is a member of the board.

Independent dealers, however, are mustering their forces to prevent any such move.

**POWER CONSUMPTION UP**

Consumption of electric power in British Columbia during 1949 was 5 per cent above the previous year, Trade and Industry Minister Leslie Eyles reported yesterday.

Total consumption was 3,601,317,000 kilowatt hours as against 3,436,738,000 for 1948.

Consumption shows an increase of 100 per cent since 1938.

**WILL WATCH HOUSING**

In one of his many deviations from a prepared address, Mr. Hope let it be known he would be keeping a watchful eye on new Dominion-Provincial housing legislation. He said he didn't want municipalities to find themselves "out on a limb," the precarious position into which they were enticed by what he called the "better housing deal" framed at the end of the Great War.

Mr. Hope appeared a trifle confused over his linear measurements when he asked the Government to widen an "18-inch" section of the old Pacific Highway between Fry's Corner and the junction of the Trans-Canada and King George Highways.

Amused members informed him the section was 18 feet in width.

**INDIANS WELCOMED**

A. J. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East), wanted to know why the Government failed to nominate "a couple" of Indian candidates in last year's elections, putting his question direct to Mr. Hope as he welcomed the Indian member to the Opposition benches of the Legislature.

He didn't get an answer.

As Mr. Hope lauded the efforts of Premier Johnson at the recent Dominion-Provincial conference, he suddenly bristled at a whispered remark which he apparently took to be a criticism of the Premier.

J. J. A. Gillis (Cln., Yale), rose red-faced to pour oil on troubled waters. The remark he made had been misunderstood, he explained. He had no intention of criticising the Premier.



## With the Lawmakers

## Opposition Leader Restrained in House

Yesterday was Winch day in the Legislature. Traditionally, as first speaker from the Opposition side, the leader of the C.C.F. spouted scorn on the Government and set the pattern of party policy.

Unless Mr. Winch is keeping a lock up his sleeve, it looks as though he's going to catch few headlines. As if apologizing for his own restrained performance, Winch complained that the Throne Speech and the first two Government speakers were so vague that they left the Opposition completely in the dark on Government plans.

## SEEKS HOSPITAL DATA

With an air of judicial moderation he suggested the Government should table correspondence and reports on the hospital scheme so that members could understand what the fuss was all about. As a long-standing friend of Hon. George Pearson, he was sure the minister wasn't to blame for the muddle. The trouble probably lay in his department.

Winch was amazed that the Government hadn't mentioned unemployment in the Throne Speech and went on with the contention of private enterprise failing to prevent unemployment except through capitalist wars.

Winch spent most of his time tweaking the political noses of Government benchers, particularly about the "shotgun marriage" of Conservatives and Liberals.

"How's the marriage making out?" he called across the floor.

"Fine!" said the Premier.

## SEES CAUSE FOR WORRY

Winch pointed out the Liberals could now control the House and he thought that was why Tory Chief Anscomb was looking so worried these days.

"We've never been able to hang you together," he taunted. "But when you separate we'll hang you separately—and on the same day."

He charged the Government had won the last election by a campaign of fear, a despicable campaign, and the worst offender was Mr. Anscomb, aided and abetted by Attorney-General Wismer.

"Do you blame us?" cracked

Wismer. "If we had you, we'd be ruined industrially."

"Yes," said Winch, "and 24 hours after you were elected pulp mills were closing. If that had happened to us, what newspaper headlines there would have been."

He warned the Government not to get too satisfied about the election victory. There were still 245,000 voters who thought private enterprise was a washout and the C.C.F. was still tops in individual party support.

## TO START COLLECTING

The C.C.F., said Winch, had been trying to tell the Government for 16 years that it should be getting tax money from the vast E. & N. Railway holdings on Vancouver Island and always the Government side had said it was impossible. And now at long last, the Government was going to pay some attention and start collecting.

After a graceful compliment to Mrs. Nancy Hodges as the first lady Speaker, he urged her not to pay too much attention in her rulings to the precedents established by mere men in guaranteeing the rights of private members.

## URGES INDIANS' RIGHTS

C.C.F. Leader Winch took to the warpath for the Redskins in the Legislature yesterday.

He wanted, first of all, to correct some misunderstandings among members of the House.

Frank Calder (C.C.F., Atlin), first native Indian M.L.A., did not represent the Indians in the Legislature. He represented all the people of Atlin district, said Winch.

The presence of an Indian member gave the Legislature added responsibility to see that there was only one kind of citizen in Canada, not first-class citizens and second-class citizens.

Calder, as things stood now, was an M.L.A. in the House, a second-class citizen outside, deprived of pensions, social welfare and many other things enjoyed by first-class citizens.

The Government, said Winch, should press Ottawa for a bill of rights to make all citizens equal.

## RABBITS FROM HATS

Opposition Leader Winch began his address on the Throne Speech yesterday by informing fellow M.L.A.'s that he was going to deliver his address "extemporaneously."

Then, with all the relish of a magician about to pull some rabbits out of a hat, he went even further to say that since he had no prepared address, not even "the Press" knew what he was about and would have to remain in the gallery to record his observations.

"Oh yeah," cried doubtful members.

"We heard something on the radio," observed the Premier.

But "the Press" did remain in the gallery until the Opposition Leader had finished throwing barbs at the Government. The public galleries were well-filled too.

## A LESSON IN HISTORY

Government benchers, often either amused or annoyed by Winch, were most quiet when he subjected them to a history lesson.

The Opposition Leader noted with "sincere regret" that the Throne Speech made no reference "to this centenary year of government at Victoria."

Winch explained that "what is known as Government" was established in British Columbia on March 11, 1850, by Richard Blanshard, Governor of Vancouver Island.

Hope was expressed by the Opposition Leader that before the current session concludes "some recognition of this most important historical event will be recorded."

"Maybe as Socialists we are a little more sentimental," he commented. The contention lost itself in a chorus of derisive laughter.

## VERBAL SALVOS

Winch's show of contempt for the Coalition and his optimistic view

of his own C.C.F. drew numerous verbal salvos from Government benchers.

Referring in particular to A. D. Turnbull (Lib.-Cln., Rossland-Trail), who opened debate on the Throne Speech, Mr. Winch found it unfortunate that the member did not have a party or movement that represented anything.

"Oh no, Harold," cried Government benchers.

## CLAIMS C.C.F. SUPPORT

Winch claimed there was heavy popular support behind the C.C.F. despite the fact that the number of party members in the 1950 Legislature had slipped back to seven, the same number of C.C.F.-ers who sat in the 1933 House.

"In 1933 we were seven and today we are seven," he observed.

"You're in a rut," interrupted a Government member.

"To a remark like that I'm stone deaf," asserted Winch.

## SOME AMUSEMENT

Premier Johnson and Attorney-General Wismer, both Liberals, exchanged glances and chuckled quietly when Winch read the House part of a newspaper account of a Burnaby meeting addressed by Finance Minister Anscomb, a Conservative.

Winch stated "non-Socialists" had been invited to attend the meeting.

Then, quoting the report, Winch advised that "icy roads" had been seen as the reason for only "50 people" turning out to hear Anscomb when an "expected attendance of 300" had been forecast.

## Remarks

## Sales Tax at 3 Per Cent Is More Than Enough

THE trouble with imposts such as British Columbia's 3 per cent sales tax is that they provide too easy a means of raising revenue. However much they may protest, consumers have to pay up and merchants are compelled to collect, while the Government has little to do but sit back and receive. As with most forms of new taxation the main body of the public, though it may kick and grumble at the start, soon becomes used to adding a few extra cents for the Treasury to the prices paid for taxable goods.

It is then that an inherent danger in this form of revenue raising becomes apparent. As the millions roll in without much effort on the part of the Administration, someone inevitably conceives the idea that even more millions would accrue from just a little increase in the tax. The public that pays 3 per cent without protesting too loudly might submit to 5 per cent, some argue. Debate in the Legislature was scarcely an hour old

before the member seconding the Address in Reply suggested just that. Adding 2 per cent to the sales tax, he said, might be the solution to the whole problem of hospital finance.

The provincial hospital insurance scheme is a form of social security that should be self-supporting. It is weakened in principle the moment it has to turn to the general revenue for support beyond what may be necessary to carry those whose means are too slender for the payment of premiums. Leaving that aspect of the matter aside, however, a sales tax is a bad tax because it takes no account of ability to pay, and bears more heavily proportionately on those who are hardest pressed. The Coalition Government is taking enough as it is in levying the 3 per cent tax. It should resist any efforts, in the House or from outside, to pile the burden by taking another two cents out of the retail dollar.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1950

## Asks Reports Tabled On Hospital Scheme

In a mild attack on the administration of the hospital insurance scheme yesterday Harold Winch asked the Government to table all correspondence between Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson and Dr. J. M. Hershey, former commissioner, who resigned in February.

Speaking in the Throne Speech debate in the Legislature yesterday the C.C.F. leader also asked that all reports in connection with the scheme be tabled so that members could understand what had gone wrong.

### GREAT DEAL OF DOUBT

There is a great deal of doubt and perhaps misunderstanding about the administration plan, said Winch, but, even if the Government was not as good at business as it thought it was, hospital insurance was still a good principle. It was here to stay and should be extended to include health insurance.

He said the Government had spent \$241,888 investigating health schemes since 1932 and added:

"We want to know why this mix-up after all this money was spent planning it."

Cried Dr. J. J. Gillis, (Oln.-Yale) the only doctor in the House: "It's a shame."

### SOMETHING HAYWIRE

Something was "haywire," said Winch, and he didn't think it was the Minister.

Winch expressed surprise that the Government hadn't said anything

about unemployment in the Throne Speech. There were 54,000 unemployed in British Columbia at the end of January and to say it was all seasonal was no answer. There were thousands drawing no unemployment insurance.

He acknowledged that unemployment was primarily a Federal problem and urged that Ottawa be asked to do something.

### PREMIER PROTESTS

This brought Premier Byron Johnson to his feet to state that the Dominion had spent \$6,600,000 in unemployment insurance and family allowances in the province in the past two months.

Premier Johnson said he wasn't suggesting this was the answer to the whole problem, but it was a lot different from the "tidbits."

The Premier thought 95 per cent of those unemployed would have jobs to go to as soon as weather permitted.

"Do you realize what you're saying?" asked Winch.

When the Premier replied "yes," E. E. Winch (C.C.F.-Burnaby) chimed in to say, "Then you don't understand the situation."

## Premier Discusses Program

In sharp contrast to a year ago Premier Byron Johnson's speech to the Legislature yesterday disclosed few important departures from present Government policy.

A year ago he announced the hospital insurance plan and outlined a program for spending \$90,000,000 for roads, bridges, public buildings, P.G.E. improvement, and power development.

Yesterday he told the House how the program was progressing and pointed to some changes.

Most important were the proposed construction of a rail link instead of a highway between Vancouver and Squamish for the P.G.E., building of a Fraser River crossing and terminus at Prince George.

### FULL OVERHAUL

He made it clear that the efficiency survey which has been completed in the Motor Vehicle Branch will be extended to a full-scale overhaul of the entire Government service.

He staunchly defended Hon. George Pearson's administration of the hospital plan, saying "the best men in the world" would have run into difficulties.

Departing from his prepared text he delivered a slashing attack on C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch for "casting aspersions" on Canada's contribution to world welfare.

The Premier outlined plans for new housing legislation, touched on the growing interest in oil prospecting in British Columbia, and expressed confidence that the Aluminum Company of Canada would build a plant here.

The Government program of constructing arterial roads throughout the province would be continued.

Mr. Johnson said the Province would borrow another \$10,000,000 to pay half the cost of new school buildings this year.

## Describes New Plan For P.G.E.

Two major changes in plans for extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway were outlined yesterday by Premier Byron Johnson in his policy speech to the Legislature.

They were construction of a rail link instead of the proposed road between Squamish and Vancouver and construction of a bridge over the Fraser at Prince George and a terminal at the same point instead of the former plan of using the C.N.R. crossing.

Final decision on the Squamish-Vancouver link will not be made until surveys now under way on both road and rail routes are completed, the Premier said.

It would do away with costly barge service between the two points, increase earnings by greater passenger and freight traffic between the two points, provide a link to the north with the Canadian Pacific at Vancouver and the Great Northern Railway and other United States lines.

Dealing with changed plans for crossing the Fraser River at Prince George and building a terminal to the west of central Fort George, the Premier said it was thought the terminus should be under control of the railway.

He went on:

"It is inevitable that there will be over an extended period a large movement of freight over the C.P.R., Great Northern Railway and other United States lines destined for Prince George area and the north, and in the opinion of the directors, the best interests of the Pacific Great Eastern would be served by having its own freight yards and terminal in Prince George."

"I may also point out that it is the policy of this government to extend the line from Prince George to Dawson Creek . . ."



*With the Lawmakers*

# Johnson Says B.C. Will Co-Operate In Any Reasonable Housing Effort

Premier Byron Johnson told the Legislature yesterday that his Government had assured Federal authorities of co-operation "in any reasonable effort which was made to break the back of the housing shortage."

"The Government proposes to introduce housing legislation at this season enabling the province to enter into agreements with the Dominion Government and the various cities and municipalities throughout British Columbia," declared the Premier.

Though no details of the legislation were given it is expected to enable the province to participate in the broad scheme already announced whereby Provincial Governments guarantee housing loans to an extent of 25 per cent, the Federal Government, 75 per cent, and municipalities are left the responsibility of assembling land and services.

### PROVIDE MEDIUM

"The proposals which are embodied in the amendments to the National Housing Act, passed at the last session of Parliament, in my opinion, provide the medium by which to build the homes that may be required," declared Premier Johnson.

He advised that municipal governments had been asked to make surveys and report their housing requirements to the province.

"It is the intention that the house in each project will be available for purchase or rental, the rent being established at as low a level as construction and maintenance costs will permit," stated Premier Johnson.

"Every encouragement will be given to home ownership," he added.

### DIKE CONTROL

The Legislature will be asked to give the Government over-riding authority to maintain dikes in the province where dike districts are negligent in this work, Premier Byron Johnson informed the Legislature yesterday.

The districts will be charged up with the work done by the province.

The Premier stressed that \$11,500,000 had been spent in the Fraser Valley since the great 1948 flood and the total dike investment was now \$18,000,000. Another \$1,000,000 had been spent elsewhere in the province.

One of the major factors contributing to the 1948 flood was the serious neglect of dike maintenance by property owners in the protected areas. Since then, the Federal Government had paid 75 per cent of the reconstruction bill and had insisted, as part of its agreement, that dikes be properly maintained.

### WEST TO EAST

A mace to be presented to Canada's newest province, Newfoundland, by the Government of British Columbia will be ready for delivery in March, Premier Johnson told the Legislature yesterday.

The Legislature will be asked to

pass a resolution, to accompany the gift, expressing British Columbia's welcome to the New Province.

### TO OVERHAUL SERVICE

Entire British Columbia Government service will be overhauled, Premier Byron Johnson told the Legislature yesterday.

The Government will hire experts in management and administrative procedures to survey Government departments one by one.

Mr. Johnson referred to the survey which has been conducted by Kellogg and Stevenson in the Motor Vehicle Branch, as a result of which the Government will make changes, including amendments to present legislation, which would result in "substantial savings."

"It is the intention of the Government," the premier added, "to review the entire Government service, to take advantage of any savings which can be made by modernizing our accounting and general office procedures."

Forecast some time ago, the move is regarded as part of the general Government campaign to tighten up on expenditures in anticipation of the day when revenues will no longer rocket upwards each year.

### WANT ACT REPEALED

A five-man delegation of Mount Garibaldi Playground Committee members met the Provincial Cabinet yesterday to ask repeal of the "obsolete" Garibaldi Park Act of 1927.

The delegation want the park placed under control of the parks and recreational division of the Department of Lands and Forests.

They declared "a poor man's Switzerland" was lying undeveloped and unused within 75 miles of the City of Vancouver because the park board charged with the duty of administering Garibaldi has "neither the funds nor the energy" to manage the area properly.

Members of the delegation included Dr. Bert Brink, Natural History Society of Vancouver; William Tildesley, Natural History Society of Victoria; Donald Buchanan, Van-

couver Community Planning section; Roy Howard, British Columbia Mountaineering Club; Dr. Neil Carter, Vancouver branch of the Alpine Society of Canada.

## Eight Standing Committees Of B.C. Legislature Selected

Select standing committees of the Legislature were named yesterday as follows:

On standing orders and private bills: C. W. Morrow (Cln. North Okanagan), Dr. J. J. Gillis (Cln. Yale), Thomas King (Cln. Columbia), Mrs. T. J. Rolston (Cln. Vancouver-Point Grey), D. C. Brown (Cln. Vancouver-Burrard), A. J. McDonell (Cln. Vancouver Centre), L. F. Stevenson (Cln. Vancouver-Point Grey), A. R. MacDougall (Cln. Vancouver-Point Grey), J. G. Gould (Cln. Vancouver-Burrard), S. J. Smith (Cln. Kamloops), A. MacLean (Cln. Cariboo), H. E. Winch (C.C.F. Vancouver East), A. J. Turner (C.C.F. Vancouver East), F. A. Calder (C.C.F. Atlin).

Public accounts and printing: MacDougall, King, W. A. C. Bennett (Cln. South Okanagan), McDonell, A. M. Whisker (Cln. Cowichan-Newcastle), A. W. Lundell (Cln. Revelstoke), Smith, H. E. Winch, R. W. Hagen (C.C.F. Grand Forks-Greenwood), Turner.

Mining and railways: Gillis, H. J. Welch (Cln. Comox), G. E. Braden (Cln. Peace River), Lundell, A. D. Turnbull (Cln. Rossland-Trull), Thomas Uphill (Lab. Fernie), James Mowat (Cln. Alberni), E. E. Winch (C.C.F. Burnaby), Hagen, Randolph Harding (C.C.F. Kaslo-Slocan).

Agriculture: King, A. C. Hope (Cln. Delta), Stevenson, A. E. Ritchie (Cln. Salmon Arm), C. T. Beard (Cln. Esquimalt), Bennett, MacLean, M. P. Finnerty (Cln. Similkameen), R. C. Steele (Cln. Omineca), Braden, E. E. Winch, Harding, Hagen.

Municipal matters: Hope, Bennett, Morrow, Ritchie, Brown, Arthur Ash (Cln. Saanich), Walter Hendricks (Cln. Nelson-Creston), Finnerty, D.

J. Proudfoot (Cln. Victoria City), H. E. Winch, Turner, Hagen, I. T. Nimsick (C.C.F. Cranbrook).  
Forestry and fisheries: Welch, Stevenson, Beard, Whisker, B. M. MacIntyre (Cln. Mackenzie), Hendricks, Steele, J. D. McRae (Cln. Prince Rupert), E. E. Winch, Calder, Nimsick.  
Labor: Gillis, McDonell, Welch, MacDougall, Brown, Whisker, MacLean, MacIntyre, Uphill, E. E. Winch, Turner, Nimsick.  
Social welfare and education: Mrs. Rolston, Ash, MacIntyre, Proudfoot, Gould, Turnbull, McRae, Mowat, E. E. Winch, Harding and Calder.

## Mr. Winch Makes a Pertinent Point

AT about the time Mr. Harold Winch was citing the new C.C.F. member for Atlin as an example of the need for a new deal for the native population of Canada, the Throne Speech of the Federal Parliament was promising that something of the kind would be forthcoming through amendments to the Indian Act. The Leader of the Provincial Opposition was perhaps taking advantage of the opportunity to score politically, but that does not rob his argument of its undoubted point.

Mr. Frank Calder illuminates the anomalous treatment meted out to members of his race. As a member of the Legislature he has all the rights of the highest governing group of this province, superior in some ways to those of the ordinary non-parliamentary citizens. Yet the moment he steps outside the Legislature he is subject

to restrictions that make his status inferior to that of the normal British Columbian. He may represent the citizens of his constituency, but he is barred from enjoying all of their privileges.

Nothing in connection with Indian welfare has crystallized the native son's inequitable role as has the election of Mr. Calder. It should add force to such representations as the British Columbia Government may see fit to make to Federal authorities, who at long last seem prepared to remedy existing legislation that denies the native Indian rights and opportunities granted to other Canadians. Mr. Calder's membership in the Legislature offers proof that members of his race can take an equal place in the society of the nation if given a chance to do so.

## Hospital Plan Benefits May Be Cut, Training Cost Borne, Premier Hints

Possible curtailment of benefits and direct payment of the cost of training nurses were hinted by Premier Byron I. Johnson yesterday as probable changes in the hospital insurance scheme.

The Premier gave no definite statement of the changes to be made, indicating they will be outlined by Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson.

He did, however, give some intimation of what the Government had in mind.

"I'm not satisfied that all the things now chargeable to hospital insurance should be charged," he said. "We are going to take whatever action is necessary. If it is necessary to spend \$2,000,000 a year to train nurses, we will do it."

### BIG FACTOR

Increased wages in hospitals had been a big factor in increased costs, but it still must be remembered that hospital workers are entitled to equal treatment with other occupations, the Premier said.

He went on:

"Another major factor in respect to the heavy drain on hospital insurance revenues has been the wide scope of services given the citizens of British Columbia from the very outset. . . . I venture to say that nowhere else on this continent is so wide a hospital service given for so reasonable a premium.

### MUST BE STUDIED

"All of these services must be examined in order to bring about modifications that will be necessary to improve the plan."

Later the Premier said: "We must also keep in mind that to maintain these exclusive services requires an understanding on the part of the citizens that revenue must be sufficient to meet costs."

He asked the Legislature to remember, in judging the success or otherwise of the plan, that it had been in operation only a year and

that it was a "difficult and onerous task."

One of the big reasons for introducing the plan, said the Premier, was that two years ago a delegation representing Vancouver General, Jubilee and Royal Columbian Hospitals, had informed him that, unless the Government could put up an additional \$1,100,000, some of the hospitals would have to close. Collections were running only 65 per cent, rates were being increased sharply, increasing the difficulty of collection, and bills for supplies had been unpaid for months.

### MOSTLY ACHIEVED

The insurance plan had gone a long way to meet the financial problems of hospitals. The second objective, to provide a reasonable degree of security for the people

against hospital bills "has in large measure been achieved," said the Premier.

During 1949, 170,000 accounts totaling \$15,000,000 had been paid for an average length of stay of 10.13 days. A total of 1,800 accounts amounting to \$115,000 has been paid for British Columbia citizens outside the province for service received in all parts of Canada, the United States, Mexico, Australia, South Africa and Ireland.

"I feel sure we can say," said Mr. Johnson, "and I am not unmindful of the fact that there is still a shortage of beds, that we have given to the people of the province a degree of security as far as hospital bills are concerned and the financial position of our hospitals is in much better shape than before the Hospital Insurance service came into effect."

## Eyres Stresses Value Of "Visitor Industry"

Yesterday was "tourist promotion" day in Victoria.

Highlight of the day was the annual meeting of the Victoria and Island Publicity Bureau at the Empress Hotel, where Hon. Leslie Eyres, Minister of Trade and Industry for British Columbia, told of the growing importance of the "visitor industry."

During the morning, executive members of the Evergreen Playground Association—comprising Victoria, Vancouver, Seattle and Tacoma—held a special meeting to discuss the 1950 advertising and promotional program.

Twenty-eight members of the Vancouver Tourist Association chartered a special Trans-Canada Air Lines plane to attend the luncheon meeting at the Empress.

At the Publicity Bureau's annual meeting Mr. Eyres said "few people realize the work being done by the Government of British Columbia in promoting the tourist industry in this province."

"Last year," he stated, "about 1,250,000 persons visited British Columbia—well over the population of the province." It is estimated they spent "some \$53,000,000."

"The visitor business is everybody's business."

He claimed at least 80 per cent of the people who visited British

Columbia last year came as a result of various advertisements displayed throughout the Dominion and the United States.

The Government of British Columbia, Mr. Eyres said, was advertising this province and its scenic beauties to an almost unbelievable extent through the medium of national newspapers and magazines, distribution of films, and travel folders. There were also special "field men" making continual contact with travel bureaus and various transportation agencies.

The luncheon meeting also included the showing of two color films by Clarence Ferris of the British Columbia Travel Bureau. Both dealt with scenery attractions of the province.

Each of the Vancouver Tourist Association members—headed by President H. S. Hipwell—wore a daffodil in his lapel button-hole. In addition, the Vancouverites presented W. L. Woodhouse, president of the Victoria and Island Publicity Bureau, with a large bouquet of the yellow blooms.

The gesture was returned when Mayor Percy George, on behalf of the publicity bureau, presented the Vancouver group with a large bundle of almost-blossoming Oriental plum branches—"picked from the boulevards of the city this morning."



Side Glances . . .

## From the Press Gallery

By FRED McNEIL

PREMIER Johnson was almost apologetic when he handed copies of his policy speech to the press last week.

"It's not much like last year," he said, as reporters assembled in his big office. He talked mainly about his dreams for the old P.G.E., explaining the background of the decision to link Squamish and Vancouver by rail and build a terminal to Prince George.

It wasn't a policy speech so much as a progress report on the big program laid out by the Government before the June election.

It appears most attention this year will be centred on Mr. Pearson and Finance Minister Anscob. Anscob will get a lot of attention, because he'll tell us how much money the Government is going to spend and because everyone will be watching him closely for signs of a break with the Liberals.

For some months past, Mr. Anscob has been junketing about the Province repairing party fences. He tells his followers that, federally, the Liberal tide will turn and it will turn provincially, too. Most of his followers seem to agree with him, but want him to go slowly.

Even the Liberals are agreed with him on one point—that it will be a good day for British Columbia when government returns to the old two-party system, with the C.C.F. pushed permanently into the background.

\* \* \*

Mr. Anscob is a study in contrasts. In the House he sits, chin in hand, silent as a sphinx, his drab business suit livened up with brilliant yellow socks. He's the favorite target of the C.C.F. but rarely rises to the bait. He just grins. When he does say something it's usually that the C.C.F. don't understand finances or business and it's a waste of time trying to educate them. He complains the C.C.F. are always trying to get the Government to spend more money but never tell the people that it's the public that pays the shot.

Often in the House, he puts on his spectacles and signs letters or reads documents. He appears to be paying no attention to the debates, but always

seems to catch what's said when it matters.

When the House adjourns, he bolts to the door, lights up a cigar, and goes charging down the corridor, spewing smoke like a locomotive under forced draft.

He's a strictly teetotal wine manufacturer. The so-called spokesman for big business, he drives a small Plymouth coupe. A prosperous businessman in his own right, he occupies a comfortable but modest home overlooking Oak Bay golf course.

He's most often pictured as the hard-shelled, cold-hearted businessman, but the people who work for him in the Finance Department and formerly in the Public Works think he's wonderful. They say he's never pompous, never roars out orders, is considerate, courteous and kind.

In the Legislature, these days, he rarely joins in the debate, seems at times to look with contempt on so many words to so little effect. His budget speech is dispassionate, concise and clear and always contains a warning about spending more than is being earned.

On the hustings he's a dynamic, rip-snorting campaigner, never at loss to demolish a heckler with a sharp retort. Some people say he has no political judgment. Too often he says exactly what he thinks, instead of beating about the bush, like most successful politicians nowadays. This sometimes places him far out on a political limb.

He isn't the type to sit down and talk about his political philosophy. But from his speeches it's obvious he thinks Canada became one of the world's richest countries through the independent spirit, hard work, thrift and courage of the man who wanted to make a place for himself and his children. Too much government bureaucracy and too many taxes, he thinks, will ruin the qualities that made us rich and turn the people into fawning, spiritless, thrifless folk, always expecting something for nothing. He's old fashioned that way. He thinks the best way for nations or individuals to get along in the world is to work hard and be thrifty.

## Car Plates To Serve Five Years

British Columbia motorists may soon have a lot less trouble remembering their car licence plate numbers.

Plans are under way to have plates serve for five years by the addition of a small plate annually to change the figure showing the year.

Present plates will be changed to serve at least for 1951. After that, it's expected they will be issued for five-year periods. This is similar to the system practised in many states across the border.

Five years has been found to be about the maximum period that plates will stand up to weathering and still remain legible.

Changes to the Motor Vehicle Act will be introduced by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer along with other amendments designed to cut the cost of operating the motor vehicle branch.

# House Settles to Routine Tasks As Glamour of Opening Fades

The first flush of glamour that attends each opening of the Legislature has already taken a quick sag into sleepy routine. The public galleries were half empty yesterday, and the attention of members had already begun to wander, though it was only the fifth day of the session.

Everybody seemed agreed that there would be little fireworks this year.

As the debate on the Throne Speech droned on, members suddenly remembered the page boys, and began sending notes back and forth, or tiring of this, turned to chat with their neighbors.

### THREE SPEAKERS

There were three speeches during the afternoon.

A. R. MacDougall (Cln., Vancouver-Point Grey), former Rhodes scholar, now a lawyer, who likes the sound of rich, rolling periods, led off.

He advised the House that appointment of Mrs. Hodges as speaker was not so much a precedent after all, because "woman is the speaker in every house."

He congratulated Frank Calder, the new Indian C.C.F. member, but felt sure "he is worthy of representing a better cause than that which has brought him hence."

A Conservative, MacDougall admonished the Liberals not to get too frisky about their new-found strength in the House. He reminded them that every Government member had been nominated as a Coalition member, and had been elected by the full-fledged support of both parties.

### TAUNTS C.C.F.

He taunted the C.C.F. a little, saying he could not regret that they "who were seven, are not now 11, thus reversing the prayer of those who are skilled in a certain game of chance."

At the same time he paid the C.C.F.ers an indirect compliment by admitting that analysis of the vote made Coalition imperative as a

safeguard against the destroyers of free enterprise.

Two more new members, J. D. McRae (Cln., Prince Rupert) and Walter Hendrick (Cln., Nelson-Creston), described the wonders of their home districts.

Before this session is over it looks as if the members are going to find hardly a spot in British Columbia doesn't lay claim to the title of "tourist paradise."

McRae and Hendricks both claimed the title yesterday.

### DESCRIBES NORTH

The House listened indulgently while McRae, 34-year-old naval veteran, spent 20 minutes describing the great north, urged better roads and a Coast Guard service.

Mindful of his Indian constituents, he pointed out they paid sales tax and should receive the full rights of citizenship including the full \$50 old age pension instead of their present \$17 monthly.

He was blunt about not wanting the Japanese back in the coastal fisheries. Natives had taken their place, had kept fishery production at a peak during the war, and to bring the Japanese back now would mean displacing local folk.

### MODERATE PROPOSALS

Hendricks, after describing his home ground as "nature's greatest playground—a truly great riding, turned to the tough Doukhobor problems and brought up some surprisingly moderate proposal for a member in the midst of the terrorist belt.

Less than 1,000 of 15,000 Doukhobors were responsible for all the trouble, a group of wild fanatics, he said. In 50 years they had cost governments \$10,000,000 had burned or partially destroyed 52 schools, had cost more than \$100,000 to police for three months last year.

Irrespective of their religious beliefs, he felt, fanatics should be treated as criminals. But imprisonment was not the solution to the whole problem. It only made martyrs. Every doukhobor child should

be given a full education and every adult should be given the vote—then hundreds would be assimilated and become good citizens. He reminded the House that all Doukhobors, good citizens or otherwise, were now deprived of the vote, unless they had served in the armed services.

He warned it was only a miracle that recent violence was not met by counter-violence in the bombings.

### GETS CONGRATULATIONS

When he completed his maiden address, fellow-members directed a flurry of congratulatory notes in the direction of McRae, youthful member for Prince Rupert.

The page boys were kept hopping for a while.

A veteran of House debates, MacDougall did not need so much encouragement. Finance Minister Anascomb sent a note across to the member for Vancouver-Point Grey, however. They are both Conservatives under their Coalition cloak.

The House adjourned immediately following Hendrick's address. Members signified approval for what he had said by loudly thumping the tops of their desks. There wasn't time left in which to pen notes to this new member.

### MINISTER ABSENT

Works Minister Carson was absent during Mr. MacDougall's references to Provincial roads and bridges.

### WOULD SELL FISH

When he wound up his address, McRae pulled a can of salmon out of his desk and asked permission to give it to Premier Johnson.

He said he wanted the Premier to take this product of West Coast fisheries to London with him when he leaves next month to attend the conference of the Timber Trade Federation.

The Premier told members last Friday he intended to sell British Columbia timber while in London. Mr. McRae wants him to sell the Province's fisheries, too.

## Long-Term Licence Plates Save Time and Money

**M**ORE than two hundred thousand owners of motor vehicles in British Columbia now replacing expired licence plates may have their irritation salved somewhat by reports that they will be relieved of the chore next year. If the reports are confirmed by amendment to the statute during the current session of the Legislature, car registration numbers now being issued will be valid for two years, and new plates thereafter will not have to be replaced for five years.

Such a change in policy will make British Columbia the first province in Canada to introduce a system of long-term licence plates that several of the United States have had in force for some years and that have been advocated here in recent years. The plan seems to have everything to commend it.

Records of the Motor Vehicle Office should be simplified substantially, with consequent saving in administrative cost. Over a period of five years there will be a saving of several hundred tons of steel which, besides being high in price, is nearly always in short supply. From the motorist's point of view it should not take as long to renew the licence at the office wicket; plates once affixed will not have to be removed again for five years; and it will no longer be necessary to memorize new numbers every twelve months.

It seems a pity that action along the lines now contemplated could not have been taken long ago. The throwing away every February of hundreds of tons of steel plates with years of life in them has been a wasteful procedure.



**Attacks Hospital Scheme****Asserts Hasty Plan Cause of Deficits**

Sharp attack on British Columbia's hospital insurance plan was leveled in the Legislature yesterday by one of the Government's own supporters, A. R. MacDougall (Cin., Vancouver-Point Grey).

MacDougall started off by saying he understood the financial difficulties of hospitals which had caused the Government to embark on the scheme.

"Nevertheless," he said, "I cannot but think the scheme was too hastily conceived, which accounts in large measure for the position in which the Government now finds itself.

**MORE STUDY NEEDED**

"More study should have been given to the questions of premiums and administration generally, and more advantage taken of actuarial figures then available. I cannot but feel . . . that it should have, from the outset, been apparent that benefits under the Government plan could not possibly be given for the premiums set, unless a substantial loss was to be suffered."

MacDougall plainly intimated he didn't think the difficulties could be dismissed by the Government claiming hospital costs had risen. Hospitals were by no means unique in that respect, he said.

It was too late to argue the point now, said MacDougall, but he felt the scheme could have been handled efficiently by private enterprise. He warned that the Coalition Government had boasted of its championship of free enterprise and had won an election victory primarily because of it.

MacDougall had several suggestions:

1. That more attention be given to ability to pay.
2. That some sliding scale of payments be set up on the principle "the more one pays the more one gets."

**LIMIT HOSPITAL STAY**

3. That the length of stay in hospital be limited.

4. That some "incidentals" which are now covered by the insurance plan be eliminated.

Much dissatisfaction has been caused in Vancouver, MacDougall said, because of the large number of people who had paid premiums and could not get into hospital.

He warned there was no use in the Government trying to deny that urgent cases had been denied admission to hospital.

"I can give the minister positive proof to the contrary," he declared.

Most courteous quote of last week: Mr. Winch, to Messrs. Johnson and Anscob—"We've never been able to hang you together, but if you ever split we'll hang you separately, and on the same day."

**End of Session Of B.C. House Seen March 18****Firm Offers \$2,000,000 Bridge Across Fraser River at Agassiz**

Victorians may play host to British Columbia's legislators for a short period this year if current plans for prorogation are realized.

The House prorogation now is expected on March 18, it was reported yesterday.

The budget is expected to be brought down by Finance Minister Herbert Anscob next Tuesday—an earlier date than indicated earlier.

March 18 prorogation would allow Premier Byron Johnson to leave by air as scheduled for the timber trade conference in London. Last Friday, he announced that he would leave on that date and return for the sitting on March 27.

Prorogation would mean that the Premier could remain in London for some time, promoting British Columbia trade with the United Kingdom.

Mr. Johnson and Harold Winch, Opposition leader, are slated to confer today on prorogation plans.

Second major news that was buzzing in legislative circles yesterday involved plans of the United Distillers, Ltd., of Vancouver, to construct a \$2,000,000 toll bridge across the Fraser River at Agassiz to give easier access to the company's Harrison Hot Springs resort.

Works Minister E. C. Carson said that he had heard of the proposal some months ago.

"I would recommend such a bridge, if it met with our specifications, charged a reasonable toll and permitted of a recapture clause which would permit this Government to take over after amortization of the cost," said Mr. Carson.

**Sales in B.C. At New High**

Retail sales in British Columbia during 1949 reached an all-time record of \$768,250,000, a 5 per cent increase over 1948 sales, Trade and Industry Minister Leslie H. Eyres reported yesterday.

At the same time he indicated per capita sales were less and physical volume of buying was less than the dollar increase in sales.

Mr. Eyres reported a combined index of prices and population showed an increase of 6 per cent.

**Urges Cutting Hospital Costs By Prevention**

Appointment of medical personnel to man health centres for the prevention of illness was suggested in the Legislature yesterday by E. E. Winch, (C.C.F., Burnaby).

He said he was opposed to the Provincial Government concentrating its major effort through the hospitalization scheme on treatment of disease alone. As a means of reducing future hospital costs emphasis should be laid on prevention, advised the veteran C.C.F. member.

**NO INVASION**

Mr. Winch said there need be no fear of illness prevention personnel invading the field of the medical practitioner, since the latter would come into the picture only after illness or disease had struck.

He criticized the Government for taking the position that municipalities should shoulder the primary responsibility for the care of hospitals, declaring a high percentage of hospital admissions came from unorganized territory over which the province has control.

Mr. Winch attacked Premier Johnson for his "Pollyanna-like, unrealistic view" of the existing unemployment situation.

He stated that 7.4 per cent of the entire Canadian labor force was unemployed.

Pointing directly at the Premier's constituency, Mr. Winch declared that 14 per cent of the labor force in New Westminster was unemployed.

**"OUR RESPONSIBILITY"**

"The problem is our responsibility," he asserted, adding that in the face of any emergency it should be the responsibility of the nearest governmental authority to act.

The Premier should have acted in the face of the unemployment emergency in the same way as he acted during the disastrous Fraser Valley floods, he stated.

Mr. Winch said he spoke about unemployment from "bitter experience," explaining that he had been in receipt of relief when he was elected to the Legislature in 1933.

*With the Lawmakers*

# Winch Lectures House on Socialism While More and More Seats Emptied

Members of the Legislature are hot on the trail of the Redskins. In previous years little was heard of them. Now that they have the vote, it's a different matter. Except for Vancouver representatives, who presumably are not much concerned, members are demanding that native Indians get a new deal.

The House was supposed to hear four speakers yesterday, but the first three talked too long, and the Premier, who had a cocktail party scheduled at home, asked the whips to call the fourth man out until today.

**UPS, DOWNS EXPECTED**

E. E. Winch started off. He told the Government not to be too self-satisfied with the C.C.F. setbacks. The course of social revolution had never run smoothly, he said. The C.C.F. had its ups and downs, but they were expected.

If the C.C.F. had had one-twentieth as much to spend on the last election, it would have been a different story. "You descended to the lowest depths," he shouted. "You weren't even honest enough to acknowledge most of the good things you had to talk about were advocated by the C.C.F."

The change of calling capitalism the new name of free enterprise was like trying to call a skunk cabbage a lily, said the elder Winch, and added:

"Call it what you will, it still stinks."

**LECTURE ON SOCIALISM**

Winch gave the House a long lecture on socialism but complained that talking of such matters before Coalition supporters was like casting pearls before pawnbrokers.

Winch had lots to say, too, on care for the older folk, hospital insurance and unemployment.

As the afternoon wore on, members became bored with the proceedings, and at one time 14 seats were empty.

B. M. MacIntyre, the new Coalition member for Mackenzie, who won out over G.C.F.-er Bert Gargrave in the June election, said compulsory payroll deductions for payment of hospital insurance premiums was vital to success.

The Government should jealously guard local democratic control of hospitals by having a board elected instead of appointed, said MacIntyre. He insisted that premiums should be paid by the Government for wives of veterans' allowance recipients, those receiving widows' allowances and dependent parents' pensions. There is no reason, he said, that these people should be treated less generously than old-age pensioners.

MacIntyre warned Lands Minister E. T. Kenney against allowing big corporations being given all the large timber holdings in the province under the forest management plan.

G.C.F.-er R. W. Haggen, from Grand Forks-Greenwood, had a good word for the Japanese. Those shifted to his district from the coast, especially native-born and educated, have been good citizens, he said.

**HITS DISCRIMINATION**

"For heaven's sake let's have no more of this racial discrimination," he shouted.

He pleaded for government assistance in looking after cemeteries in abandoned mining towns like Phoenix, once a booming mining centre, but now occupied by only one man. He promised to wink at any diversion of Government funds for this purpose.

Haggen also thought retired civil servants should get a better deal.

**Major Farrow Paid Tribute by Premier**

FROM the floor of the Legislature yesterday, Premier Byron Johnson declared the late Major R. C. Farrow was "one of the fine men who hold executive positions in this Government."

Speaking for the Legislature and the civil service, the Premier declared: "We deeply regret the loss we have sustained."

Opposition Leader Harold Winch stated the Government would experience difficulty finding a man to fill the post of comptroller of water rights as adequately as did Major Farrow.

**Squamish-Vancouver Rail Link on P.G.E.**

PREMIER Johnson created a good deal of interest when, in his policy speech in the Legislature, he referred to the Government's intention of giving priority to the completion of the Pacific Great Eastern railway into North Vancouver from the present terminus at Squamish. One year ago the Premier announced plans to make Squamish the tidewater end of the line, with preparations for lumber-assembly and other terminal facilities there. At the same time a highway between the two points was hinted at, if not pledged. It is a considerable shift in these plans to substitute railway for highway, together with whatever may have become of the Squamish development in the interval.

The objections to the new policy are coming from several quarters. About the first heard was criticism of any plan to take the P.G.E. rails across West Vancouver to North Vancouver, which after all is only a minor point. What stiff objections there had been previously to the development of Squamish as a tidewater outlet in competition with Vancouver can be guessed at, if not always

spread openly for the public to see. Indeed, it may have been some such criticism which inclined the Government to a change of the original intention.

It is on far different grounds than either of these that the proposed rail-to-North Vancouver proposal should be examined. With every indication now that it must go it alone, without real help from the Dominion, British Columbia has a close estimate of what its present rail extension contracts are costing on the northern end of the line. The Squamish-North Vancouver link either by highway or rail would be many times more costly, as every engineer knows. Indeed, if memory serves, one road contractor estimated the cost of such construction a year ago at \$200,000 per mile, and that was for a highway without rails or heavy bridges. So the real question becomes, not what the Government would like to do with its Squamish terminus but, what can be afforded in the light of the costs and circumstances of today. Railway building is expensive.

**Car Insurance Complicates Hospital Plan**

Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson yesterday labelled "a wild story" reports that there was a \$1,000,000 leak in hospital insurance payments for persons whose car insurance covered such payments.

Mr. Pearson pointed out that this amounted to one-fifteenth of the entire hospital bill for the Province.

At the same time the minister acknowledged that some problems had arisen in connection with injured persons covered by car insurance which may be the subject of amendments to the Hospital Insurance Act.

A typical case: Jones and Smith, both covered by virtually compulsory public liability insurance are in a car accident. Jones is to blame for injuries to Smith. Previously Smith made claim on Jones' insurance company for his hospital expenses. Now Smith is covered by hospital insurance and either doesn't bother or can't establish Jones' liability because he hasn't paid a hospital bill.

Government officials are not certain the Hospital Act can be amended to cover this situation fully. Nor are they certain how much money is involved, except to say that \$1,000,000 is a wild guess.

If the situation can't be covered by a change in the act, it is anticipated public liability insurance rates may go down.

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*With the Lawmakers*

# Premier, Pushing for Budget Debate, Turns Pressure on Speech-Makers

Premier Johnson started putting on the pressure yesterday to get the speechmaking over in the Legislature with the idea of getting on with the budget debate next week. The Premier gave notice that night sittings may start next week and his party whips had five speakers listed for the afternoon.

This gave Speaker Mrs. Nancy Hodges her first row to settle.

It was nearly five o'clock when Arthur Ash of Saanich came up for his turn. Not wanting to speak to a House already saturated with two and a half hours of oratory from four other speakers, he moved to adjourn the debate.

**WINCH COMPLAINS**

This didn't suit C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch. He complained the Government apparently didn't know what it was doing because for the second day in a row the speaking schedule had been upset. The C.C.F. were not going to stand for it.

Shouted A. R. Ritchie (Gln., Salmon Arm): "I don't like it either. I was supposed to adjourn the debate."

Ash refused to give way, saying: "I have something to say to this House and I'm going to take the time to say it."

This brought frowns from party whips and the Premier.

The members couldn't decide whether they had voted to adjourn or not. Mrs. Hodges said she thought they had. To stop the wrangling, she put the motion again.

**COMPLAINTS HEARD**

In four speeches yesterday members heard many complaints about the high education tax on property owners and about roads. C. W. Morrow, Coalition whip from North Okanagan, who rarely takes a drink, demanded a plebiscite on liquor, put in terms that all the people could easily understand.

Andrew Whisker, the new man from Cowichan-Newcastle, created a good impression in his first speech. He said he was elected to support the Government, but that shouldn't stop him from arguing. And argue he did, presenting a long list of things that should be done for his district.

**SHORT, TO POINT**

What pleased members most, his speech was short and to the point.

Morrow insisted the poll tax should be abolished. It was only a nuisance tax anyway and it fell hardest on the poor. He opposed any suggestion that sales tax be increased to pay for hospital insurance. There were always a lot of misguided people demanding that "they" (the Government) pay for things.

"It's high time people realized the public pays for everything," he said.

Morrow complained that the liquor store in Vernon was so poorly heated and the whisky so heavily watered that at times during the Winter, turning into "Kennedy Pop-sicles."

**TAXES UNBEARABLE**

Sydney J. Smith, the new Coalition member from Kamloops, a tall, heavy, impressive-looking man, agreed with Morrow that school taxes on land were becoming unbearable.

"I think we should refrain from trying to keep up with the Jones in education until we are dead sure we can afford it.

The Government was inclined to forget, said Smith, that along with a higher standard of education, it was bequeathing to the children of today a very high burden of debt.

It was high time to approach the problem with "courage and frankness—even at the cost of being charged with a lack of appreciation of modern education."

Education had traveled a long way from the little red schoolhouse, said Smith. It appeared that the three "R's" had been lost on the way and in the day of the little red school, it was easier than today to get boys and girls to apply themselves to some worthy occupation. Smith called for the Government to revise school costs and redistribute the tax burden.

He liked the Premier's decision to overhaul the Government service stating that it "has increased tremendously during recent years and in many respects has got out of hand."

**FOLLOWS TRADITION**

Leo T. Nimsick, C.C.F.-er from Cranbrook, complained about school costs, too. In the C.C.F. tradition, he thought industry should pay more.

"We are giving away valuable natural resources for a few pieces of silver," he shouted.

Unemployment he called a "cancer on labor" and warned the Government that production lost through unemployment was lost forever. Hundreds of miles of roads, badly needed bridges and other public works could be completed with labor now going to waste, he said.

**STEP UP SERVICE**

As a means of providing medical service in outlying areas and reducing the load on hospitals, he suggested the Government should step up its nursing service.

The House applauded when Nimsick said members should remember, whether they came as Conservatives, Liberals, Labor or C.C.F.'ers, that their first duty was to pass good laws for all the people of British Columbia.

# Andrew Whisker Urges Extended Road Program

A long-term program of road reconstruction extending from the Yellow Point area and Cedar District, south of Nanaimo, to an area south of Duncan was requested of the Government yesterday by Andrew M. Whisker (Gln., Cowichan-Newcastle) during his maiden speech in the Legislature.

In the Yellow Point and Cedar District area, the new member stated a minimum of 20 miles of road repair and reconstruction was required.

In a small district to the south of Ladysmith he asked for construction of a sidewalk one-half mile in length "which would be a safety measure in keeping children off the new speedway that is nearing completion."

**ENCOURAGE INDUSTRY**

Improvement to roads in the Saltair and Crofton districts was asked. It was suggested improvements around Crofton might encourage some new industry to locate in the area.

Mr. Whisker asked for the rebuilding of the ten-mile stretch of road from Lake Cowichan to Youbou and the building of another ten-mile road into the Caycuse logging camp "where more than 100 families are living in one of the show places of our B.C. lumber industry."

He estimated five miles of hard-surfaced road were required in the area immediately south of Duncan.

"Many fine homes are built beside roads within a mile south of Duncan," he explained.

**NEED CONTINUING PROGRAM**

Mr. Whisker said the southern section of his riding was a farming area in which hundreds of workmen had established small holdings.

"We need a continuing program of about five miles of good permanent hard surfacing per year to start this

district on the way to recovery," he declared.

Mr. Whisker said he had only outlined the minimum requirements of his riding.

"A generous policy would be out of the question and would call for at least a total for the whole of Cowichan-Newcastle of 100 miles per year," he asserted. "The small farmers of my constituency must have roads. They will be driven to the wall if they cannot get cheap transportation. At present the cost of upkeep of ordinary farm machinery which uses the roads is three times normal. Trucking companies are refusing to go into the farms. School buses are being pounded to wrecks. This neglect is costly business."

**BACKS PREMIER**

Mr. Whisker declared he was prepared to back any action taken by Premier Johnson to bring new industry to the Province.

"If it becomes your policy to make any reasonable concession to bring such industry to us, the people of my district will be the last to complain," he advised. "We plead with you to make concessions, to bring us the investors who will secure the jobs for our people, now and in the future."

Mr. Whisker pointed the Government's attention to what he termed a "growing flood menace" in his district.

"On the rivers which cross the Island Highway I find that owing to the vast amount of logged off watershed there have developed in some places huge log jams which are diverting the course of the water," he stated. He added the condition had resulted in as much as four feet of water flowing "in torrents" over valuable farm lands.

**ASKS INVESTIGATION**

"The conditions extend all through the district from the Nanaimo River to the south of the Duncan area," explained Mr. Whisker. "Can we have this matter investigated soon? Delay is costly to the farmers and to this Government."

He suggested much could be done immediately to clean up the problem while many loggers are still out of work because of weather conditions.

# Winch to Ask Full Report From Pearson

C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch will ask today for a complete report to the Legislature on administrative difficulties in the hospital insurance service.

Winch has given notice that he will ask House approval for a resolution requesting Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson to file a return of:

1. All correspondence between the minister and Dr. J. M. Hershey relative to complaints or doubts by either regarding administration and policy.
2. All correspondence between the minister and Dr. Hershey, regarding Dr. Hershey's resignation.
3. All reports made on administration and policy.

Frank Calder Returns Compliment

Legislature Members Roar Approval  
As Indian M.L.A. Makes First Speech

Members of the Legislature thundered approval yesterday as Frank Calder, first Indian ever to sit in the House, rose to make his maiden speech.

The new C.C.F.-er tweaked members on giving so much attention to Indians now that they have the vote, starting his speech by saying:

"I have heard so many members going to bat for the poor Indian that I think I should go to bat for the poor white man."

Calder spoke in a crisp, clear voice. He noted that 150 years ago the white man had adopted Chinookan as a means of communication with the aborigines, and now he was pleased to return the compliment by speaking in the universally accepted language—English.

He said he knew why so many Coalitionists were paying attention to the Indians. They knew natives could swing the vote. They were thinking of the next election.

And then in more serious tone he said: "I am not going to point my finger at anyone for past injustices to the natives."

The vote, however, paved the way for new rights and new responsibilities. Indians now have a legal voice in the affairs of the Province and a right to ask for equality of citizenship. Today the Indian stands as a "secondhand" citizen, robbed even of his aboriginal rights, his water, fish and timber rights, half of his trap lines gone.

He urged Premier Byron Johnson, at the forthcoming Dominion-Provincial Conference, to try to take away from the Dominion some of its exclusive rights over Indians and transfer them to provincial jurisdiction.

Indians expect the full scale of social welfare measures in the Province, said Calder. They pay the 3 per cent sales tax but lack its benefits. He asked for a permanent standing committee on Indian affairs, stating the Province has a golden opportunity to draw a model blueprint for treatment of native races.

"It might seem to you I'm asking for a handout," he said. "But I'm not. We ask for a fair chance. . . . We want social and economic security."

"If they are given the tools and equipment I think the Province can be proud of its Indians," he said.

"This is my picture of a full Magna Carta for natives—equality of opportunity in education, in health and employment and equality of citizenship."

Calder finished up with a potent punch line, a quotation from Booker T. Washington, famed negro educator and author.

"No race can hold another race in a ditch without staying there in the ditch with them."

B.C. Bill of Rights  
Sought by Calder

Frank Calder, first Indian to sit in the British Columbia Legislature, demonstrated yesterday he is not without humor or political acumen.

During his maiden speech yesterday, Calder, a C.C.F.er, chaffed Government benchers for rallying so suddenly and in such numbers to the support of the Redskins, plainly implying that the Coalition benchers were thinking of Indian votes.

His speech over, Calder quietly filed a notice of motion which will force Coalition members to back up their words with action, or, alternatively, appear as if they were talking mainly for the record.

CALLS FOR EQUALITY

Calder's motion calls for the House to approve what amounts to full equality in all civil and economic rights for his native brethren.

It says in part: "Whereas no minority section of Canadians should be debarred from the enjoyment of the rights and responsibilities of full citizenship;

"And whereas any discrimination is repugnant to democratic principles and British justice;

"Therefore . . . this House recommends to the Government the advisability of introducing an act . . . to be known as 'The British Columbia Bill of Rights';

"And be it further resolved that this House is of the opinion that the Government in its deliberations on the advisability of introducing said act should consider, amongst others, the inclusion of right to freedom of religion, right to freedom of

expression, right to free association, right to freedom from arbitrary imprisonment, right to employment, right to engage in occupations, right to own and occupy property, right of access to public places, right to membership in professional and trade associations, and right to education."

EFFECTS WIDE

Political observers were pointing out yesterday that effects of such a bill would be wide. No prohibition, statutory or otherwise, could be placed on minority groups wishing to move into select residential groups. No minority races could be barred from legal, medical or other professions or trade unions. Japanese or other minority races could not be barred from any industry, or prevented, as they are now, from returning to the coastal area.

Turner and Uphill  
Resuming Debate

TWO speakers were scheduled last night to resume the debate on the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature at 2 p.m. today.

They are A. J. Turner, C.C.F. member for Vancouver East, and Thomas Uphill, Labor member for Fernie.

Additional speakers may be added to the list before the debate resumes.



# B.C. Roads Fine, States Ritchie, But Not Around Salmon Arm

Blunt-spoken, gravel-voiced Arthur Ritchie (Cln., Salmon Arm) started off a schedule of four speakers in the Legislature with a short snappy speech. He praised Works Minister E. C. Carson for all the fine road building around the Province, but cried:

"What I want to know is, when are we going to get some of it around Salmon Arm?"

#### ROADS DUSTY

Roads around Salmon Arm are so dusty, he said, that every car passing in the Summer was like a destroyer laying down a smoke screen.

"So," Ritchie continued, addressing Works Minister Carson, "as the old lady said when she caught the young man kissing her daughter: 'Young man, get on with the job!'"

Ritchie complained about log jams in the river, saying the Dominion and the Province kept passing the buck while the river was raising Cain with the farmers, called attention to the fact that Salmon Arm is a paradise for sportsmen and tourists, that his farmers were taking a beating over dropping markets and too much margarine. He wanted British Columbia representatives on the International Joint Commission, because of its enormous importance to British Columbia.

"I have a lot more to say," he sighed, "but as this is a party line, I'll give the others a chance."

#### COALITION AFRAID

Randolph Harding (C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan) said the Coalition parties were afraid to go to the voters as separate parties because they would be pushed into the corner and the C.C.F. would take over. He wondered what would happen to pure

Coalitionists like B. A. MacIntyre from Mackenzie.

"Which party would get custody of the child if there was a divorce?" he asked.

Warning that feeling was running high in his district over Doukhobor outrages, Harding came up with a surprisingly moderate suggestion. The small fanatical fringe, the Sons of Freedom, should be treated as criminals when they committed criminal acts.

#### DISCREDITING MAJORITY

The Sons of Freedom were trying to unite the entire Doukhobor community, by discrediting the vast majority who were good citizens. They were trying to bring them all down to a common position of misery that would bind them all together.

"We should try to drive a wedge between them," Harding suggested.

His idea of a good wedge was to make the vast majority of law-abiding Doukhobors good citizens by granting them full privileges of citizenship.

"I think full citizenship will work," said Harding.

#### ASKS BETTER ROADS

R. C. Steele, new Coalition member for Omineca, took members on a verbal tour of his riding. He asked for better roads, a gravel-crusher for his riding and extension of rural electrification.

He said if the Aluminum Company of Canada decided to build its \$300,000,000 power development and aluminum plant, it would be the biggest thing that ever happened to British Columbia. At the same time he warned that he intended to see that people who were flooded out got a fair deal.

#### SEEKS RELIEF MEASURES

Angus MacLean (Coalition, Cariboo), speaking with a thick Scotch burr, told the Legislature that cattlemen in his constituency had asked him to urge the Government to give them "some measure of relief" from

the present "heavy" tax structure on their holdings.

He asked the Government to pass legislation which would permit British Columbia potato growers to take advantage of Federal financial assistance.

To protect British Columbia farmers from being undersold by farmers of other provinces, he said, the Government should provide that the produce of other provinces be made subject to prevailing prices for British Columbia produce.

He advised that residents of his constituency were awaiting with interest the B.C. Power Commission's report on the proposal to erect a hydro-electric plant on the Quesnel River.

Premier Johnson drew members' attention to the fact that yesterday was Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's birthday (58th).

Anscomb came back with a graceful reply. He didn't want to take all the credit. A lady member of the House (Mrs. Tilly Rolston) shared the honors and she (63) was born 45 years before him.

*With The Lawmakers*

# Mr. Uphill Finds His Notes Missing

## But He Makes Points

From the top of a desk littered with scraps of paper of many shapes and sizes, Thomas Uphill, the veteran Labor member for Fernie, picked up notes to assist him in his address in the Legislature which tickled the funny bones of most members in the House.

"I'll have to come down Saturday night and straighten some of this out," he observed at one point, while conducting a desperate search for some precious notes which his "secretary" had prepared for him. "It's like the P.G.E.—it starts nowhere and goes nowhere."

### HAPPY ABOUT VOTE

Before he got very far into his address, Mr. Uphill informed the House that, as a Labor man, he was very happy over the Labor victory in Britain. Then he glowed as page boys heaped contributions to Labor Party funds on his desk, the result of successful investments in the British election result.

The Fernie member took a bright view of the possibility of his riding producing a rich dividend, but as far as the unemployment picture was concerned his outlook was dark.

"History will repeat itself," he warned. "Make no mistake, after war we have unemployment."

### EDUCATED JOBLESS

He forecast acute unemployment within four years, adding "next time you're going to see the educated people unemployed."

Mr. Uphill declared that the future hungry army of unemployed

would be fed if they were able to see warehouses full of food.

"They would be justified, too," he commented.

Turning to brighter fields, Mr. Uphill said he wanted to say something about coal miners.

"I'm an old coal miner myself, you know," he advised. Then he called John L. Lewis, U.S. coal mine union chief, an old and valued friend who had raised the level of wages and welfare for the miner. He said the miner's pension should be considered non-income "when it's going to interfere with anything else the Government is going to put out."

Mr. Uphill asked for abolition of the "obnoxious" means test for old-age pensioners.

### WOULD BE OFFSET

"The amount we'd pay out with the abolition of the means test would be offset by the amount now spent on investigation," he declared. He asked, also, that the age limit for payment of old-age pensions be set at 60 for women and 65 for men.

Reading from notes prepared by his "secretary," Mr. Uphill began a mild attack on Hospital Insurance, but he cooled off quickly and laid down his notes.

"I'm not going to say one word, George," he told Health and Welfare Minister Pearson. "I like you all right."

"That's a left-handed compliment," stated Mr. Pearson, smiling.

"I didn't mean it that way," hastened Mr. Uphill.

But he did ask why the Government could not run a British Columbia Hospital sweepstake to take care of hospital deficits—then added quickly: "My secretary put that in."

Mr. Uphill paid the customary congratulations to new members, and "especially one new member."

### TOUGH TIME

"He is one of those who cometh through great tribulations," he declared, using a Biblical quotation. "And that was myself. I had a pretty tough time."

(In last Summer's election he retained his seat by the slim margin of nine votes. He has represented Fernie for 30 years, and is the senior member in the Legislature).

Like the other speakers, the ir-repressible Mr. Uphill congratulated Mrs. Hodges on her elevation to the post of Speaker of the House.

"With the advent of a lady in tricorne and robes presiding over the deliberations of this august assembly, who is there brave enough to say the day never will come when the majority of the members of this House will not be those who used to be known as the weaker sex, but who are gradually shoving us weak-kneed males into the background," he stated.

He said the future Amazon members of the House might be as addicted to the use of "Our Lady Nicotine" as many of the present-day members of the fair sex, and

chew tobacco like "our sturdy pioneers," and be expert in the "almost forgotten art of squirting the fly at six feet."

In this connection he said he had noted that the spittoons had disappeared from the lobby of the House.

"I humbly beseech you to give some thought to posterity and what it may bring and order the traditional spittoons replaced in their old haunts which they occupied for half a century," stated Mr. Uphill.

### IN GAY MOOD

The lawmakers were in a gay mood yesterday and for the first time in the current session appeared to be enjoying the debate. Perhaps it was because veteran C.C.F.er Arthur Turner had moved into the seat formerly occupied by Herbert Gargrave. Gargrave used to bait the Government members, then demolish them with a sharp-witted retort.

Turner appeared with a red carnation in his buttonhole and a red tie, in celebration of the Labor victory in Britain.

Capt. D. J. Proudfoot of Victoria, asked him if he knew he was wearing the flower of the aristocrats of France. Turner said it was the best that Victoria florists could supply.

He scorned Coalitionists for using the words "free enterprise." It was no such thing, it was private enterprise, and that meant combines and

a lot of other terrible things. Turner said he knew of small bakeries forced by combines to raise their prices or face having their flour supply being cut off.

### WOULD PROSECUTE

Said Attorney-General Wismer: "It's no good you standing there talking about generalities. If you have any information on combines, you shouldn't be hiding it. Give it to the authorities and they'll prosecute."

The Premier interrupted when Turner said family allowances were nothing but a bribe for low wages. Said the Premier: "No country in the world, except United States, has such high wages. What are you talking about?"

Turning to hospital insurance, Turner said the biggest trouble, aside from "sabotage by the M.D.'s"

was the many people who can't get accommodation and refuse to pay premiums the second time.

A lady Speaker apparently made Mr. Turner a little confused. Three times he addressed Premier Johnson as Madame Premier.



## Beard Urges Spending Be Cut, Asks Balanced Budget for B.C.

Commander C. T. Beard, (Cln., Esquimalt), urged the Government during the debate on the Throne Speech yesterday to cut expenditures and operate on a balanced budget.

"Debts must in time be repaid, whether by Governments or individuals, and we pride ourselves that we are legislating for the future, and to load future taxpayers with debt is hardly fair to them," he declared. "I would like to state, perhaps inconsistently, that debts incurred for new construction, equipment, roads and other projects are legitimate debts in that succeeding taxpayers are merely paying for physical assets."

### MODERNIZE ROADS

He followed up this statement with the declaration that more money should be spent on modernization of roads. He urged that even side roads be rebuilt at once.

He called for a halt in the trend toward increased taxation.

"In the matter of taxation generally, I think it is true that we are the most heavily taxed individuals in Canada," he asserted. "Lately we in the rural districts have had a very appreciable raise in taxes, and, if this trend goes on, it will have a crippling effect, so I beg the Government to lay off the rural population."

Commander Beard pledged his support to the hospital insurance scheme.

### PRINCIPAL FAULT

"The fundamental fault was that the premiums charged were not large enough to cover the costs," he advised. "It must be realized and fully appreciated that several hundred thousand people have benefited so far. By this I mean not only the patient, but all his family who would have been financially crippled by hospital bills."

Commander Beard asked the Government to hold to the original aim behind the establishment of the B.C. Power Commission to extend rural electrification. He said the Commission was concentrating too much on populated areas where operations showed a profit.

In conclusion, Commander Beard asked the Minister of Public Works to replace the vital bridge washed away during the Winter at Port Renfrew.

## Borstal Boys Settle Down After Release

Thirty-three youths were confined in New Haven on December 31, 1949, according to the annual report of the director of the Borstal institution submitted recently to the Legislature.

During the year 53 youths were received, comprising 41 direct commitments from the courts and 12 transfers from the jail.

Discharges totaled 31, with 16 following expiration of sentence, 11 on ticket-of-leave through the Remissions Branch and four on licence granted by the British Columbia Parole Board.

"Since April, 1948, we have discharged 50 lads, some to such distant points as Montreal and Toronto," it was stated. "Of that number we are in contact with 48, two only having been lost sight of. During the same period April, 1948, to January, 1949, only three out of 50 released have got into further trouble."

"It is most gratifying to receive news from so many of our ex-lads from all parts of Canada and to hear how they are settling down and making a success of their lives," declared the director. "Over the Christmas period some 30 remembered us with letters and greeting cards."

Side Glances . . .

## From the Press Gallery

By FRED McNEIL

MEMBERS of the Legislature are sighing for the old days when the House was a real battling ground, when debates took on real flash and fire, when lusty orators and repartee artists lightened the often dreary business of making laws.

In the past week they seemed more interested in the British election than in British Columbia affairs. Finance Minister Anscomb was jubilant. He saw in the results the partial fulfillment of his favorite phrase, "the tide will turn."

The C.C.F. tried to make the best of it, bravely appearing in the House flaunting red carnations in their buttonholes.

The election made dismal news to C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch, already faced with the toughest job in his 17 years as a member. As a background to the sharp drop in British Socialist strength, were the left wing defeats in Australia and New Zealand. Although Mr. Winch's party still records a whopping popular vote in British Columbia, House strength is down to seven, exactly what it was when C.C.F.-ers first took their seats in 1933.

Winch sorely misses sharp-witted Herbert Gargrave, who used to carry a good part of the load and won a lot of publicity by his pungent drolleries.

\* \* \*

Government forces are regretting that the C.C.F. were able to nab off Frank Calder, the Indian member. He made a very good impression on his first speech and the Government fears he'll be able to bring most of the Indian vote to the C.C.F.

Calder has an interesting story. His real name is Frank Clark. He was adopted up by his childless, politically-minded uncle, Arthur Calder. The elder Calder felt lack of education was a great handicap and determined that young Frank would get all he could. Frank spent 13 years at school, first at the former United Church residen-

tial school, Coqualee, at Sardis, and later at Chilliwack High School. He was the first reserve Indian to attend university in the Province and graduated in 1946 with a licentiate in theology. Like many a young pale-face, he worked hard to stay in school, in coastal fish packing plants. He's now not only the first Indian in the House, but the youngest member.

He says he never got married because he has always been too busy with his books to think about it. He still works as tallyman in packing plants.

He first became interested in politics through hearing the elder Calder talk, chose the C.C.F. principally because "they've always fought for minority groups."

Members on the Coalition side are wondering who masterminded Calder's coupe last week. Calder sat smiling day after day, listening to members paying flowery compliments to Indians, saying the time had come to give them a new deal, that the day of racial discrimination was over in British Columbia.

Then Calder made his own speech, very neatly and whimsically expressing gratitude at the sudden solicitude for his native brethren and making it clear he was not unaware of the political reasons.

Then he quietly put members on a spot they'll find it difficult to wriggle off without embarrassment and perhaps loss of Indian votes. He placed on the order paper a resolution which sets forth a bill of rights for minority groups. If members approve and it subsequently becomes an act, it will be an offence in this Province for any individual or body to practice any type of racial discrimination, overt or otherwise. "Select" professional associations, labor groups, people in "select" residential areas would be breaking the law if they exercised any of the many forms of pressure to keep out minority groups.



With the Lawmakers

## Kenney Supports Aluminum Firm Deal, Wants Alberta Gas Piped Across B.C.

Today is budget day in the Provincial Legislature, when British Columbians will learn from Finance Minister Anscomb how much money the Government will spend next year and whether there are to be any more taxes.

Speech-making in the Throne speech debate was concluded yesterday by fast-talking Lands and Forest Minister E. T. Kenney. He dealt mainly with a review of his department's activities and defended his policies on forest management and the proposed deal with the Aluminum Company of Canada.

Dealing with proposals to pipe Alberta gas to the Coast, Kenney said if the line did not come through British Columbia it would set the province back 100 years. British Columbia, he said, should do everything possible to encourage it.

### CRITICIZES C.C.F.

He admired the way the C.C.F.-ers took pleasure out of defeat. But after 17 years they would be wise to turn a searchlight on themselves and find out what was wrong. Mr. Kenney said he didn't want to rub salt in any wounds, but he thought this little jingle described the situation:

"Seven C.C.F.-ers sitting all alone  
After the next election  
Then there'll be none."

Kenney said much of the criticism of the hospital service "banded about in the press" was "unfair and incorrect." Mr. Pearson, Minister of Health and Welfare, he said, has done more than any member of the House for humanity and the poor.

### ADMITS MISTAKES MADE

He admitted there had been mistakes, but thought they should be expected in any new scheme, and added:

"Let he who has never made a mistake cast the first stone."

Mr. Kenney objected to criticisms of the forest management licence especially when objectors said it was freezing out the "small operator." It did no such thing, he said. Only three licences had been granted and one of these was a small one. As against this, the Sloan Report showed that 2 per cent of the operators in the province controlled 51.7 per cent of the alienated timber. One company alone controlled 50,000,000,000 feet.

### SAME CONSIDERATION

"The little fellow is given the same consideration as anyone," he said.

Mr. Kenney objected to Frank Calder, the Indian member, thinking he was the only spokesman for the Indians. With 153 reservations in his own riding of Skeena, the minister said, he didn't need to take a backseat to anyone, especially since it was the Coalition which had given them the vote.

Now that people had cut down the C.C.F. to proper size, Mr. Kenney said, British Columbia had nothing to fear for the future. "Especially if we keep our feet on the ground and our heads out of the clouds."

### SCORES GOVERNMENT

Mrs. Tilly Rolston (Gln., Point Grey), appearing to be completely recovered from her illness of last year, delivered her usual peppy, pun-

gent speech, didn't mince words when she had something critical to say about the Government.

She complained there was not enough "umph" in Government tourist advertising, but showed she had enough of her own when it came to speaking her mind.

She giped at the C.C.F., said their guiding star had diminished to a faint glimmer, only enough light to confuse people and keep them wondering. Soon they would be singing the children's song:

"Twinkle, twinkle little star,  
How I wonder where you are."

### WANTS COLORING

She urged a greater amount of coloring of margarine at the time of its manufacture.

"It looks just like lard still," she declared. "True, we are offered the little moon of color if we want to put it in, but do you members realize the amount of work necessary to do that?"

"She said that mixing coloring in a pound of margarine required a half-hour of extra work.

"Our mothers have enough to do without that extra work," she stated.

\* \* \*

### ADS LACK ZIP

Turning her attention to the tourist trade, Mrs. Rolston said British Columbia's display ads "lack zip, or whatever it is, to attract a greater number of people." In co-operation with Ottawa she advised access to the province should be made as easy as possible.

"Abundance of red tape at the border does not enhance the value of British Columbia as a tourist attraction," she pointed out. "Rather, it leaves a bad taste in one's mouth, even after we have achieved the entry we desire."

She urged the Government to advertise the opportunity for fish and game in the province. She advised the Game Branch should be put on a permanent financial basis "where they can know from year to year how much money they can depend on to expand their projects."

Mrs. Rolston said the Government should open "a British Columbia House" at the Pacific National Exhibition where resources and industrial samples could be exhibited to buyers.

\* \* \*

### AID UNEMPLOYED

She stated the unemployment situation in the province would be "difficult to correct unless we do something about it immediately."

"Medical science is showing people how to live longer, but Government and industry are casting them off sooner," she declared. "Many of our citizens are fully capable and able to work after 55 or 60, but superannuation restrictions exclude them from taking a job."

She pressed the Government to lift restrictions for senior citizens willing to forego superannuation benefits.

### STREAMLINE ACT

"Streamlining of British Columbia's Hospital Insurance Act was declared a necessity by Mrs. Rolston.

"At the present time people fear another increase in their payments because hints have already appeared in the press," declared Mrs. Rolston.

She warned the Government not to increase the 3 per cent sales tax to provide more money for hospitalization.

"The sales tax has already realized more than the Government expected—it is an easy tax for the Govern-

ment to collect—they sit back and it rolls in—but that is its danger," stated Mrs. Rolston. "It exploits the people because it takes no account of ability to pay, and falls heaviest on large families."

As an alternative she advised economies from within the administration of the scheme to swell the hospitalization budget.

"I suggested last year that we might have a home nursing service to augment our hospital service and I wondered if financial arrangements could be made with the Victorian Order of Nurses to do just that."

Mrs. Rolston said "borderline pension cases" such as wives of recipients of war veterans' allowances, recipients of widows' allowances and recipients of pensions "too small to keep body and soul together" should be exempted from hospitalization payments.

## May Change Court Duties

An amendment to the County Courts Act, introduced into the Legislature yesterday, would transfer from the court registrar to the sheriff, the duty of summoning a jury.

Supreme Court juries are called by the sheriff.

An amendment to the Land Registry Act introduced provides for appeal to a judge, instead of Lieutenant-Governor in council, when a subdivision plan is rejected. The amendment also provides all claims on unregistered land shall lapse after a fixed period.

An amendment to the Trust Companies Act provides that an extra-provincial company appointed as "administrator" of an estate that is in British Columbia, may function in the same way as a similar company appointed as "executor."

## Winch Seeks Committee On Liquor Sale

Appointment of a standing committee to inquire into liquor sale and distribution in British Columbia has been requested in the legislature by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

In a resolution placed on the order paper, Mr. Winch points out that it is in the best interests of citizens to encourage temperance and to see that consumption of liquor in public places is under circumstances conducive to "a reasonable and civilized manner."

### WIDE POWERS

The committee would have authority to hear the views of interested persons and organizations, investigate operations of the present Liquor Act, investigate liquor production and distribution costs and consumption methods in the Province.

The resolution would give the committee power to recommend changes to the Liquor Act or pass regulations "for the purpose of encouraging temperance and having liquor consumption in public places under proper conditions and environment."

**F E B**

**1950**





### Mrs. Hodges As 'Madam Speaker'

Today was historic at the B.C. Legislature opening when Victoria's second member, Mrs. Nancy Hodges, became the first woman to take office as Speaker of a Legislature or Parliament in the British Commonwealth. She is shown wearing the tri-

corner hat and robes which go with the position. Mrs. Hodges' selection as "Madame Speaker" is bringing attention to Victoria from all parts of the world. See additional pictures, page 13. (B.C. Government Travel Bureau Photo)

# History Made At Opening Of B.C. Legislature

By LLOYD BAKER

At 14 minutes before 3 this afternoon the thunder of 25-pound field guns started echoing across the waters of the Inner Harbor at 10-second intervals in traditional 15-gun salute for the opening of the B.C. Legislature.

Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks inspected a guard of honor of anti-aircraft gunners as crowds of spectators watched outside the main entrance to the Parliament Buildings.

The show was over for hundreds who had hoped to be among the approximate 80 uninvited who could be accommodated in the public gallery of the Legislative Chambers for the most colorful House opening ceremony in the history of the

province. In addition to the 80 first arrivals who were waiting for admittance long before 3, there were more than 300 guests of cabinet ministers and members crowded into the chambers to see the ceremony.

## Films Of First Woman Speaker

What they saw will go down in history.

Before the flash of press cameras and a movie newsreel camera Victoria's second member of the Legislature, newspaper-woman Nancy Hodges, took her place at the head of the House as the first woman Speaker of a Legislature or Parliament in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Precedent was being set also on the floor of the House as a 34-year-old Indian took a seat as first representative of his race to become a member of a provincial Legislature. He was small-statured Frank Arthur Calder, C.C.F. member for the northern constituency of Athol.

Later in the ceremony two more Indians, both wearing native costume with feathered headdress, presented a petition to the House—the first time a petition has been received on the opening day.

In the petition Chief William

Scow, president of the Native Brotherhood of Indians, and Chief Frank Assu, head of the North American Brotherhood of Indians, thanked the Legislature voting privilege granted last on behalf of their people for the year.

The chiefs also reaffirmed the red men's pledge of allegiance and loyalty.

The opening of the 22nd Legislative Assembly marked B.C.'s progress of a century from a Crown Colony to a thriving province.

The institutions and freedoms of the modern age showed in sharp contrast to 100 years ago when Governor Richard Blanchard stood at the grates of Fort Victoria and, surrounded by blanketed Indians, read his commission. The date was March 11, 1850.

It was strange to the Indians, this appointment of a governor, but today for the first time they have their own representative in the province's governing body.

## Impressive Guard Of Honor

### Tel Aviv Greetings Read To Legislature By Madam Speaker

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Speaker of the B.C. Legislature, read greetings at the House opening today from the government of Israel.

The message, signed by Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the Knesset, was written in Tel-Aviv on Sept. 6 last year, and was given to Opposition Leader Harold Winch for presentation to the new Speaker of the B.C. Legislature.

Mr. Winch was on a trip to Europe, Africa and Asia at the time and he conveyed greetings from the provincial House.

The guard of honor for Lieutenant-Governor Banks when he arrived at the seat of government to be escorted to the Legislative Chambers by Premier Byron Johnson for the reading of the Throne Speech, was composed of men from the Royal Canadian School of Artillery and the 129th Heavy Ack-Ack Battery, R.C.A.

They were 100 strong, wearing battledress and steel helmets, and in charge of Capt. R. R. Cottingham.

The 15-gun salute was fired by the 75th B.C. Heavy Ack-Ack Regiment and in charge was Capt. F. D. H. Nelson.

On hand also was the brass band of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) under Lieut. Harry Bigsby.

Aides to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor were Cmdr. Hew Patterson, Lt.-Col. Brooke Stephenson and Wing Commander Donald Campbell.



**FIRST INDIAN MEMBER** of a Legislature or the Parliament of Canada is Frank Arthur Calder, kissing the Bible in taking oath of office before opening of B.C. Legislature today. "I wanted to serve my people in social welfare work but could not receive an appointment as this comes under the Indian Agent's duties," the 34-year-old Indian said.

## Soaring Liquor Profits Over \$18,000,000 Mark

A bigger profit than ever was made through liquor sales in the province in the 1948-49 fiscal year—\$18,073,767.

This is \$1,475,338 more than the profit for the preceding year, it was reported in the 28th annual report of the Liquor Control Board presented to the Legislature today.

Profit for the 1947-48 fiscal year was \$16,598,429.

In a supplementary report filed in the House by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer higher profits were seen also in the six months ending Sept. 30 last year over the corresponding period of 1948.

The increase for the six months amounted to \$149,988. The profit was \$8,272,979 while in the six months ended Sept. 30, 1948, the profit was \$8,122,991.

Sales for the six months of 1949 amounted to \$28,180,367 and for the corresponding period of the preceding year \$27,451,301—difference of \$729,066.

Sales for the fiscal year of 1948-49 totaled \$56,954,898 while in the previous year the sales amounted to \$55,249,375.





**FIFTH AND LAST**, said Opposition Leader Harold Winch when he and his father were sworn in to office together today prior to the opening of the Legislature. The elder Ernest Winch, C.C.F. member for Burnaby, will be 71 next month and is not expected to stand for election when his present term of office expires in 1954. "So we wanted to make certain we took our oaths of office together for the fifth time," they said.

### The Door Is Now Open

**I**N THE WIDELY-VARIED REVIEWS OF the last 50 years which have appeared in countless journals and periodicals, innumerable references have been made to the new position of women in the year 1950. The point is emphasized for British Columbians with the advent of "Madam Speaker" at the Legislature, a seat of authority heretofore occupied only by men. The position of women in the political field is, of course, vastly different from that at the beginning of the century. In Anglo-Saxon countries they have enjoyed the franchise for years, and in many instances their sex has been represented in high office. We are led to wonder, however, to what extent the women of Greater Victoria appreciate the opportunities which have been opened for them. In municipal life, the city alone has two on the council. The school board, on which feminine representation has long been a tradition, boasts one only, Trustee Gertrude McGill of Saanich. Oak Bay, Saanich and Esquimalt councils are completely masculine.

We raise the point not because we believe women should be elected to office merely because they are women. They should be chosen by the voters on the basis of their capacities, with, of course, a recognition of the fact that the feminine point of view can frequently contribute strength that is lacking among men. But it is noteworthy

that in the form of government which touches the people most directly, "the hand that rocks the cradle" has presumably been too busy with domestic chores to help mold municipal administrations.

In the light of current social attitudes, few will be inclined to challenge the statement that the finest job a woman can do is that of raising her family successfully. That does not, however, endorse the argument familiar a few years ago that woman's place is in the home and she should stay there. The fact of the matter is that a mother, beyond her maternal duties, carries a high degree of responsibility for good citizenship. And when the tasks of the household lighten, time is frequently available to her to participate in those general fields of community service which are admirably expressed through membership on public bodies. Similarly, the single woman has abilities that could contribute much to the guidance of municipal life.

At this time, when feminine equality is the object of lip-service and printed endorsement, it seems reasonable to suggest to the women of Great Victoria, as to the rest of Canada—the House of Commons is now without a woman member—that they busy themselves with the problem of discharging the responsibilities of public office to which the labors of their militant earlier sisters opened the doors.

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## Housing Project Insurance In Throne Speech

Decision to proceed with a three-way housing project and to change administration procedures in the hospital insurance service was revealed in the Speech from the Throne read at the opening this afternoon of the first session of the 22nd Legislative Assembly of B.C. by Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks.

These two points highlighted the government's plans for the session which the Throne Speech outlined in brief, and it is expected all correspondence on the contentious hospital insurance question will be tabled.

Among other plans the speech included were:

1. Closer liaison between the native Indians and the provincial government in all matters coming within the jurisdiction of the province.

2. Legislation in respect to taxation on Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway belt lands.

3. Linking of the province with the rest of Canada by agreement with the Dominion and provincial governments on a Trans-Canada Highway.

4. Legislation on proper maintenance of the reconstructed dyking system in the Fraser Valley and other sections of the province.

5. Assistance for the University of B.C. to continue its building program.

### WELCOMES NEWFOUNDLAND

The speech made reference to Newfoundland entering Confederation and the plan of the B.C. government to present a mace to the Legislature of the eastern-most province.

Mention was made also to the recent Dominion-Provincial Conference on proposed changes to the Canadian Constitution, and it was indicated decisions reached would be presented for approval at a later date.

The speech reported willingness of the government to attend a Dominion-Provincial Conference in the fall of this year on economic matters.

Lack of reference to an opening of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act was a disappointment to labor groups which have been pressing for amendments on strike action and company unions.

The three-way housing project involves the Dominion and municipal governments and the plan calls for a joint guarantee of the two senior governments, the federal government providing 75 per cent of the cost of the program, and the province 25 per cent.



FIRST OFFICIAL ACT of Mrs. Nancy Hodges as Speaker of the Legislature was to receive Bill No. 1 of 22nd Legislative Assembly and guide it through first reading. Bill, presented by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer, was "An Act to Amend the Laws Declaratory Act."

## Revenue \$92,000,000 Public Accounts Show

Value of provincial assets at March 31, 1949, was \$405,749,719, while liabilities amounted to \$313,328,429, it was shown in Public Accounts presented at the opening of the B.C. Legislature today by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

Surplus of assets over liabilities was \$92,421,290.

An increase in surplus assets of \$7,057,144 over the previous year was shown.

The report showed that \$92,000,910 revenue was collected in the fiscal year.

Of this amount \$71,443,302 was paid to current accounts, \$13,010,914 on interest and debt redemption and \$2,981,746 on flood relief and flood control.

A net revenue surplus of \$4,564,946 remained.

Including this surplus, the report continued, there remains available for appropriation revenue surpluses of \$5,058,957.

### FLOOD RELIEF COST \$7,981,746

A total of \$7,981,746 was spent on flood relief and control during 1948-49 and the Dominion paid \$5,000,000 of the bill, it was noted.

The table showed five major amounts spent from revenue surplus appropriations:

For the Hospital Insurance Equalization Fund, \$50,000; for grants to hospitals, \$562,405; for provincial buildings, \$182,504; for school buildings, \$2,654,176; for roads, bridges and road equipment \$5,821,722. All totaled \$9,270,810.

A total of \$22,944,000 was spent from capital borrowings as follows:

For highways, \$3,929,565; for bridges, \$1,848,991; for ferries, \$107,473; for equipment, \$1,000,000; for buildings and furnishings, \$2,324,197; for university buildings, \$1,180,988; for Pacific Great Eastern Railway, \$2,052,000; for school construction, \$999,983, and a loan to the B.C. Power Commission of \$9,500,600.

SMILE  
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slature was to receive Bill No. 1 presented by Attorney-General



SMILE FOR GALLERY of spectators outside her chambers is given by first woman Speaker, whose duties after opening day will become more exhausting as session progresses.

### Feminine View Of Government

## Speaker's Robes Overshadow Attractive Ensembles, Hats

By Elizabeth Forbes

Smart and attractive as feminine guests were this afternoon at the opening of the Legislature, admiring eyes passed over them briefly to settle on Mrs. Nancy Hodges.

She was seen only briefly in the frills and furbelows that women usually wear. Then these disappeared under the Speaker's robes.

But despite this it was her day.

And when she left her seat on the floor of the House to be

presented by Premier Byron Johnson as Speaker of the Legislature Mrs. Hodges not only savored a personal triumph, she passed on to every woman sitting in the Legislative Chamber, and for that matter to every woman in Canada, some bit of reflected glory.

For she was accepting a position that no woman in the British Empire has ever held before.

What did she wear for this great occasion?

### Mrs. Hodges Will Wear—

When she first appeared in the Legislative Chamber it was in a navy blue taffeta two-piece ensemble, styled with straight slim skirt, the jacket flaring into a slight peplum over the hips. Only trimming was three metal button clasps touched with red. Her hat was navy blue, small and off-the-face, with quill trim in red and blue.

Later, of course, after the traditional procedure that makes her Madam Speaker was completed, she retired to her rooms to don the Speaker's robes.

There was a straight woolen skirt, street length; and a fine wool fitted vest, styled something like a naval officer's mess jacket, buttoned up the front, with long sleeves and fitted neckline finished with a crisp white linen split jabot, cut in the legal tradition.

Over this went the full black silk robes, floor length, with sleeves reaching halfway to the elbow.

There is a long loop on the hem of the robe that Madam Speaker may place over her hand, so that when she walks

or when she is mounting the steps to the Speaker's chair, she will not trip on the flowing gown.

The hat is tricorne shape, slightly flattened on top. The three-cornered brim is large and sits well down on the forehead and at the back.

There are no flowers, no ribbons, in fact, no trimming of any sort on the Speaker's hat.

Most women would shudder at the thought.

But when Mrs. Hodges placed it on her head and pulls it down firmly over her classic hair styling, cut close and short, it assumes an air of femininity that does not in any way detract from the dignity of the Speaker's robes.

## Veils, Flowers, Furs, Add Style Note

Mrs. C. H. O'Halloran had a small black felt hat with brief touch of veiling, and accessories en tone for her red tailored suit and fingertip sealskin coat.

A navy blue ensemble with crisp white trim was choice of Mrs. A. D. Mactarlane. Her suit is fashioned on dressmaker lines. A velvet colored ribbon completes her navy felt hat.

Mrs. Percy E. George had also selected navy for her ensemble. Pearl buttons trim her smart navy-toned dress, over which she wore lighter blue, full-backed topcoat. Her navy blue hat is fashioned of glazed straw.

A trim, neat uniform suit and bonnet was worn by Mrs. Calvert, wife of Major James Calvert, Salvation Army.

An attractive blending of rich brown tones was seen in the toast-colored silk dress dotted in pale aquamarine, frost-white hat trimmed with coffee-colored wheat and white daisies, beige accessories and beige-toned squirrel jacket to be worn by Mrs. Gordon A. Cameron.

### ATTRACTIVE DRESSES

A fashionable topcoat in peacock green lined with American beauty, and small green hat was worn by Mrs. Paul W. Meyer, wife of the United States consul in Victoria, and Mrs. Olive, wife of the vice-consul, wore a classic black silk crepe frock with pink feather-trimmed felt hat. Her fingertip coat was of baby leopard.

Mrs. John Hart accentuated her black crepe afternoon dress with jade earrings, necklace and clips. Her small black hat was of velvet, trimmed with ostrich feathers, and she will wear a moleskin cape.

Mink furs added a distinctive touch to the black tailored suit of Mrs. P. A. Gibbs. Her small felt hat was of palest blue.

Over her black afternoon dress, Mrs. R. A. Wootton wore a wine topcoat with grey squirrel collar, a deep pink feather toque and accessories in matching tones.

A spice-brown frock, the color repeated in the flower trim on her banana yellow felt hat was worn by Mrs. J. F. K. English, with a muskrat topcoat.

Mrs. J. V. Johnson was dressed in green crepe, with ostrich trimmed black velvet hat and brown sealskin coat, and Mrs. J. C. Thow wore a lemon-toned straw hat with her trim suit.

Mrs. D. J. Proudfoot complemented her original model brown corded silk suit with a brown felt hat trimmed with an orange shade ostrich feather, and a brown fur coat and brown accessories.

Mrs. W. T. Straith was smart in a wine velvet trimmed classic suit, with navy accessories and a fur stole. Mrs. Straith's daughter, Janet, chose a grey wool dress with short fur coat and grey accessories.

A squirrel coat over brown crepe dress was worn by Mrs. A. F. Harvey, complemented with a brown hat trimmed with pink quills and brown accessories.

Mrs. Gordon S. Wismer wore an attractive English model navy blue coat and two-piece crepe dress. To complete the ensemble she chose an English model white felt hat trimmed with white lilacs, and sable furs.

Mrs. E. W. Jones chose navy blue. Her silk dress featured a matching jacket complemented with a navy blue sailor straw hat trimmed with pink flowers.

Mrs. R. H. McDougall wore red silk crepe topped with a three-quarter black seal coat and black accessories. Her black hat was trimmed with a spray of feathers.

Over her moire taffeta dress featuring a full skirt, Mrs. E. C. Carson wore a three-quarter-length squirrel coat. Her hat was soft blue, poke bonnet styled, with a spray of pink and blue flowers.

Mrs. R. R. Burns' tailored green suit was complemented with black hat trimmed with feathers, and black accessories.

A blue fox cape, accessories in grey and matching pearl-trimmed hat, complemented Mrs. J. L. Gates' coin-dotted grey suit. Grey, in lighter tones, was the choice of Mrs. M. L. Fitzgerald, who wore a model hat mounted with black feathers, and moleskin jacket with her classic tailleur.

Mrs. R. H. B. Ker chose a London model jacket dress in navy and white. A single red rose was tucked in the crushed fold of her off-face white felt hat.

A tawny ermine jacket topped the two-piece beige suit dress worn by Mrs. Ronald Newell. Mauve and fuchsia flowers adorned her turban chap-

eaux and her accessories were cocoa-toned.

A bolera frock in black taffeta and crepe with finely pleated skirt were worn by Mrs. J. A. Hobday. Her topcoat was heavy corded silk with fine silver stripe, and her black hat trimmed with white ribbon. Mrs. A. I. Thomas, wore a wine-toned suit and topcoat with accessories en tone.

An 15th-century Spanish enamel pendant was worn by Mrs. Fibiger with her black velvet suit, French velvet beret, and fur topcoat. Mrs. Stuart Davidson, formerly of Chilli-wack had selected a classic black afternoon frock, small black hat with feather trim, and full-backed brown squirrel coat.

A navy three-quarter coat over a rose-toned suite, and rose-toned hat were worn by Mrs. A. M. Whisker. Her daughter, Miss Isabelle Whisker, chose a camel hair topcoat, with her grey suit, grey felt hat and accessories.

### THE CLASSIC SUIT

Navy accessories, navy hat and sealskin coat were worn by Mrs. Archie Wills with her slate blue afternoon dress enriched with satin panniers. With her was Mrs. R. G. Thomson, who selected soft grey cloche with side-swept feathers, and squirrel jacket with her deep purple afternoon dress. A navy taffeta-trimmed dress, hat en tone and squirrel jacket were the choice of Mrs. M. G. Gillespie.

Mrs. E. T. Kenney wore pearls with her simple black crepe dress, small black straw hat trimmed with double quills in black, and fingertip squirrel topcoat.

Mrs. John Cates chose navy blue, with large white bow at the neckline. Her hat was white, trimmed with lilacs and red roses. Miss Anne Cates attended in a grey dressmaker suit with small deep green off-the-face hat and the same green accessories.

Mrs. Alex Hope was wearing a brown crepe dress with a fine tucking design, extending down the blouse to the skirt.

A cloche-style hat in deep green and a squirrel coat completed her ensemble. Mrs. Grant Duckworth was in a fine check brown suit, a fur cape and small brown hat with matching flowers; Mrs. Ray Howell wore grey with mink

cape and grey straw hat trimmed with rose and blue flowers.

Mrs. A. J. McDonnell chose a navy blue dress, mink topcoat and two-toned navy and green net hat, helmet-styled trimmed with navy-toned lilacs and green ribbon bows.

Mrs. W. F. Ritchie's dress was in mist grey crepe, featuring the flying panel trim, with off-face grey hat, feather trimmed and navy topcoat.



## Feminine Guests At Legislative Opening Chose Spring's Gayest Colors And Styles

The colorful ceremony that marked the opening of the 22nd Legislature of the Province of British Columbia at the Parliament Buildings this afternoon, received added brilliance in the dresses and hats worn by wives and daughters of cabinet ministers and members of the legislative assembly and other feminine guests.

Today, the choice of feminine ensembles was more outstanding than ever, for this season's spring styles feature not only the ever-popular navy and black but all the colors that make up the spectrum of the rainbow.

The feminine procession was led by Mrs. Charles A. Banks, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

Next in importance today was Mrs. Byron Johnson, wife of the Premier of the province.

Furs complemented the chic grey and white ensemble chosen by the Premier's lady. A pert white pique collar lends a crisp note to her tailored pearl grey

suit, and white flowers trim her soft grey felt hat.

Mrs. Gordon McG. Sloan wore double fox furs with her smart black wool suit. Single French green rose trims her small black Milan straw hat, and her accessories are black.

A classic ensemble touched with white was choice of Mrs. H. G. deWolf. Her silk crepe frock in dark green were complemented with a white crowned hat, the green brim rolled away from the face and finished with feather trim. She also wore a brown squirrel cape over her shoulders.

Mrs. G. R. Miles was frocked in navy blue with snow white trim. The colors were repeated in her small straw hat and she wore a grey Persian lamb coat.

Mrs. Herbert Anscomb wore a full-length black sealskin coat over her muted blue afternoon frock. Her small pleated toque was navy blue shot silk. A family group will include

Mrs. Harry Bowman with her daughters, Mrs. Ean Paterson of Vancouver and Miss Ruth Bowman.

Pink and black accessories were worn by Mrs. Bowman, with her finely tailored black broadcloth suit, black felt hat touched with pink, and black box coat. Mrs. Paterson chose a cinnamon brown gabardine suit with accessories en tone, and green belted topcoat, and her sister a fitted houndstooth check suite, wine accessories and topcoat, and matching feather-trimmed cloche.

A stunning dress suit of ivory and silver brocade was choice of Mrs. Arthur Ash. A poke bonnet of similar material, clustered with short black feathers, crowned her dark hair and she wore a black and white Tibet kid coat and black accessories.

Mrs. W. H. Ash chose squirrel furs over a black topcoat. Her afternoon dress was figured green silk, green-black coq feathers adorn her black felt hat.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1950



### Indian Regalia Adds Color To Opening

Speaker greets Indians following one of most colorful ceremonies in province's history. Mrs. Nancy Hodges became first woman to hold Speaker's office in Commonwealth. Indians in ermine and buckskin dress arrived at ceremony to thank Legislature for fran-

chise granted their people last year. Left is Chief William Scow, president of Native Brotherhood of B.C., and centre, Chief Frank Assu, head of North American Brotherhood of Indians.



In court uniform, Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks inspects guard of honor from Royal Canadian School of Artillery and 129th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, R.C.A., Esquimalt Garrison, at B.C. Legislature opening Tuesday. Beside him is Capt. R. R. Cottingham, officer in charge of guard.



UP MARBLE STEPS official party enters Legislative Buildings with Wing Cdr. D. D. Campbell, aide to His Honor, in lead, followed by Lieutenant-Governor in his cocked, plumed hat, then Premier Byron Johnson, and behind him J. G. Cromack, private secretary to Lieutenant-Governor.

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### Lieutenant-Governor Opens Assembly

Taking salute after inspection of guard of honor at opening Tuesday of first session of 22nd Legislative Assembly of B.C., Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks stands on steps of Legislative Buildings with aides on both sides. Cmdr. Hew Paterson, naval aide, is at left; Lt.-Col. Brooke Stephenson is at his other side, with Wing Cmdr. Donald Campbell at extreme right. Immediately behind His Honor is J. G. Cromack, private secretary, and further up stairs stands Premier Byron Johnson with executive assistant, Percy Richards.

om Royal Cana-  
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e of guard.



**SPEECH FROM THRONE** is read by Lieutenant-Governor from Speaker's dais in Legislative Chamber. Reading of speech marked official opening of the House. Mrs. Banks had seat on floor of Legislative Chamber during ceremony.



Madam Speaker takes place at head of Legislative Chamber after donning robes and tri-cornered hat of office. At right is sergeant-at-arms, Capt. W. R. Webster. Page boy at Speaker's feet is Sgt. Glen Stewart.

. D. D. Campbell  
hat, then Premier  
overnor.

**Feminine View Of Government**

**Madam Speaker Adds Touch Of Femininity To Her Robes**

*By Elizabeth Forbes*

When Madam Speaker appeared for the first time yesterday afternoon on the floor of the House, robed in her hat and gown, there was a feminine note added.

For Madam Speaker wore large pearl earrings, the one concession she made to her sex.

The earrings rather than detracting from the simple dignity of the Speaker's robes, added a delightful touch that at least every woman present would enjoy.

Madam Speaker's hair was another touch of her femininity.

For, although it was shingled at the back and cut fairly close at the sides, it had been styled in wide waves that shone under the Klieg lights—mounted along the sides of the Legislative

Chamber for moving pictures of the scene—each time she doffed her tricorne hat in the traditional procedure of the opening ceremony.

As for Madam Speaker's voice, it never quavered or cracked, even in the excitement of her first speech, in which she said, "Honorable Members, permit me to return my humble acknowledgements to the House, and to express my grateful thanks for the great honor you have been pleased to confer upon me by unanimously choosing me to be your Speaker."

And when she questioned the House as to presentation of bills from various ministers, and put the motion—for or against—her words were clipped and business-like, with no wasted minutes for any touch of feminine drawl.

**Not Many Flowers Worn**

There were not many boutonnaires worn by either Cabinet minister or members of the Legislature for opening day ceremonies. But Duff Pattullo had his usual long-stemmed red rosebud in his buttonhole and across the

aisle, James Mowat, member for Alberni, was wearing a pink carnation.

Mrs. Tilly Rolston, only woman member now left on the floor of the House, was wearing a white gardenia.

**Symbols Of Authority**

Three other symbols of Madam Speaker's authority, over and above the Mace, will be on her desk during every day's session of the Legislature.

There is the buzzer that she will press to summon Cabinet ministers and members who may be absent from the floor of the House when a division is taken. This buzzer sounds in each minister's room and in the members' room. After it sounds, there are so many minutes given for them to return to their places.

And here is where the second symbol of authority appears. A simple hourglass.

After she touches the buzzer, Madam Speaker will tip the hourglass and when the last grain of sand has drained to the bottom, she will ring a bell, third symbol of authority.

When the tingle of that bell floats out on the air, the doors will be locked.

And any Cabinet minister or member, not in his or her place, will be unable to enter until after the vote is taken.



Mrs. Tilly Rolston, M.L.A. for Vancouver-Point Grey, only woman member left on the floor of the House, was gowned in a fine black wool suit, large, black felt hat. She wore a gardenia, en corsage.



**Through Golden Gates To Floor Of House**

Mrs. Don C. Brown, left, wife of the M.L.A. for Vancouver-Burrard, with Mrs. Russell Baker and Mrs. G. C. Miller, wife of Vancouver's Alderman Miller, arrive at Parliament Buildings for the Legislature opening.



## The Speech Was Shorter Than Usual

JUDGED BY THE CONTENTS OF THE Speech from the Throne with which the Lieutenant-Governor opened the 22nd Legislature of British Columbia yesterday the session now beginning the debate on the Address in reply to His Honor's pronouncement should not be a very long one. But, as we have said so many times, the formal pronouncement which the representative of His Majesty in this province reads to the elected servants of the people each year is less significant for what it contains than it is for what the authors of the document have up their governmental sleeves, to say nothing of the political fare over which members of the Opposition have been burning the midnight oil.

It was a foregone conclusion, of course, that reference would be made to Canada's acquisition of another province, that His Honor should regard with suitable pride the completion of the Hope-Princeton Highway, that he should recall that the recent Dominion-Provincial Conference ended with fruitful results and encouraging prospects for the resumption of deliberations among these same agencies in respect to economic matters, and that he should refer to the desirability of some practical decision being reached on the important project of constructing a real Trans-Canada Highway—plus the route it shall take in the west. Among the more or less general allusions contained in the traditional Speech from the Throne, moreover, the question of improved dyking facilities in the Fraser Valley and elsewhere in the province, provision for financial assistance to the University of British Columbia, and legislation "affecting various branches of the public service" were not forgotten.

Six lines in the manuscript of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech hold promise of considerable controversy. They read as follows: "As a result of the decision of the Privy Council you will be asked to consider legis-

lation in respect to taxation on Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway belt lands." If we understand these 28 words correctly, the government will ask the Legislature to give it permission to impose a severance tax on all timber cut on E. & N. Railway timber belt lands.

It is not necessary to suggest to our intelligent readers that this matter alone is likely to monopolize a good many hours of the Legislature's time. However, it is good to know that advance notice has been given of the administration's decision to rake over this old subject in view of the bright legalistic light shed upon it since the last session of the House. Members should be thoroughly familiar with all its implications in respect to provincial economy.

Twenty-four words inform the elected representatives of the people and the province in general that the Legislature will be called upon to consider a bill to amend the Hospital Insurance Act—with the object of improving "administrative procedure under this act." Although the government's experience and its own admission that mistakes were made already have been instrumental in materially changing a system which did not work out well, it can be taken for granted that Minister of Health and Welfare Pearson will be hauled over the coals. The technique inherent herein will appeal to those who have noted and absorbed the type of vendetta which has had very considerable prominence in the public prints on the Mainland.

Again, let us hope that the government's legislation, regardless of its character, will be ready for consideration by the members of the Legislature in the early days of its deliberations. Many new faces have appeared in the Chamber. The minimum concession that can be made to them is that they be provided, as quickly as possible, with the material upon which they will be expected to pronounce their views.

## First House Bill On Oil Land Leases

A bill always is introduced during opening ceremonies of the B.C. Legislature to show the people's business comes foremost.

The bill which went before the members at the start of the first session of the 22nd B.C. Legislative Assembly on Tuesday was to do with common law in the granting of leases on property for oil and natural gas exploration.

Given first reading, Bill No. 1, an act to amend the Laws Declaratory Act, eliminates the common law ruling that a lease for an indeterminate term can be terminated at any time by the person granting it, for mining, petroleum and natural gas leases.

## Session Committees Named Next Week

A five-man committee of members of the Legislature is busy naming eight standing committees for the current session which will be announced early next week.

The naming committee is composed of Dr. J. J. Gillis, Yale; Charles Morrow, North Okanagan; Reginald MacDougall, Vancouver-Point Grey; Leigh F. Stevenson, Vancouver-Point Grey and Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Committees being appointed are: standing orders and private bills, public accounts and printing, mining and railways, agriculture, municipal matters, forestry and fisheries, labor, social welfare and education.

## Ex-Premiers, Speakers Look Fit

By Lloyd Baker

Two former premiers of the province chuckled quietly together in the hushed excitement which always precedes a B.C. Legislature opening.

"I guess we know what it feels like, John," said T. D. Pattullo to former Premier Hart.

They were waiting for the Royal Salute guns outside the Parliament Buildings to stop their noise before taking sideline seats in the Legislative Chamber prior to the arrival of the Lieutenant-Governor.

There was an air of nostalgia about the pair as they assured each other they were glad their days of government leadership were over. Hearing them chat about old times made you wonder . . .

There was no missing the sincerity in their voices, though, when they wished the newcomers well.

Both looking fit in their morning dress, robust Mr. Pattullo again sported a bright red rose bud in his lapel for Liberalism.

Elevation of Mrs. Nancy Hodges to the office of Speaker created the greatest interest at the colorful House opening. There were hundreds of spectators turned away from the crowded chamber where the main part of the ceremony took place.

All eyes were turned toward the second member for Victoria and applause thundered through the chamber when the Premier and the Opposition Leader took her by the arms to lead her to the Speaker's dias.

The House will miss her repute in the debates. It will be up to the other woman member, Mrs. Tilly Rolston, to carry the load for the feminine sex.

Madam Speaker's quick-wittedness broke through the dignity of her new position at one stage in the ceremony. The ministers were filing various reports. When Hon. Herbert Anscomb read a long list for the files, Mrs. Hodges passed over the repeating of each report title with, "The Honorable Minister of Finance presents a great many reports."

Observers agreed the new Speaker looked handsome in her shining black robes and tri-cornered hat.

"The headpiece suits her better," it was agreed.

Among those nodding agreement were two former Speakers—Mr. Hart who retired from that office last year, and Mr. Justice Norman Whittaker who served for one of the longest terms of the province's 22 Speakers—1937 to 1947.

In addition to Mr. Hart and Mr. Justice Whittaker there are five other former Speakers still living—Mr. Justice A. M. Manson of the B.C. Supreme Court; F. A. Pauline, Victoria, retired; C. F. Davie, Duncan lawyer; H. G. T. Perry, B.C. Liberal Association president, and publisher of the Prince Rupert News; Robert Carson, Kamloops businessman, who retired because of ill-health immediately before Mr. Hart's appointment.

Lone Labor member Tom Uphill, senior member of the House, was up to his usual hi-jinx to the delight of the gallery. Arriving after his crowded neighbors had taken their seats, the elderly mayor of Fernie scrambled over the top of his desk to reach his seat.

Later his voice boomed across the chamber when Premier Johnson named Mrs. Hodges as Speaker: "You used good judgment there."

There was a gleam of satisfaction in the eyes of the seven-man Opposition when their leader, Harold Winch, tripped up Hon. George Pearson over a technicality of House rules.

The Provincial Secretary failed to call for a suspension of the rules of procedure in the hearing of two Indians who came to thank the lawmakers for granting them the franchise last year.

Mr. Winch was quick to check the veteran cabinet minister who, in turn, was quick to make things right.

With due respect to the ladies, most eye-catching outfit in the social circle was worn by a man—Dr. Norman MacKenzie. The U.B.C. president was wearing scarlet robes of his office. With his colorful cloak went a plush, tam-like headdress.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1950

### Homes For Stability

**D**URING RECENT MONTHS THE PEOPLE of this province have learned in general terms of the decision of various governments to facilitate construction of new homes. More explicit detail may be expected in legislative debate forecast on the subject in the Speech from the Throne delivered on Tuesday.

In a few words, the Speech announced: "There will be placed before you legislation enabling my government to enter into agreement with the government of Canada to share responsibility in connection with projects designed to alleviate the existing housing shortage. Concurrently, there will be submitted legislation enabling cities and municipalities to participate with my government in the housing plan devised by various districts to meet their particular needs."

Earlier provincial and Dominion statements have set forth the broad basis on which funds will be made more readily available to individuals intending to construct their own dwellings. Civic responses to these general provisions have reflected the keen interest shown in the plans by the councils and corporations affected.

Specifically the various governments are concerned with the immediate necessity of making available better accommodation for those of our citizens whose present shelter arrangements are admittedly inadequate. Beyond physical needs, the authorities recognize the serious social problems

that are arising from overcrowding, and the enforced use of premises which have been declared unsuitable, if not unfit, for human use. The sooner that condition is remedied, the better.

But there is another purpose quite as important as the foregoing in the implementation of a satisfactory housing policy. It reaches beyond the superficial necessity of providing a roof over the heads of our people and touches on the stability of the nation itself. A poorly housed citizenry is a dissatisfied citizenry, open to the overtures and promises of interests highly prejudicial to the welfare of Canada. Conversely, a country in which people can take pride in their homes is a sound bulwark against the enticements of disruptive ideologies which thrive on conditions of discontent.

The family with a good home, not just mere shelter, feels its roots firmly planted in its native or adopted land. It has more than a building as its stake in the country. It has the consciousness of being a definite part of the nation itself, not merely a floating segment of population temporarily domiciled in a shelter of the type from which it hopes to move to something better when given the chance. For this reason, the importance of the housing program scheduled for legislative action at this session will be generally understood. The urgency of solving the shelter problem itself is not minimized. But the significance of the plan does not stop there.



## New Member Pleads Cause Of Senior Citizens In Need

A new member of the Legislature pleaded the case of older citizens in need when he gave the opening address in the House Wednesday in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

A. D. Turnbull, Cln., Rossland-Trail, said the extra \$10 a month given old-age pensioners last year was welcomed by everyone, but assistance should go further.

The province should be prepared to give every assistance and co-operation to the Federal government toward the establishment of a Dominion-wide contributory superannuation scheme, he said.

In hand with the pension question was a problem of employment for citizens, men and women, over the age of 45, the speaker continued.

The state and industry must co-operate to provide useful jobs for these people and one source would be in the creation of new secondary industries through manufacturing, fabricating and processing primary products—wood, metals, food—for export and for home consumption.

### DEPENDENT ON EXPORT

In this connection too, said Mr. Turnbull, about 40 per cent of the people of the province were dependent on the export of the primary products and he thought: "Our economy would be more stable if they were processed before being exported."

Timber should be manufactured to the highest possible degree before export, he continued. Metals and minerals should be fabricated in articles ready for use.

Mr. Turnbull said the province's public works department deserved highest commendation for keeping open to traffic through the hard winter the new Hope-Princeton Highway.

It was a fine highway said Mr. Turnbull, but it only reached the Okanagan.

The people from the great Kootenay and Crow's Nest areas were still drawn by U.S. highways to Spokane and other southern centres when, if they had a link with the Hope-Prince-

## Farmers Hard Hit, Says Delta Member

Farmers of B.C. are swallowing bitter medicine the Legislature was told Wednesday.

Alex. Hope, Delta member, who operates a mixed farm at Langley, said the farmer felt badly to see export markets slipping away to countries not overly friendly to the Allied nations in World War II.

"The agriculture picture is not too bright for the near future," he said.

Branches of the industry hardest hit were in poultry production, fruit growing and hog raising.

Farmers felt bitter, he continued, when they saw their prices falling while at the same time other groups of workers were striking for higher wages and getting them.

ton artery, they would be drawn to Vancouver and the B.C. coastal area.

Mr. Turnbull urged the government to co-operate with the U.S. government to bring about the fullest possible development of the Columbia River basin of which his constituency was a part.

"This government would be well advised to seek to increase the production and the prosperity made possible by the power from the Kootenay and Columbia rivers," he said.

## Winch Protests Indians Lacking Full Citizenship

The spotlight which shone on native Indians at the opening of the Legislature Tuesday is expected to shine many times again before the session is over.

It was expected Opposition Leader Harold Winch would flip the switch late today in a rally for the red men.

In the Throne Speech it was predicted action would be taken by the government to establish "a closer liaison between our native Indians in all matters coming within the jurisdiction of the province."

It is not known what action this might be.

Opposition Leader Winch says the government should clear up the status of Indians properly now that they have been given the vote.

### IN SPECIAL CATEGORY

On old age pensions, social welfare, liquor laws and several other points Indians remain in a special category, he points out.

"Here we have a situation," he says, "where the first Indian member of the House, our C.C.F. man Frank Calder from Athol, has full privileges of all members, but only as an M.L.A. on the floor of the Legislative Chamber."

When the 34-year-old first Indian member of a legislature or parliament anywhere in Canada stepped outside the House chamber he was subject to restrictions which did not apply to citizens generally, Mr. Winch said.

In other words, Mr. Calder was a full citizen on the floor of the House, but not outside it.

The C.C.F., said Mr. Winch, will press the government to have the Dominion Indian Act straightened out to remove the anomaly under which a man can be a citizen yet not a citizen.

## Hopes Cities Get Good Deal On B.C. Home Building Plan

Post-war days of World War I were recalled in the Legislature Wednesday when Alex. Hope, Coalition member for the Fraser Valley constituency of Delta, dealt with the plan of the Dominion and province to build blocks of houses with co-operation from municipalities.

He was seconding the reply to the Speech from the Throne.

"I hope, Mr. Premier," said Mr. Hope, "that whatever arrangements are finally made, the municipalities will not be left out on a limb as they were after the first war under the 'Better Housing Act'."

He did not give details but said nearly all of the municipalities which took part in the housing program after the Great War lost money.

The Delta member said the municipalities were receiving more financial assistance from the government now than they did eight or nine years ago, but they still had their problems.

"This winter they are having a very definite problem with the unemployed employables," he said.

### NOT SOLE CAUSE

A lot of the trouble had been brought about by the severe weather, but that was not the sole cause.

Many small part-time farmers in the Fraser Valley were being driven out of business by the low prices of eggs and other produce. Hundreds of poultry producers, particularly in Langley and Surrey, had been forced to sell their flocks, the speaker asserted.

Mr. Hope had words of praise for the public work's department's road building program. The Hope-Princeton Highway was a boon to the people travel-

ing to the Okanagan from the coast.

He would like to see a bottleneck at the junction of the Trans-Canada Highway and King George Highway at Fry's Corner eliminated. There was an eight-mile stretch of the road only 18 feet wide, he said.

The Delta member brought Victoria into his speech. He thought a redistribution of seats in the House was long overdue. Victoria had three representatives for 31,900 registered voters—an average of about 10,600 voters to a member. Vancouver had 25,000 voters to a member.

"But in Delta, I alone represent 35,000 registered voters," he said.

## Insurance Plan Wins Praise In Opening Debate

In the first two speeches from the floor of the 22nd Legislative Assembly on Wednesday the province's hospital insurance received bouquets.

A. D. Turnbull and Alex. Hope, mover and seconder of the reply to the Speech from the Throne, both felt the administration of the service needed changes "to iron out the rough spots," but basically the scheme was sound.

Mr. Turnbull, Cln.-Rossland-Trail, said he felt confident the service had given the people satisfaction in protecting them from the hospital portion of the cost of illness.

"I am convinced," he said, "that a very large proportion of the people are completely satisfied with the plan."

The Trail member said he was certain the government was prepared to bear a fair share of the cost of expanding hospitals to provide more beds.

### HIGHEST PRAISE

Mr. Hope, Cln.-Delta, had this to say: "Many people have come to me during the past year who have had hospitalization under the scheme and they have had nothing but the highest praise for this service."

He wondered if it might be better to add per cent to the 3 per cent sales tax to cover cost of the service. This would eliminate collection of premiums.

Mr. Hope thought recipients of war veterans' allowances and their dependents should be exempted from paying the hospital insurance premiums the same as old-age pensioners.

## Margarine Ruining Dairying, Says M.L.A.

Oleomargarine is ruining the dairy industry, Alex. Hope, Cln.-Delta, said in the Legislature Wednesday.

"It's just as I predicted last year when legislation was enacted to allow manufacture and sale of margarine," he said.

Nearly 4,000 milk producers in the Fraser Valley alone were losing 40 cents on each can of milk they shipped, because of margarine.

Mr. Hope explained: Milk prices remained the same. But the 4,000 producers could not sell all their milk in fluid. Much of it had to be manufactured into canned milk, powdered milk, and other products. As soon as margarine appeared on the market, prices of these other products dropped. The decrease resulted in the 40 cents loss per can of milk.

From the Press Gallery

# Spectators Enjoy Opening Tilts

By Lloyd Baker

There was more than the usual amount of side-play at a first regular sitting of a Legislature when the 1950 House assembled Wednesday to hear first replies to the Speech from the Throne.

The public galleries enjoyed the heckling and the seats "upstairs" will be at a premium like they were on opening day Tuesday if the back-talk tempo increases. And it probably will as the session progresses.

As it was there were many spectators on hand to see Madam Speaker in action and to hear speeches from Trail's young-looking Douglas Turnbull and the Fraser Valley farmer's stalwart, Alex Hope.

Ruddy-faced Dr. J. J. Gillis of Yale got the goat of Mr. Hope when he laughed at claims the sale of margarine was ruining dairy farmers.

"Oh, no," said the doctor. "Oh yes. Oh Yes! OH YES!!" returned Mr. Hope.

"Milk diverted to by-products brings less return to the farmer as it competes with margarine," he contended.

The doctor needed Mr. Turnbull too, when the Trail member said certain "minor difficulties" in the administration of the hospital insurance service now were being surmounted.

"Minor? You mean major," he called across to Mr. Turnbull.

But the quiet-spoken engineer of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company refused to be ruffled.

"Many minor shortcomings are being rectified," he repeated.

The Yale member was bicycling backwards at another point when he interrupted Mr. Hope who was speaking of the recent Dominion-Provincial conference

on proposed amendments to the Canadian constitution.

Mr. Hope was congratulating Premier Johnson on his "co-operative approach" in the difficult task of amending the constitution.

He took Dr. Gillis' remarks, unheard in the gallery, as a slight against the Premier and the doctor was quick to jump to his feet and tell one and all he had been misunderstood.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch created a bit of a stir as the House was adjourning when he used his deep knowledge of Legislature rules and procedures to put the Premier and Attorney-General Gordon Wismer on the spot.

The Attorney-General had offered some friendly advice on moving adjournment on Throne Speech debate. The C.C.F. chief misunderstood.

Rising to his feet and in caustic tone, Mr. Winch asked if it was the government's plan to change the rules of the House.

He had moved adjournment on the Throne Speech debate but apparently the Attorney-General thought it should be done again. On top of that a traditional resolution for a first session of a Legislature had failed to appear on the agenda at the opening day ceremony.

"What goes?" the Opposition Leader asked.

Premier Johnson replied the government had no intention to establish new precedents or new interpretations of rules of the House. He thought Mr. Winch had misunderstood the Attorney-General.

"That's fine," said the Opposition Leader, "but what about the resolution?"

"I don't know what you're talking about," the Premier replied.

The resolution, it was learned later, reads: "That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a member of this House, or endeavored so to be by bribery or other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as should have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices."

There were two seats in the Legislative Chamber vacant for the sitting—those of Charles T. Beard, the Coalition member

for Esquimalt, and Leigh F. Stevenson, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey.

Mr. Beard is in hospital recovering from a bout with the flu and Mr. Stevenson was grounded by bad weather at Vancouver.

Mr. Stevenson is the former Air Vice-Marshal who commanded Western Air Command Headquarters of the R.C.A.F. when it was situated at the Belmont Building here during World War II. He had flown to Vancouver after the opening ceremony Tuesday and was planning to return by air Wednesday morning.

Many members' ears pricked up at a statement made by Mr. Turnbull in his Throne Speech reply.

Brother of Mr. Hope, Ernest, who is a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Ottawa, will appreciate the Delta member's remarks against sale of margarine. The federation has been a stiff opponent of the butter substitute.

It was inevitable—connection of the election of Mrs. Nancy Hodges as Madam Speaker with St. Valentine's Day. Yes, it was on the day of hearts and flowers that the second Victoria member was elevated to the honored position.

Said Mr. Turnbull: "This election on St. Valentine's Day should be interpreted as a tribute to the women in public life who are making such an important contribution to the public good."

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From the Press Gallery

## Premier Strikes At Belittlers

By Lloyd Baker

Premier Johnson is generally regarded as easy going but you wouldn't have thought so if you'd been in Harold Winch's shoes at the Friday sitting of the Legislature.

The Premier went to work on the Opposition Leader for remarks passed Thursday on Canadian aid to Britain. Long before he was finished the C.C.F. chief was squirming.

Mr. Winch thought greater assistance could have been given the war-racked United Kingdom by Canada. The shrapnel-sheltered Dominion had things pretty easy.

That was too much for the Premier. He rolled up his sleeves and pushed Canada up on a pedestal after firing everything he had at the C.C.F. leader.

The ammunition he had gathered for the onslaught was stacked something like this:

From December, 1945, to March, 1948, Great Britain received from the various Dominions and United States 106,000,000 pounds of food as gifts and Canada's share was 54,000,000;

From 1940 to 1948, 50,308,000 food parcels were sent to the people of Britain and the 13,000,000 people of Canada contributed 10,929,000 of them;

Last year 58,000 tons of food were shipped overseas and Canada sent 24,000 tons of the total.

"I can't understand why anyone would want to belittle Canada's efforts in helping Great Britain," the Premier said.

Warning up a little: "I'm amazed that a man of Mr. Winch's standing would cast a reflection on Canada's contributions."

And finally: "I'm fed up with people who say the country is going to the dogs! We have every reason to be proud of our record!"

The Premier didn't stop there. He took Mr. Winch to task also on references made to unemployment, public works, and trade.

"In 1949," he said, "there were more people with jobs in British Columbia than ever before."

Too many people were finding fault without the goods to back up their criticism.

"We hear about our markets going to pot and all the dire things that are going to happen as a result, but the fact remains we sold every bushel of wheat produced last year and the lumber industry has more orders now than it ever had before," Mr. Johnson asserted.

"And they talk about public works . . ."

Anyone who had any eyes in their head would have to admit whether they were for or against the government that a fine job

was being done in highway construction and many other projects.

"We are doing jobs under public works that are necessary in the development of the province," said the Premier.

"And I'm satisfied the economy of the province is sound," he concluded.

In policy speech discussion of P.G.E. plans the Premier strayed from his notes to graze happily on one of his favorite pastures—the Peace River district.

"I'm so sold on that country that I'm afraid I'm encroaching on Mr. Kenney's territory (Minister of Lands and Forests), but I'm sure he won't mind," he said.

Four million bushels of grain were grown in the Peace River district last year and oil prospects were terrific, Mr. Johnson said.

As soon as the P.G.E. was extended all this could be shipped to the coast, traveling 400 miles less than it does now.

The Premier wasn't certain all the costs being charged to the Hospital Insurance Service should be.

The government was paying between \$9 and \$10 a day per bed to Jubilee and St. Joseph's Hospitals.

This included nurse training and other costs. Some might be charged to the Department of Health . . .

Mr. Johnson disclosed in further discussion of the hospital insurance question that at one stage before the service went in to operation the fuel bill at Jubilee Hospital here was six months in arrears.

"That condition cannot exist today," he said.

As the session progresses the absence of at least one last year member defeated in the June elections becomes more and more apparent.

Bert Gargrave, the former C.C.F. whip from Mackenzie riding, is missed on both sides of the House.

The fiery Gargrave is one of the finest speakers in debate that you'd want to hear and no

one has appeared so far to take his place.

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### IN THE CAUSE OF ECONOMY

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From the Press Gallery

# Spectators Enjoy Opening Tilts

By Lloyd Baker

There was more than the usual amount of side-play at a first regular sitting of a Legislature when the 1950 House assembled Wednesday to hear first replies to the Speech from the Throne.

The public galleries enjoyed the heckling and the seats "upstairs" will be at a premium like they were on opening day Tuesday if the back-talk tempo increases. And it probably will as the session progresses.

As it was there were many spectators on hand to see Madam Speaker in action and to hear speeches from Trall's young-looking Douglas Turnbull and the Fraser Valley farmer's stalwart, Alex Hope.

Ruddy-faced Dr. J. J. Gillis of Yale got the goat of Mr. Hope when he laughed at claims the sale of margarine was ruining dairy farmers.

"Oh, no," said the doctor. "Oh yes. Oh Yes! OH YES!!" returned Mr. Hope.

"Milk diverted to by-products brings less return to the farmer as it competes with margarine," he contended.

The doctor needled Mr. Turnbull too, when the Trail member said certain "minor difficulties" in the administration of the hospital insurance service now were being surmounted.

"Minor? You mean major," he called across to Mr. Turnbull.

But the quiet-spoken engineer of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company refused to be ruffled.

"Many minor shortcomings are being rectified," he repeated.

The Yale member was bicycling backwards at another point when he interrupted Mr. Hope who was speaking of the recent Dominion-Provincial conference

on proposed amendments to the Canadian constitution.

Mr. Hope was congratulating Premier Johnson on his "co-operative approach" in the difficult task of amending the constituting.

He took Dr. Gillis' remarks, unheard in the gallery, as a slight against the Premier and the doctor was quick to jump to his feet and tell one and all he had been misunderstood.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch created a bit of a stir as the House was adjourning when he used his deep knowledge of Legislature rules and procedures to put the Premier and Attorney-General Gordon Wismer on the spot.

The Attorney-General had offered some friendly advice on moving adjournment on Throne Speech debate. The C.C.F. chief misunderstood.

Rising to his feet and in caustic tone, Mr. Winch asked if it was the government's plan to change the rules of the House.

He had moved adjournment on the Throne Speech debate but apparently the Attorney-General thought it should be done again. On top of that a traditional resolution for a first session of a Legislature had failed to appear on the agenda at the opening day ceremony.

"What goes?" the Opposition Leader asked.

Premier Johnson replied the government had no intention to establish new precedents or new interpretations of rules of the House. He thought Mr. Winch had misunderstood the Attorney-General.

"That's fine," said the Opposition Leader, "but what about the resolution?"

"I don't know what you're talking about," the Premier replied.

The resolution, it was learned later, reads: "That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a member of this House, or endeavored so to be by bribery or other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as should have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices."

There were two seats in the Legislative Chamber vacant for the sitting—those of Charles T. Beard, the Coalition member

for Esquimalt, and Leigh F. Stevenson, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey.

Mr. Beard is in hospital recovering from a bout with the 'flu and Mr. Stevenson was grounded by bad weather at Vancouver.

Mr. Stevenson is the former Air Vice-Marshal who commanded Western Air Command Headquarters of the R.C.A.F. when it was situated at the Belmont Building here during World War II. He had flown to Vancouver after the opening ceremony Tuesday and was planning to return by air Wednesday morning.

Many members' ears pricked up at a statement made by Mr. Turnbull in his Throne Speech reply.

Brother of Mr. Hope, Ernest, who is a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Ottawa, will appreciate the Delta member's remarks against sale of margarine. The federation has been a stiff opponent of the butter substitute.

It was inevitable—connection of the election of Mrs. Nancy Hodges as Madam Speaker with St. Valentine's Day. Yes, it was on the day of hearts and flowers that the second Victoria member was elevated to the honored position.

Said Mr. Turnbull: "This election on St. Valentine's Day should be interpreted as a tribute to the women in public life who are making such an important contribution to the public good."

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From the Press Gallery

## Premier Strikes At Belittlers

By Lloyd Baker

Premier Johnson is generally regarded as easy going but you wouldn't have thought so if you'd been in Harold Winch's shoes at the Friday sitting of the Legislature.

The Premier went to work on the Opposition Leader for remarks passed Thursday on Canadian aid to Britain. Long before he was finished the C.C.F. chief was squirming.

Mr. Winch thought greater assistance could have been given the war-racked United Kingdom by Canada. The shrapnel-sheltered Dominion had things pretty easy.

That was too much for the Premier. He rolled up his sleeves and pushed Canada up on a pedestal after firing everything he had at the C.C.F. leader.

The ammunition he had gathered for the onslaught was stacked something like this:

From December, 1945, to March, 1948, Great Britain received from the various Dominions and United States 106,000,000 pounds of food as gifts and Canada's share was 54,000,000;

From 1940 to 1948, 50,308,000 food parcels were sent to the people of Britain and the 13,000,000 people of Canada contributed 10,929,000 of them;

Last year 58,000 tons of food were shipped overseas and Canada sent 24,000 tons of the total.

"I can't understand why anyone would want to belittle Canada's efforts in helping Great Britain," the Premier said.

Warming up a little: "I'm amazed that a man of Mr. Winch's standing would cast a reflection on Canada's contributions."

And finally: "I'm fed up with people who say the country is going to the dogs! We have every reason to be proud of our record!"

The Premier didn't stop there. He took Mr. Winch to task also on references made to unemployment, public works, and trade.

"In 1949," he said, "there were more people with jobs in British Columbia than ever before."

Too many people were finding fault without the goods to back up their criticism.

"We hear about our markets going to pot and all the dire things that are going to happen as a result, but the fact remains we sold every bushel of wheat produced last year and the lumber industry has more orders now than it ever had before," Mr. Johnson asserted.

"And they talk about public works..."

Anyone who had any eyes in their head would have to admit whether they were for or against the government that a fine job

was being done in highway construction and many other projects.

"We are doing jobs under public works that are necessary in the development of the province," said the Premier.

"And I'm satisfied the economy of the province is sound," he concluded.

In policy speech discussion of P.G.E. plans the Premier strayed from his notes to graze happily on one of his favorite pastures—the Peace River district.

"I'm so sold on that country that I'm afraid I'm encroaching on Mr. Kenney's territory (Minister of Lands and Forests), but I'm sure he won't mind," he said.

Four million bushels of grain were grown in the Peace River district last year and oil prospects were terrific, Mr. Johnson said.

As soon as the P.G.E. was extended all this could be shipped to the coast, traveling 400 miles less than it does now.

The Premier wasn't certain all the costs being charged to the Hospital Insurance Service should be.

The government was paying between \$9 and \$10 a day per bed to Jubilee and St. Joseph's Hospitals.

This included nurse training and other costs. Some might be charged to the Department of Health...

Mr. Johnson disclosed in further discussion of the hospital insurance question that at one stage before the service went into operation the fuel bill at Jubilee Hospital here was six months in arrears.

"That condition cannot exist today," he said.

As the session progresses the absence of at least one last year member defeated in the June elections becomes more and more apparent.

Bert Gargrave, the former C.C.F. whip from Mackenzie riding, is missed on both sides of the House.

The fiery Gargrave is one of the finest speakers in debate that you'd want to hear and no

one has appeared so far to take his place.

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## He Covered A Good Deal Of Ground

**B**ECAUSE HE EXPOSED PRACTICALLY all the "goods" the Coalition administration had for sale to the people of British Columbia in the late spring of last year, Premier Johnson obviously found it difficult to include much that was new in the "policy speech" he delivered to the Legislature yesterday afternoon. At the same time, as noted elsewhere in our columns, the head of the government imparted a considerable amount of important detail to the general policy for which he will ask the approval of the elected representatives of the people.

Naturally enough the future of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway is one of the most controversial issues of the moment. It has become much more controversial because a certain section of public opinion in Vancouver has conceived the idea that if the Pacific Great Eastern Railway should extend its "iron way" from Squamish to North Vancouver, the scenic beauties of that part of Burrard Inlet would become forever damned. This is the argument advanced by the few who have forgotten how many delegations from the Vancouver Board of Trade journeyed to Victoria to impress upon the agile minds of the late Premier John Oliver and successive heads of government the necessity of a rail connection that would make the P.G.E. a transportation link worthy of its name.

In the light of all this, however, some publicists on the mainland who have forgotten the political and economic history of this province are beginning to make it diffi-

cult for the Coalition government—which they support and to which they accord lip-service when it suits their particular theme—to draft a railway policy calculated to provide adequately for a vast hinterland capable of producing the type of freight traffic on which transportation systems depend for their economic livelihood. The opposition to the idea of a "Puffing Billy" easing its way into that section of North Vancouver which one writer thinks ought to be considered sacrosanct is too funny for words—after all the importunities to which successive governments here in Victoria have been exposed by organized delegations from Vancouver.

But let an expert speak. This is what the general manager of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Mr. J. Kennedy, has told the Premier of the Province, as included in the government leader's policy speech:

"... the only way that the railroad can be placed on a paying basis is to construct the section between Squamish and North Vancouver, making it possible for a rail service from the North Shore to Quesnel, and when the extension is completed, a rail service to Prince George."

So speaks one who knows—an experienced railwayman and business executive. But, or so it would appear to us, it is now suggested that his view and the views of successive government leaders in this province should give way to the dictum of certain pundits who, for some extraordinary reason, have clothed themselves with a species of omniscience that baffles the imagination of those who have both feet on the ground.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1950

From the Press Gallery

## Mr. Winch Disappoints

By Lloyd Baker

It was Opposition Leader Harold Winch's day in the Legislature Thursday but to most observers he didn't make the best of it...

The C.C.F. leader who has held a seat in the House continually since 1933 seemed to lack the fire and polish he usually displays.

There was a big crowd in the public galleries to hear him reply to the Speech from the Throne. He was the only speaker of the Thursday sitting. He gave forth for an hour and 20 minutes.

As expected there were numerous tormentors on the government side. He was quite effective in putting them in their place.

But the Opposition chief didn't score as often as he might have—there was too much bone and not enough meat in his speech.

Mr. Winch delved into history at one point to criticize the Speech from the Throne for not making reference to this centenary year of government at Victoria.

"I hope that before this session is ended some recognition of this most important historical event will be recorded," he said.

Discovery of coal on Vancouver Island was one of the prime causes of the establishment of the first government here on March 11, 1850, he claimed.

Richard Blanchard (Why is the street of his name spelled with an "s" usually?) arrived to become first governor at a time when motive power of vessels plying the oceans was being changed from sail to steam, Mr. Winch said.

"This made the development of coal mines and the establishment of bunkering ports of the greatest importance," the Opposition Leader stated.

The C.C.F. leader who sometimes is called a better Coalitionist than many members on the government side of the House, was in sentimental mood at the start of his speech.

He was welcoming newcomers to the Legislature when he looked around and found several old faces which were there when he first made his entrance 17 years ago.

Bless'em. They were a grand group even though they didn't look at things the way he did...

That, of course, did not include his father "E. E." who was first elected to the Legislature the same time he was.

But there was good old Tom Uphill, the Labor member for Fernie, who had been a member of the Legislature since 1920; the Provincial Secretary, Hon. George Pearson, and the member for Yale, Dr. J. J. Gillis, both members the past 22 years; and Tom King, the member of Columbia, who arrived in 1931.

The ministers of Finance and Lands both entered the halls of government when he did.

Harold was 26 when first elected to the Legislature and it is believed his record of being the youngest member still stands. There are many younger than him now but none under 26.

Donald Brown, genial Coalition member for Vancouver-Burrard who was first elected to the House in 1945, is the deputy Speaker. His election to the office went unnoticed after the fanfare which accompanied the selection of Mrs. Nancy Hodges as The Speaker.

Whips for the session are Charles Morrow, Liberal; Reg. McDougall, Conservative, and Arthur Turner, C.C.F.

Morrow is the member for North Okanagan, McDougall for Vancouver-Point Grey, and Turner for Vancouver-East.

It's their job to get together on order of speakers in replies to the various major speeches of the session—Throne Speech, policy and budget.

And they are supposed to keep their respective members on their toes, to see they are on hand in the House, particularly when contentious subjects are coming up and a vote may be taken.

Premier Johnson did some checking overnight after Mr. Winch criticized him for not presenting a resolution on the opening day of the House which, it appeared, tradition called for.

The resolution had to do with the Legislature taking action against any person using bribery or corrupt methods in campaigning for election.

Mr. Johnson said he did not know what the C.C.F. leader was getting at when Mr. Winch raised the question on Wednesday.

But he looked in to the matter later and found nothing in the Constitution Act requiring passage of such a resolution.

"And I have no intention of bringing it in. The matter is covered in the Elections Act," the Premier smiled.



# Johnson Hints North Vancouver Soon To Be Terminus Of P.G.E.

Premier Byron Johnson indicated in his policy speech to the Legislature today North Vancouver will become the southern terminal of the government-owned Pacific Great Eastern Railway before long.

He supported the claim of the railway's general manager, J. A. Kennedy, that the P.G.E. could be placed on a paying basis if the gap between the present terminal at Squamish and Vancouver was filled.

"It must be kept in mind that the deficits of the P.G.E. are paid by the taxpayers of the province," he said in an hour-and-10-minute speech in which the

See second story on policy speech page 5.

work and plans of the government were outlined under 13 main headings:

Entry of Newfoundland into Confederation, Dominion-Provincial Conference, Housing Legislation, Hospital Insurance, Motor Vehicle Control Study, Education, Dyking Legislation, Power Development, the P.G.E., Oil Development, Aluminum Industry, Public Works, Timber Trade Visit to London.

Much of the contents of the speech has been said before. It was a far cry from the 1949 policy address to the Legislature which presented a tremendous program of expenditures on public works and railway extension.

Greatest interest in today's speech was taken in the railway plans although no definite program was laid out.

The Premier said the Squamish-Vancouver link would do away with costly barge service

between the two points and with all the attendant delays which were costly from an operating point of view.

"And at the same time the earnings of the railroad would be increased with more passenger revenue and freight between Vancouver and Squamish," he said.

Surveys for steel and highway links between Vancouver and Squamish will be continued, Premier Johnson said, and "when the reports have been made available the government proposes to give serious consideration to Mr. Kennedy's recommendation with a view to determining the policy to be followed."

The Premier said the difficulties in extending the railway through West Vancouver (where many new homes have been built close to the right-of-way) were realized.

"However it is a recognized fact that the railroad eventually must have a terminal on Vancouver Harbor," Mr. Johnson stated.

He made it clear that the Vancouver-Squamish link should be built before the Prince George-Dawson Creek extension was undertaken in the north.

## Hospital Insurance Boost?

A hint that hospital insurance premiums may be increased was given by Premier Byron Johnson today in his annual policy speech to the Legislature.

After giving a lengthy review of the operation of the insurance service in which he said questions arising during the session in connection with administration will be dealt with by the Minister of Health and a review of amendments to the Hospital Insurance Act will be made, the Premier concluded:

"We must keep in mind the fact that to maintain the exclusive services of the scheme requires an understanding on the part of the citizens that the revenue must be sufficient to meet the costs."

Mr. Johnson did not give the losses in operation of the plan in its first year but the deficit has been estimated at \$3,000,000.

The Premier reminded that since the hospital insurance

service was started, financial positions of the hospitals of the province had been improved greatly.

"And for the first time in the history of this province those citizens stricken with illness are free from financial worry and anxiety which inevitably impairs recovery," he added.

In a direct reference to the premium, Mr. Johnson ventured: "Nowhere else on this continent is so wide a hospital service given for so reasonable a premium."

## Thousands Jobless Unable To Get Benefits Says Winch

Unemployment in B.C. is seasonal to some extent, but there are thousands of jobless needing help who are unable to get unemployment insurance benefits, Opposition Leader Harold Winch said in the House Thursday.

During debate on the Speech from the Throne, the C.C.F. leader said the Dominion gov-

ernment was shirking its responsibility in the matter of unemployment but that did not clear the provincial authorities. "If our people are in need it is up to the province to do something," he stated.

### BENEFITS PAID

Premier Byron Johnson interrupted to say the Dominion government had paid \$6,600,000 in unemployment insurance benefits and family allowances in December and January.

"I am not suggesting this is the answer but it shows that something is being done," he said.

Mr. Winch replied there was a big difference between unemployment insurance benefits and wages from work, and there still were many in need.

The Premier estimated 95 per cent of the province's unemployed would have jobs when weather conditions improved which brought from Mr. Winch:

"Do you realize what you are saying?" "Yes," replied the Premier.

### DON'T UNDERSTAND

"Then you don't understand the situation," shouted E. E. Winch, father of the Opposition Leader, who is the C.C.F. member for Burnaby.

"Yes," added son Harold, "I'm afraid Mr. Premier you're getting completely out of touch with things as far as unemployment is concerned."

## Opposition Leader Asks Bill Of Rights For All Citizens

Opposition Leader Harold Winch demanded a "Bill of Rights" for all citizens of Canada when he made his reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature Thursday.

The C.C.F. leader told the members that Frank Calder, C.C.F. member for Atlin, the first Indian to be elected to a legislature, had all citizenship rights in Legislative Chamber.

"But once he is outside he is restricted in many ways," Mr. Winch said.

Giving native Indians full citizenship rights carried with it the responsibility of demanding that Ottawa amend its laws to provide for old age pensions, social welfare grants and other privileges enjoyed by others having the franchise.

## Wants All Correspondence Tabled On Health Insurance Proposals

Tabling of all correspondence between Health Minister George S. Pearson and former Hospital Insurance Commissioner J. M. Hershey was demanded in the Legislature Thursday by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Dr. Hershey resigned as commissioner last December owing to dissatisfaction over failure of the minister to act on recommendations he had made regarding administration of the service. He now is assistant deputy minister of health in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Winch said the hospital insurance service was here to stay despite opposition by insur-

ance companies and some members of the medical profession.

There must be something wrong with the way it was being handled, though, Mr. Winch said.

"And I don't think it's the fault of the minister," he added.

"I hope all correspondence and reports will be tabled," he continued. "The people need this scheme and I say it is here to stay."

The C.C.F. leader thought the services should have been introduced years ago and that it should be followed by complete health insurance for all.

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## Election Campaign Of Fear Winch Protests

A change in procedure of the Legislature was advocated by Opposition Leader Harold Winch Thursday when he replied to the Speech from the Throne.

First speaker after the reading of the Throne Speech should be the Premier, he asserted.

"The Premier should tell the members what has happened since the last session and what is to be expected in the present session," the C.C.F. leader declared.

As it was now, members did not know what the plans of the government were, they did not know the policies or how to deal with problems uppermost in the minds of the people.

Mr. Winch then dwelt briefly with results of the elections since 1933 and how the C.C.F. had made such inroads that in 1941 it forced a coalition of the old-line parties.

### 'WOULD NOT RUIN B.C.'

He said the 1949 election was a campaign of fear by the Coalition.

"I think it is despicable," he said, "to try and scare the people of the province as to what might happen if the C.C.F. assumed power."

His party would not ruin B.C., Mr. Winch said, but the Finance Minister and Attorney-General had done their best to try and impress the people that way.

Later Mr. Winch praised Attorney-General Gordon Wismer for his stand in regard to appointment of King's Counsellors.

"I congratulate the Attorney-General for refusing to follow the Finance Minister's wishes of handing out K.C.'s on a political basis. I hope the Attorney-General will stand by his guns and make the awards on merit and not on political affiliation," Mr. Winch said.

### COALITION BREAK

Leader of the Opposition took the opportunity to ask again "how the Coalition marriage is making out?"

The Premier had said "all is well" but "how can everything be harmonious when there is so much knifing going on?"

He did not think Finance Minister Anscomb would ever take the Conservatives away from the Coalition.

"We've never been able to hang you together," he said. "But if you ever split, we'll hang you separately, and on the same day!"

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1950-

## Achievements Count

**F**OR A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MUCH CRITICISED provincial hospital insurance plan it is necessary to keep in mind the situation that prevailed before that program was inaugurated. There was the increasing threat that some hospitals would have to close their doors for lack of funds. There were the rising costs of operation, with hospital employees asking for a wage scale comparable with those of other types of work. There was the vicious circle caused by the inability of hospitals to collect many of the bills owed to them—Vancouver General Hospital, for instance, was receiving payment for only about 65 per cent of patients' accounts—which contributed to the increase in rates, which made it still more difficult for needy patients to pay. The fear of incurring overwhelming debt kept many a sufferer from obtaining the services he or she should have had. There was, too, the fact that a number of Health Societies operating in the province were forced into liquidation, with consequent loss to those who depended on them for assistance in time of illness. It was a situation that called for far-reaching measures. Government-sponsored compulsory hospital insurance appeared to be the only solution.

As Premier Byron Johnson pointed out in his policy speech in the Legislature last week, he had two objectives in mind when he proposed the Hospital Insurance Act. In his words they were:

"1. To provide a reasonable degree of security against hospital bills for the people of the province in case of illness and hospital services being required.

"2. To provide a method of financing our hospitals."

That the program, despite the fact that it will cost more than originally estimated, has achieved in large measure the objectives which prompted its establishment, is evident from the Premier's statement. During 1949 no less than 170,000 British Columbians benefited from hospital services financed from the insurance funds. A total of \$15,000,000 was paid to the hospitals on their behalf. Individual bills ran from \$10 to \$2,000. Use of beds averaged 10 days. "It is obvious," said Mr. Johnson, "that one-half of the population of the province has directly and indirectly benefited by this plan."

In regard to the second objective the position is equally evident. Hospital budgets have been placed on a much more workable basis. Tradesmen's bills need not go unpaid for as long as six months, as formerly occurred in some cases. As the Premier expressed it, "I do not think there is any question that our hospitals are in much better position than they were before the inauguration of Hospital Insurance." And the salaries and working conditions of those engaged in the work of healing have been correspondingly improved. Mr. Johnson added:

"I feel sure that we can say . . . that we have given the people of the province a degree of security as far as hospital bills are concerned, and the financial position of our hospitals is in much better shape than before the Hospital Insurance Service came into effect. . . . I venture to say that nowhere else on this continent is so wide a service given for so reasonable a premium."

The final verdict on the actual value of the program must be given by those who have had occasion to benefit from the service—a verdict which is overwhelmingly in favor of it. And who can say he will not be the next to join these judges?



FROM PRESS GALLERY

# Members' Days of Oratory Pass As They Hug P.A. Microphones

By LLOYD BAKER  
It looks like the days of oratory are over in the Legislature . . .

Four years ago a costly public address system was installed in the Legislative Chamber because there were some members whose voices failed to carry to the furthest spectator.

It was a fine innovation for the listener but it is ringing the death knell of oratory.

Those who did thump desks and gesticulate with an arm upraised to drive home a point in forceful tone no longer do.

They speak quietly in to the microphone. There are no dramatic gestures to accentuate delivery because the loud speakers boom out the voice. Besides the mike might get knocked over.

There has been no mention of it in the House yet but the whisper is that starting next year motor vehicle license plates will be issued every five years instead of every year.

It is understood this is one of several economy measures recommended for the Motor Vehicle Branch of the Attorney-General's Department by the business consultant firm of Stevenson and Kellogg employed to survey operations of various government services.

The five-year plate, together with changes in office procedures and other administrative technicalities would mean a saving of nearly \$1,000,000 in 10 years, it is estimated.

The new plate would probably be made of sterner stuff than the present car and truck tag. It would have to be, or motorists would have to take better care of their identification plate than they do now.

The yellow and black coloring would probably remain and a small disc bearing the year would be the only change made at the end of February each year.

Our system would be similar to that in effect in California.

If the five-year plan is instituted, and it would require an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act, it is possible the car owner would be offered a reduction in the cost of his license if he paid for the full period.

Why not? The government should make some concession for having the fees for five years paid in advance.

It was interesting to see how quickly this session's page boys threw off self-consciousness.

In the first two days the pages were at sixes and sevens.

They're veterans now and when a member snaps his fingers it's Johnny on the spot.

The nine pages were chosen from a crew of 15 selected by school principles as students who best could afford to lose their

classroom studies for the five to six weeks of the session.

The page's blue and red uniforms played the major part in final selection. If the uniform fitted they were the pages for the 1950 session.

This week should see the debate on the Speech from the Throne cleared up. Then there probably will be a week of bill presentation before Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb has his day with the Budget Speech.

Debate on that speech will give members their last opportunity to present sales talks in the House on their Constituencies.

After that the talk is confined to principles of bills under discussion, and if a member starts to expound the virtues or claims of his hometown, the axe falls.

## Ask Provincial Administration Of Garibaldi

Administration of Garibaldi Park on the mainland by the parks and recreation division of the provincial department of Lands and Forests rather than the Garibaldi Park Board has been requested.

A five-man delegation presented a brief to the provincial cabinet to this effect. The brief had the support of 18 organizations, including the Victoria Natural History Society represented by W. Tildesley, the Victoria Outdoor Club and the Victoria Section of the Alpine Club of Canada.

It was argued the government parks division had greater facilities, technically trained men, finances and enterprise to administer a park of the magnitude and potentiality of Garibaldi.

In addition to Mr. Tildesley, members of the delegation included Dr. Bert Brink, Vancouver Natural History Society; Don Buchanan, Community Planning Association of Canada; Dr. Neil Carter, Alpine Club of Canada, and Roy Howard, B.C. Mountaineering Club.

The resolution also was supported by such organizations as the Local Council of Women at Vancouver and the Native Daughters of B.C.

## Standing Committees Of Legislature Named

Select Standing Committees of the Legislature have been named as follows:

On Standing Orders and Private Bills: C. W. Morrow (Cln., North Okanagan), Dr. J. J. Gillis (Cln., Yale), Thomas King (Cln., Columbia), Mrs. T. J. Rolston (Cln., Vancouver Point Grey), D. C. Brown (Cln., Vancouver Burrard), A. J. McDonell (Cln., Vancouver Centre), L. F. Stevenson (Cln., Vancouver Point Grey), A. R. MacDougall (Cln., Vancouver Point Grey), J. G. Gould (Cln., Vancouver Burrard), S. J. Smith (Cln., Kamloops), A. MacLean (Cln., Cariboo), H. E. Winch (C.C.F., Vancouver East), A. J. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East), F. A. Calder (C.C.F., Atlin).

Public Accounts and Printing: MacDougall, King, W. A. C. Bennett (Cln., South Okanagan), McDonell, A. M. Whisker (Cln., Cowichan-Newcastle), A. W. Lundell (Cln., Revelstoke), Smith, H. E. Winch, R. W. Haggen (C.C.F., Grand Forks-Greenwood), Turner.

Mining and Railways: Gillis, H. J. Welch (Cln.-Comox), G. E. Braden (Cln., Peace River), Lundell, A. D. Turnbull (Cln., Rossland-Trail), Thomas Uphill

(Labor, Fernie), James Mowat (Cln., Alberni), E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby), Haggen, Randolph Harding (C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan).

Agriculture: King, A. C. Hope (Cln., Delta), Stevenson, A. B. Ritchie (Cln., Salmon Arm), C. T. Beard (Cln., Esquimalt), Bennett, MacLean, M. P. Finnerty (Cln., Similkameen), R. C. Steele (Cln., Omineca), Braden, E. E. Winch, Harding, Haggen.

Municipal Matters: Hope, Bennett, Morrow, Ritchie, Brown, Arthur Ash (Cln., Saanich), Walter Hendricks (Cln., Nelson-Creston), Finnerty, D. J. Proudfoot (Cln., Victoria), H. E. Winch, Turner, Haggen, L. T. Nimsick (C.C.F., Cranbrook).

Forestry and Fisheries: Welch, Stevenson, Beard, Whisker, B. M. MacIntyre (Cln., Mackenzie), Hendricks, Steele, J. D. McRae (Cln., Prince Rupert), E. E. Winch, Calder, Nimsick.

Labor: Gillis, McDonell, Welch, MacDougall, Brown, Whisker, MacLean, MacIntyre, Uphill, E. E. Winch, Turner, Nimsick.

Social Welfare and Education: Mrs. Rolston, Ash, MacIntyre, Proudfoot, Gould, Turnbull, McRae, Mowat, E. E. Winch, Harding, Calder.

## MAY PROBABLE FOR VOTE ON BEER PARLORS

### Announcement Expected Before House Rises

Victoria electors on the provincial voters' list probably will go to the polls in May to say whether the Liquor Control Board should allow opening of beer parlors in downtown hotels.

The Provincial Cabinet is expected to act soon on a petition signed by over 35 per cent of the registered voters calling for a plebiscite on the sale of beer by the glass.

If Premier Johnson and his ministers leave it until the end of the current session of the Legislature before setting the date, the vote will not be taken before late in May or early in June.

It is possible, though, that an announcement will come before the House prorogues at the end of March or early in April. This being the case the plebiscite could be presented early in May.

### SEEK EARLY VOTE

The Victoria Hotelmen's Association wants the vote to be taken as soon as possible and representations may be made to the cabinet for an early decision.

About six weeks must be allowed for electoral officers to prepare for the polling and the hotelmen are anxious to see the vote before spring and summer vacations start.

"We don't want it left until the people start going away on holidays," a spokesman for the association said.

### TWO PREVIOUS VOTES

Two votes have been taken already on sale of beer by the glass in Victoria.

The first was on Jan. 14, 1921, and the second on Aug. 24, 1938. The statutes require 55 per cent of the total votes cast being in favor before beer parlors can be opened.

In the 1931 vote there were 3,371 votes for, 5,046 against and 145 ballots rejected. Eight years later the vote went: 3,909 for, 5,942 against, with 140 rejected ballots.

## Continue Coalition Urges Lawyer-Member In House

'Safeguard Against Those Who Would Destroy Our Way Of Life,' Says Reg. MacDougall

First mention of a need for continued partnership of Liberals and Conservatives in the Coalition government was made in the House Monday.

Reg. MacDougall, Coalition member for Vancouver-Point Grey, said continuance of Coalition was the greatest safeguard against "those who would seek to destroy our way of life."

The Vancouver lawyer who was first elected to the House at a by-election in 1946 had fun in his first vocal appearance of the 1950 session.

He nipped at the heels of the C.C.F. without a kick from the opposition, and he seemed to enjoy digs he directed at the government too.

### 'STRANGE TALK'

Mr. MacDougall said there was no such thing as a Liberal or a Conservative in the B.C. government, although in certain sections of the press reference was made from time to time to the fact that Grits were in great majority of Tories in the House and could continue on their own. "Strange talk," said the Point Grey member.

"The ballot paper handed to me in last year's election disclosed candidates were running as Coalitionists.

"There were, of course, also certain strange sects to be found—like the C.C.F., social credit and others.

The members on the government side of the House were elected as Coalitionists. Let there be no mistake about that. And if there was any tendency on the part of any member to go contrary to the intention of the electorate, the prediction was that the electorate would hold him strictly to account!

### SPEAKERS IN EVERY HOUSE

In referring to appointment of Mrs. Nancy Hodges as Speaker, Mr. MacDougall brought grins to the faces of members.

Mrs. Hodges was the first woman Speaker in the Commonwealth, yes, but precedent had not been shattered quite as much as would appear at first blush...

"It must be a truism that woman is the speaker in every house in which she is to be found."

Mr. MacDougall welcomed new members of the Legislature and made special reference to the first Indian M.L.A., Frank Calder, the C.C.F. member for Atlin.

"I must mention the historical significance attached to the election of the Honorable Member for Atlin, who, I am quite

sure is entirely worthy of representing a better cause than that which has brought him hence," he said.

The first member for Point Grey could not go so far as to express regrets that "my friends in the Opposition who were 11 now are seven, thus reversing the prayer of those who are skilled in a certain game of chance."

## MEMBER SAYS COAST GUARD URGENT NEED

Increasing Trade, Wreck Danger Given As Reasons

Provincial pressure on Ottawa for establishment of a coastguard service was asked by the new member for Prince Rupert, John McRae, in his maiden speech to the Legislature Monday.

He gave a long report on the economic value of the territory he represents in the House and said there should be a coastguard service to give security to the many industries dependent on the waterways.

The province had a 7,000 mile coastline, most of which was accessible only by water, said Mr. McRae. Gales and storms, not always predictable, frequently lashed the coast.

"With increasing traffic there has been a definite increase of shipwrecks and loss of life at sea," he said. "In view of the fact our coast is the highway of trade—the carrier of logs from our forests, the producer of fish for an industry employing 20,000 persons—this government should urge upon the Dominion government the importance of establishing a coastguard at an early date."

Mr. McRae said a large percentage of fishing vessels were equipped with radio-telephones which would make the efforts of a coastguard service effective.

## Sliding Scale Premium For Hospital Insurance

Vancouver-Point Grey Member Believes Many Might Like To Pay More For Greater Benefits

A "sliding scale premium" for hospital insurance was suggested in the House Monday by

## Nelson Member Proposes Vote For Douks

The vote for Doukhobors was advocated in the Legislature Monday by Walter Hendricks, Cln.-Nelson, Creston, who claimed there were less than 1,000, fanatics among the 15,000 of the sect living in the province.

"I know of dozens of young Doukhobors who would make ideal citizens if given this privilege," he said.

As it was now only Doukhobors who had served in the armed forces had the right to vote.

Mr. Hendricks, a newcomer to the Legislature, pleaded for action on the part of the government to solve "for once and for all" the Doukhobor problem.

He thought a committee now investigating the question would return with the answer.

"I hope the committee's recommendations will be followed to the fullest," the member said.

The small minority group causing the troubles, Mr. Hendricks continued, claimed to be Christians. But they were no more Christians "than I am an Eskimo."

"I claim education of the children of these fanatics should be put into effect," he added.

The Kootenay member believed that if the fanatics were treated the same as other citizens breaking the law, irrespective of their religious beliefs, they would come within the category of criminals and should be treated as such.

Reg. MacDougall, Cln.-Vancouver, Point Grey, who thought the principle that the more a person pays the more he gets would prove popular because of the freedom of choice offered.

The Vancouver member thought too that the government might consider limiting length of stay in hospital and lessening amount of incidentals in hospital care which at present are free under the insurance plan.

"It seems to me," said Mr. MacDougall "too much is being got for too little and that apart from indigents, such as old age pensioners, it is a good principle that the people who are in a position to pay are entitled to as much social security for which they are prepared to pay."

He thought the hospital insurance service could have been handled better by private enterprise.

### GOVERNMENT TOO HASTY

He was critical of the manner in which it was devised. The government was too hasty and that accounted in large measure for the large deficit in first year operations.

"More study should have been given to the question of premiums and administration generally," said the Vancouver lawyer, "and more advantage should have been taken of actuarial figures then available."

## Vancouver Areas Differ On Highway to Squamish

Reg. MacDougall, Cln.-Vancouver, Point Grey, reminded the government at Monday's sitting of the Legislature, that construction of a highway from Vancouver to Squamish had been promised.

"Only something of the most urgent and compelling nature would justify the serious deterioration to the area resulting from an extension of the F.G.E. rather than the highway," he said.

Mr. MacDougall was referring to Premier Byron Johnson's policy speech of last Friday in

which it was intimated the rail link between Vancouver and Squamish would receive priority.



## FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

## Young Prince Rupert Member Wants Ban Of Japanese Fishing

At the opening of the Monday sitting Premier Johnson paid tribute to the memory of the late Cyril F. Davie, Duncan lawyer and former Speaker of the Legislature, who died over the week-end.

The Premier has sent condolences also to the family of the late Sydney Leary who died last week in Florida. Mr. Leary was Minister of Public Works from 1939 to 1941 under the Pattullo regime.

The new Prince Rupert member, John McRae, got off to a good start in his maiden speech.

Old-timers had advised him beforehand not to be nervous. It was good of them. It tended to give a steadying effect.

"So," said the newcomer, "I would like at this time to advise new members following me that when they get up to speak for the first time, d-d-d-don't b-b-b-be n-n-n-n-nervous."

Mr. McRae by the way is the youngest member on the government side of the House—34. The Indian C.C.F. member, Mr. Calder, is also 34.

The Prince Rupert lawmaker is a Navy veteran from World War II, and since arriving in Victoria he has been "fighting it over again" with a war-time pal he hadn't seen since peace was declared—Councillor Jack Ruttan of Oak Bay.

Mr. McRae wound up his speech in novel fashion. He called a page boy over to take a can of sockeye salmon to the Premier as a reminder for Mr. Johnson when he flies to England late in March that markets are needed for B.C. fish.

Speaking of fish, the Prince Rupert member hoped the government would not allow the return of Japanese net casters to the shores of the province.

B.C. Indians had answered the call when the Japanese were banished from the coast. The Indians had increased catches and it would be unfair to give them competition from the Japs.

Walter Hendricks, Coalition member for Nelson-Creston, supported the Trall-Rossland member, Douglas Turnbull, in an appeal for additional finances for

the Game Department to improve hunting and fishing as a tourist attraction.

While Prince Rupert's Mr. McRae was thanking the government for assisting in establishment of a pulp mill by Columbia Cellulose on Watson Island, Mr. Hendricks was pleading for a similar action in the Columbia watershed.

"The Nelson area has one of the outstanding potential pulp industries in the province," said Mr. Hendricks.

It would not be a flash in the pan industry. There was sufficient pulp wood to keep a major plant operating for an indefinite period, he stated.

## McRae Seeks Better Deal For Indians

A better deal for Indians is the plea of John McRae, new Coalition member of the Legislature for Prince Rupert.

In the House Monday he called for the government to take over the entire field of social welfare in the province for all citizens including the native population.

"And the same benefits of our social legislation should be extended to the Indians as to other citizens," he said.

"On and off the reserves even business between natives is subject to our Social Security and Municipal Aid Tax," he added.

The Indian Department administered social services to the natives in the form of relief, he continued.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1950

## Prevention Of Sickness Important

The government should place more emphasis on prevention of sickness instead of concentrating on treatment, the Legislature was told Tuesday by E. E. Winch, C.C.F.-Burnaby.

The white-haired father of Opposition Leader Harold Winch agreed that hospital facilities should be extended.

"But," he said, "a large number of qualified medical men should be appointed to work on prevention of disease."

"It was the government's responsibility, he asserted.

"Doctors in private practice rely on the prevalence of sickness for their livelihood," Mr. Winch stated.

Burnaby member for 17 years, Mr. Winch reviewed the Hamilton Report to the government on hospital construction needs of the province, and he said that if the plan recommended was implemented, it would cost \$30,000,000 annually to operate and maintain.

\$68,000,000 The report called for a capital expenditure of \$68,000,000 the speaker said. Twenty million was required immediately, another \$20,000,000 in 1956 and the remaining \$28,000,000 in the following 15 years.

The plan would provide 11,189 hospital beds compared with the 5,839 now in existence. Of these 5,839, Mr. Winch added, the Hamilton surveyors recommended 3,343 be scrapped as they were not up to the required standard.

On the hospital insurance plan, the Burnaby member told the House the government had no right to compel people to pay premiums when beds were not always available.

## Says Japanese Fine Citizens

Japanese banished from the coast to his Kootenay constituency of Grand Forks-Greenwood have been fine citizens, said C.C.F. member, R. W. Haggen, in the Legislature Tuesday.

He was sorry the Prince Rupert member, J. D. McRae, had asked in a speech the day before that the Japanese not be allowed to return to their former homes.

"The Japanese, particularly those born in B.C. and educated in our schools, have been fine citizens," he said, adding:

"For heaven's sake let's not have anymore stirring up of this racial discrimination."

## Elected Board Plan Proposed For Hospitals

Election by the people of hospital boards was advocated in the Legislature Tuesday by B. M. MacIntyre, Cln.-Mackenzie.

In speaking on hospital insurance, Mr. MacIntyre emphasized that autonomy of hospital boards had to be maintained—that there should never be state control of the hospitals.

But duly elected boards could be guided by the Provincial Health Department to bring about a uniformity of management throughout the province, the member said.

Mr. MacIntyre thought compulsory payroll deductions or payments were vital to the success of the hospital insurance service.

He said the goal of the service—"to relieve everybody of the possible burden of a large hospital account and to assure everyone that no unnecessary hardship will be placed in their paths"—would not be reached until persons in unfortunate circumstances were relieved from the legal necessity of paying premiums.

"Madam Speaker," he said, "ways and means must be found so that the premiums of these people may be paid from public funds and these people issued with a paid-up hospital insurance card without cost to themselves."

People most in need of relief were the wives of veterans' allowance recipients, recipients of widows' allowance and recipients of dependent parents' pension.

## Night Sittings Start Monday

It is proposed to start night sittings of the Legislature on Monday.

Premier Byron Johnson proposes to move on Thursday that two distinct sittings a day be started on Feb. 27.

Afternoon sitting would be from 2 to 6 and the night sitting from 8 to adjournment.

## Gives Warning On Fly-By-Nighters

R. W. Haggen, C.C.F. member for Grand Forks-Greenwood, said in the Legislature Tuesday the northeast section of the province could become one of the greatest oil fields on the continent, but he issued a warning.

"Watch out for these fly-by-night operators and promoters applying for licenses to prospect. They've got genuine-sounding names, but look out . . ."

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FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

# Elder Winch's Socialist Sermon Seems To Fall On Stony Ground

By LLOYD BAKER

Even social evolution does not proceed smoothly at all times . . .

That was the lesson of the day in the Legislature on Tuesday when the senior member of the C.C.F. in British Columbia had his first say of the session.

E. E. Winch, 70-year-old father of Opposition Leader Harold Winch and member for Burnaby since 1933, gave a sermon on socialism which most of the members appeared to ignore. But don't you believe it. They were keeping at least one ear open.

They always do when "Father" Winch is speaking. Sometimes he voices more than just words.

What about this effort?

Mr. Winch was explaining the decrease from 11 to seven of C.C.F. members in the House.

"We expect a rough ride sometimes, knowing we will be on the top side eventually," he said.

Mr. Winch didn't think much of last year's election and a blistering attack on the Coalition campaign fizzed dismally after he claimed government expenses in seeking re-election reached an all-time high.

Yes, cost in dollars was high, but cost in political ethics was even higher.

Take for instance the campaign claim of Attorney-General Gordon Wismer that the Labor Progressive Party was collecting funds for the C.C.F.

"The Attorney-General is spying on his opponents through the B.C. police," said Mr. Winch.

"What does it matter if I'm right," shot back Mr. Wismer.

"Besides," he added, "I didn't get my information from the police. It's well known to everyone!"

Mr. Winch's reply was the Attorney-General apparently knew more about the C.C.F. than he did.

"That wouldn't be difficult," someone called.

The Burnaby member was not discouraged. He took another tack.

The Coalition, he asserted, thought it would control the Indian vote after giving our natives the franchise.

"You might have controlled some," he frowned, but, turning to point to C.C.F. member Frank Calder, "you didn't control all."

There was tragedy and comedy in the Coalition partnership.

Tragedy on the stand of Finance Minister Anscomb for appointment of King's Counsellors on a political basis . . .

Comedy in the Attorney-General professing he was opposed to it.

Socialism, said Mr. Winch, was the bogey of free enterprise, but the hope of intelligent people.

There was no finality in social evolution, he continued. There had been savagery for hundreds of thousands of years, barbarism for tens of thousands of years and capitalism for two hundred years.

Who knows, he answered a call from the side, there might even be Christianity in the far distant future.

Meanwhile the C.C.F. would not rest content until capitalism had been eradicated.

Speaking on unemployment, the C.C.F. senior recalled that when he first was elected he was on relief.

"I come over here," he said, "wearing a \$1.95 pair of pants and a second-hand waistcoat and jacket."

"I recall those days and I'm afraid."

## Unemployed On Increase Says Winch

E. E. Winch, C.C.F. member for Burnaby, said in the Legislature Tuesday 7.4 per cent of Canada's whole labor force was unemployed.

He claimed that in the last three weeks the ranks of the jobless were swelled by 52,000 bringing the total to 375,600.

"This," he said, "is 122,000 more than at this time last year."

He gave the figures to disprove claims made in the House earlier that unemployment was mostly seasonal. Premier Byron Johnson had said there were more people employed in B.C. now than ever before and that bad weather was to blame for most of the unemployment.

### ASTOUNDED

"I'm astounded at the Premier's attitude," said Mr. Winch.

"In his own riding of New Westminster 14 per cent of the labor force hasn't jobs," he claimed.

"And it has been getting progressively worse in the last three years," he added.

The veteran socialist claimed also that 60 per cent of the unemployed were between the ages of 45 and 60.

"That's something more for you to think about," he called across the House. "And you're not going to solve it by waving your hand and saying it's Ottawa's responsibility!"

## Protect Small Logger Member Urges Minister

Protect small logging operators, was advice given Lands Minister E. T. Kenney in the Legislature Tuesday from a new member of the House, B. M. MacIntyre of Powell River.

Coalition successor to the former C.C.F. whip Bert Gargrave for the Mackenzie riding, Mr. MacIntyre said no man was more important to the economy of the province than the small logging operator.

"He is the personification of free enterprise and for proof of this you have only to recall what happens to our economic state when ever he is forced by climatic conditions to cease operations," the Powell River hotel man said.

Mr. MacIntyre advocated continuance of "the tight check-reign" on the granting of forest management licenses to big operators.

The small operator feared, he said, that B.C.'s great natural resource, the forests, may pass into the hands of a few large corporations by the granting of large areas under these licenses.

Small operators, he continued, realized the necessity of reforestation so that a sustained yield would be retained for posterity.

"And he will do his part in co-operating with the government provided he is assured he will not be squeezed out by having all available timber tied up under forest management licenses," Mr. MacIntyre stated.



## Five-Year Road Program For Cowichan-Newcastle

Andrew Whisker, new Coalition member of Cowichan-Newcastle, took members of the Legislature on a rough ride over roads in his constituency when he gave his maiden speech in the House Wednesday.

After jogging to a stop, he asked for a four or five-year program of reconstruction "to give us the roads we must have."

This winter's weather had been the straw which broke the camel's back. Roads poorly built many years ago fell apart in the thaw and "we must start from scratch—a heart-breaking job."

His tour started in the north end of the riding. Need for construction of a loop road in the Yellow Point and Cedar district areas was stressed. About 20 miles of road repair and reconstruction would be satisfactory for the time being, he said.

Moving south to Ladysmith, Mr. Whisker said there was a small district south of the city where it was felt considerable tax payments to the provincial treasury entitled some special attention.

### WANTS SIDEWALKS

"I would be happy with about one and a half miles of sidewalk construction here which would keep children off the new speedway which is nearing completion," the member said.

Traveling down to the Saltair district, two side roads were crying for repairs and widening, Mr. Whisker said.

A few miles further south to the Crofton area there was need for improvements to encourage

industry into "that wide and beautiful harbor."

The City of Duncan was next on the trip. Mr. Whisker passed by Lake Cowichan because "all I ask for there is the rebuilding of the 10 miles to Youbou and building of another 10-mile road to the Caycuse logging camp where over 100 families are living."

### DUNCAN ROADS

At Duncan about five miles of hard-surface roads were needed south of the city to serve many fine homes which had been built there, the member said.

Down to the southernmost section of the riding there were hundreds of farms and small holdings needing road attention. The thoroughfares were too narrow and ditches too close and too deep.

"We need a continuing program of about five miles of good permanent hard-surfacing a year to start this district on the way to recovery," the member stated. "I am speaking of our minimum requirements, of course," he added.

### Poll Tax Abolition Asked In B.C. House

The poll tax, amounting to approximately \$50,000, should be abolished, the Legislature was told Wednesday.

Speaker was C. W. Morrow, Cln.-North Okanagan, who said the tax fell unjustly on the taxpayers in that it was no respecter of income.

Abolition of the tax would assist thousands of citizens in the lower income bracket, Mr. Morrow said.

### Wants Plebiscite

C. W. Morrow, Cln.-North Okanagan, said in the House Wednesday a plebiscite should be held throughout the province on the method of liquor distribution.

No government ever made a mistake by taking the people into its confidence, and the question of distribution of liquor should be put to them in such words that they would understand what they are voting for, the member stated.

### Seeks More Funds For Games Branch

More funds for the Game Department was requested again in the Legislature Wednesday.

The Coalition member for North Okanagan, Charles Morrow, said the plea of fish and game associations that all monies collected by the department should be expended in propagation and preservation of wildlife, should be followed.

Last year the game vote was \$433,400 and approximately \$560,000 of \$675,685 collected by the department was spent on department activities.

## Bigger Revenue Wanted From B.C. Lumber, Mines

The province should take more revenue from the lumbering and mining industries, it was claimed in the Legislature Wednesday by the C.C.F. Cranbrook member, Leo T. Nimsick.

The people were receiving little from the depletion of these resources, he said, claiming government revenue from \$360,000,000 lumber production was only \$6,963,000, and from \$152,000,000 mining production, \$206,817.

"In place of taxing meals, clothing and other necessities as a means of collecting revenue, we should get a greater income from mining and lumbering," the member stated.

"The government is giving away our mineral resources for a few pieces of silver," he added.

Industries were not paying a fair share of school taxes in relation to what the people were paying, Mr. Nimsick continued.

He referred in particular to the mining town of Kimberley where the school tax was 50 mills of the 69 general rate mainly because the mines of the district were not included within the city limits.

Mr. Nimsick called for payment to Indians of the provincial share of old age pensions.

## Low-Cost Expansion Of Hospital Space Sought

A new suggestion to relieve overcrowding in hospitals was made in the Legislature Wednesday by C. W. Morrow, Coalition member for North Okanagan.

Speaking on hospital insurance, Mr. Morrow said it might be possible in some hospitals to convert private rooms into semi-private rooms and semi-private sections into public wards.

"This would increase bed accommodation with little expense," the member offered.

Mr. Morrow said it should not be forgotten that Mr. John Q. Public, and he alone, must pay hospital insurance premiums.

It would be inequitable to finance the scheme in any other way.

"I do not think a single member in this House wants the gov-

ernment to increase the 3 per cent sales tax to cover the premium," he said.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Morrow said he favored institution of health insurance on top of hospital insurance, but here again the public would have to pay for the service given.

The Vernon lawyer then called for quick action on the part of the government to find a solution to the school taxation problem confronting all areas.

Promise of the government to peg school taxes in rural areas at eight mills had been implemented, but only as far as maintenance was concerned, he claimed.

Capital expenditures had pushed school tax rates to at least 13 mills in most districts in the interior, he said.

The city of Vernon had refused to accept the 1950 school budget and the time had arrived for something specific in the way of assistance leading to a solution, said Mr. Morrow.

"Vernon's plight is not an isolated one. The same situation exists in many other places," he declared.

## Asks Probe On Flood Damage

An immediate investigation to determine responsibility in the flooding of fields and roads from up-island rivers jammed with logs was asked in the Legislature Wednesday by Andrew Whisker, Cln., Cowichan-Newcastle.

Courses of the rivers were being diverted in some cases by huge log jams, said Mr. Whisker, and "just whose responsibility this is must be decided."

The river beds were silting up and heavy gravel deposits were being left to spoil much valuable land.

"If nothing is done to protect these fields, then there is another approach," Mr. Whisker said. "Can we allow the rivers to cut new channels which will also destroy roads and make necessary the construction of expensive bridges?"

## Says Land Values Should Not Enter New P.G.E. Link

The government should not be influenced by property values in West Vancouver when planning

construction of the P.G.E. rail link between Squamish and Vancouver, said C. W. Morrow, Cln.-North Okanagan, in the Legislature Wednesday.

"The line should go by most practical route and the government should not be deterred from following the most economical plan by any ginger

groups that might be worried over real property values at West Vancouver," Mr. Morrow stated.

He thought, too, that the government should consider bringing the railway into Vancouver proper instead of constructing a terminal at North Vancouver. This could be done through use of the Second Narrows Bridge, he said.

## Say It And Sit Down

IT IS GOOD TO LEARN THAT IT IS the intention of the Coalition administration to arrange for Minister of Finance Anscomb to introduce the budget in the early part of next week. In view of the fact that the pronouncement of the guardian of the provincial till will involve a record expenditure it is fitting that the elected representatives of the people should have ample opportunity and time to study its contents.

For the reason that the business of the first session of the new Legislature—with no election in prospect and no special need for carefully-developed political strategy—is already more advanced than usual, it is to be hoped that speech-makers

will try to remember that great leaders such as those who are awaiting the result of today's battle of the ballots in Great Britain can usually say all they desire to say in about half an hour. After all, the private member with no ministerial responsibility in the local Legislature should be able to say what he feels if necessary to say in as short a time as Mr. Churchill, Mr. Attlee, or Mr. Davies.

We mention this point, as we have done year after year—long before many of the members of the new House had received their political baptism—because sound argument is so much more useful and informative than platitudinous rhetoric. And it demands the expenditure of so much less valuable legislative time.

## No Early Solution Seen Of Doukhobor Problem

Randolph Harding, C. C. F. member of the Legislature for Kalso-Slocan doesn't see an early solution to the Doukhobor problem.

"It will take a generation or so before proper education of these people straightens out our troubles," he said in Throne Speech debate in the House Thursday.

Mr. Harding thought full citizenship rights should be granted to "the vast majority of Doukhobors" who were not law breakers.

It was only a few, perhaps 10 per cent, of the Russian immigrants who were causing disturbances.

They were the Sons of Freedom faction and their aim seemed to be to unite all factions of Doukhobors under one leader again.

The Sons of Freedom, he continued, were trying to discredit all Doukhobors in the country by burnings and bombings, in the belief that common misery would drive them together.

### WEDGE BETWEEN

"We must never let this happen," said the C.C.F. member. "We should try to wedge between the good and the bad."

The youthful Mr. Harding thought some change might be made to the Elections Act which would keep voters' lists up to

date. Many persons did not get their names on the lists for the provincial elections last June through misunderstanding, he claimed.

The member called for greater efforts on the part of the B.C. Power Commission in rural electrification. There were wonderful opportunities for development in bench lands of the Arrow Lakes if power was available, he said.

If necessary the government should take over the West Kootenay Power and Light Company and extend services.

## Mennonites Worry Potato Growers

Protection against price undercutting by Alberta Mennonite potato growers shipping their produce to B.C. was asked for Cariboo growers by the Coalition member for the district in the Legislature Thursday.

Angus MacLean said in Throne Speech debate the Cariboo potato growers could not produce crops as cheaply as the Alberta colony families whose mode of life was the reason.

"Everyone in the family works in the fields while we have to pay high wages for outside labor," Mr. MacLean said.

Larger storage facilities were needed by the Cariboo potato farmers, the member continued. He hoped provincial legislation would be passed to allow the growers to take advantage of federal aid now available.

## Amusement Tax Too High Omineca M.L.A. Complains

The 25 per cent amusement tax on theatres was criticized in the Legislature Thursday by the new Coalition member for the northern riding of Omineca, R. C. Steele.

The tax on gross receipts of theatres was "just too much" Mr. Steele said in urging a reduction.

"Being in the theatre business in a small way I am in a position to know how discriminating the amusement tax is," he added.

The Omineca member called for improvements to secondary roads after praising the public works department for progress made in rebuilding and widening major highways.

He was in favor "100 per cent" of the Aluminum Company of Canada being granted a license to build a dam on the Nechako

River in his riding which would produce 1,250,000 horse power at a plant at Kitamat.

"I am concerned, of course," he added, "about any and all persons who may be flooded out of their homes as a result, and I will do all I can to help these people secure a fair settlement for their holdings."

Mr. Steele said the project would not hurt salmon spawning on the Nechako despite claims to the contrary.

"No salmon ever has got through the Grand Canyon on the Nechako which is below any location where it has been proposed to build a dam," he stated.

The Aluminum Company's plan should not be discouraged, he continued. The project would be the greatest thing that had ever happened in B.C. and "I ask our government to give the company every encouragement to locate in my area."

## Says Hospital Insurance Is Government Business

A. B. Ritchie, Cln.-Salmon Arm, went to the defence of the government operating the Hospital Insurance Service rather than private enterprise when he gave a short speech in Thursday debate on the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature.

"I believe in private enterprise," the member stated, "but not in this case."

He hoped the insurance service administration would be improved and no increase in premiums would be seen.

Mr. Ritchie threw his weight behind the plea made by the Cowichan member, Andrew Whisker

in Throne Speech debate Wednesday, that something be done about log jams in rivers which were causing flooding of farms.

There was too much "passing the buck" on whose responsibility it was to clear the rivers, the Salmon Arm member said.

Mr. Ritchie called for western representation on the International Joint Commission on waterways.

He hoped new industries would be encouraged to locate in the Salmon Arm area when the B.C. Power Commission project at Watcham Lake was completed.

"There will be abundant power for industries," he said.



# Native Member Proposes Indians' Bill Of Rights

Frank Calder Offers Proposed Legislation To House After Members Speak in Favor

A B.C. Bill of Rights giving Indians full citizenship is one of the main aims of the C.C.F. in the current session of the Legislature.

Notice of motion calling for introduction of the bill was filed Thursday by Frank Calder, first Indian M.L.A., after he had given his maiden speech in the House.

The Atlin opposition member took the step after hearing several private members on the government side of the Legislature speak in favor of full citizenship for Indians.

"A fine piece of strategy," was the opinion expressed later by observers.

In his notice of motion Mr. Calder asks that these questions be among those considered:

1. Right to freedom of religion;
2. Right to free expression;
3. Right to free association;
4. Right to freedom from arbitrary imprisonment;
5. Right to employment;
6. Right to engage in occupations;
7. Right to own and occupy property;
8. Right of access to public places;
9. Right to membership in professional and trade associations;
10. Right to education.

The notice points out that the British North America Act places civil rights as an exclusive power of provincial legislatures.

Indians were not asking for a handout, he stated.

While the Atlin member frowned on racial discrimination, he deprecated the action of big fishing companies in "recruiting" Japanese in the interior to man fishing boats.

This would drive out the older Indians who had jumped into the breach when the Japanese were barred from the coast during the war.

"Already Japanese had displaced older Indians in the herding grounds," Mr. Calder said.

The member hoped the government would persuade Ottawa to relinquish some of the exclusive authority it held in respect to Indians.

The natives were entitled to all social benefits, he continued. They paid sales tax, even on the reservations where, according to the books, no taxes could be collected.

The Indian equivalent to the old age pension was \$8 a month in cash, a little fuel and some clothing.

# Wants Sweepstake To Help Health Insurance Deficit

A government sweepstake to take care of the hospital insurance deficit was suggested in the Legislature Friday by the veteran Tom Uphill, lone Labor member, who is mayor of Fernie.

He recalled that in 1938 a resolution was passed unanimously by the Legislature approving hospital sweepstakes.

"The need of hospitals is far greater now than it was then, so let's take our heads out of the sand, face the situation without fear, and run a B.C. government sweep," Mr. Uphill declared.

Surely, he continued, if Australia, Ireland, Mexico and other countries could operate sweepstakes, "why not us?"

Mr. Uphill said social service costs in B.C. had zoomed from a few million dollars 30 years ago when he first became a

M.L.A., to \$30,000,000, and more services were needed still.

"I'm afraid they will have to be curtailed, though," he said, "unless something is done to increase revenue."

Cocktail bars might be introduced to bolster revenue to meet social service costs, but they would not be needed if two or three sweepstakes were run off each year.

Mr. Uphill had another thought: Bookmakers flourished in every large centre in the province, showing that the people had their fling on races south of the border. Yet the money they wagered in the U.S. could be kept here to help pay for hospital insurance.

# Claims Rush On Hospitals Should Have Been Foreseen

The government should have foreseen the rush on hospitals when the provincial insurance plan went into effect, said Arthur Turner, C.C.F. whip, in the House Friday.

There had been insufficient planning, he contended, claiming no thought was given beforehand to construction of new hospitals and additions to existing buildings and to nurse training.

"This all should have been lined up before the hospital insurance was put into operation," he said.

## 'DISGUSTING'

Mr. Turner described as "a disgusting state of affairs" the fact that sick persons unable to get accommodation and who refused to pay their second insurance premium as a result, were fined in court "with the magistrate apologizing."

He said a private company which collected premiums on the same basis as the government would be prosecuted for taking money under false pretences.

"I don't blame the minister

(Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson)," said Mr. Turner, "but rather the reactionary influences in the government who held their foot on the brake pedal and didn't allow planning for the service to proceed at an early date."

"The government is not guilty of too much haste," he added. "It is guilty of short range thinking and long range criminal neglect."

# Proposes Limit To Campaign Spending

A change in the Elections Act to limit campaign spending was advocated in the Legislature Friday.

Arthur Turner, C.C.F. member for Vancouver East, said in one Vancouver riding in the Federal elections last year the Liberals spent \$21,000 compared to the C.C.F.'s \$500 in campaigning.

On election day in the Grandview district of Vancouver the Liberals hired nine taxis at \$25 each when there wasn't enough business to keep more than one of them busy, the member added.

He said "the extravagance and waste" in election expenses should be stopped.

# Bill Calls For Closer Dairy Farm Supervision

Under amendments to the Milk Act introduced in the Legislature Friday by Agriculture Minister Harry Bowman, dairy farmers having unsanitary barns can be ordered by inspectors to put things right.

Inspectors will have the power to set a time limit for the farmer to make his premises sanitary. If the orders are not complied with, the dairyman shall be guilty of an offence against the Act.

Classification of the dairy in respect to credit marks also is provided for in the amendments, and an inspector may grant a

certificate as is justified according to marks allotted on the score card.

Inspectors also are given power to prohibit shipments of milk from cattle suffering from tuberculosis or other general or local diseases.

Pasteurized milk under the amendments will be done under a temperature of 143 degrees Fahrenheit instead of 145 degrees.

An amendment to the Stock Brands Act calls for three characters in brands instead of one, and a separate branding iron for each character.

FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

# British Election, Chin Whiskers Bustles, Bars In Wide Debate

By LLOYD BAKER

Who's putting on the false front?

The Socialists and the Conservatives in the B.C. Legislature both claim victory in the British elections.

Neither side is making any bones about it.

C.C.F. leader, Harold Winch, says the result of the elections is a declaration to the world that democratic socialism is the answer to fascism and communism.

Conservative chieftain, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, counters with: "There has never before been such a smashing victory against socialism."

And the Legislature's lone Labor member, Fernie's Tom Uphill, is pleased beyond bounds "that those stalwarts of the working men have done it again."

Messrs. Anscomb and Winch sang their victory song in prepared statements as results stood at 313 for Labor and 296 for Conservatives and their allies, with 16 of 625 constituencies still to report.

Mr. Uphill had his say a little later when he took part in Throne Speech debate in the House. His remarks were short but there was no doubt as to his stand when envelopes started coming his way via the pages bearing wager returns which he waved about and then closed.

The veteran Fernie member who is senior M.L.A. with 30 years in the Legislature behind him, had more to say about chin whiskers and bustles.

He remembered well the day when they were the rage; when the 50-year-old Parliament Buildings had a bar, too.

That was the introduction to his question of the day—where are the Legislature's cuspidors?

They had disappeared from the corridors, those tall brass reminders of yesteryear, and Tom didn't like it one bit.

Perhaps the banishing of the brass had something to do with Mrs. Nancy Hodges' accession to the throne of Speaker of the Legislature?

Madam Speaker took the spotlight at another point in the afternoon sitting when the C.C.F. member for Vancouver East was making his first speech of the session.

The Opposition member, Arthur Turner, had tongue trouble in a verbal tussle with the Premier.

"Madam Premier," he kept saying in answering Mr. Johnson through the chair.

When good-naturedly checked by the Premier, Mr. Turner grasped the reprimand to suggest his mistake was an omen. . . .

Perhaps Mrs. Hodges was going to join the Opposition "and be the first woman Premier when the C.C.F. unseats you!"

Esquimalt's Charles Beard was unhappy at being called on to speak in Throne Speech debate on Friday. A mix-up in arrangements when Saanich's Arthur Aspinall declined as last of five speakers Wednesday resulted in last-minute arrangements for his Esquimalt neighbor. Trouble was, the speech Mr. Beard had prepared was resting comfortably at his home at Cowichan.

## Wants Expenditures Cut To Save Future Citizens

C. T. Beard, Cln.-Esquimalt, said in the Legislature Friday he thought government expenditures would have to be reduced.

"It would be unpopular but justifiable," said Mr. Beard who thought future generations should not be loaded with debts incurred today.

The province was making tremendous advances, but it was taking money to do so, he said, "and I am genuinely worried as to whether we can afford the luxury of an unbalanced budget."

There was one legitimate debt, though, the member continued. Money spent on new construction, equipment, roads and other projects could be borrowed because succeeding taxpayers would merely be paying for physical assets in repaying these loans.

"Therefore," he continued, "I am going to ask that more money be spent on modernizing our roads, and that work on the sidewalks be undertaken at once."

Mr. Beard approved the hospital insurance plan and criticized members for giving other than constructive criticism of the scheme in speeches to the House.

"It must be realized, and fully appreciated, that several hundred thousand people have benefited so far. By this I mean not only the patient but all of his family who could have been financially crippled by hospital bills," the Esquimalt member said.

### TAX RELIEF

He called for taxation relief for the rural areas, saying the people in the outer areas had had an appreciable raise in taxes.

"If this trend continues," the speaker added, "it will have a crippling effect."

Mr. Beard called also for extension of rural electrification by the B.C. Power Commission. Original aim of the commission was to extend power lines into rural areas. But the government power company now appeared to be concentrating its efforts on projects in areas that show the bigger profit.

## Sees Housing Aid To Unemployment

"Don't be afraid to spend money on housing," the government was told by the C.C.F. at the Friday sitting of the Legislature.

Arthur Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said a huge housing project was the Opposition's answer to the unemployment problem.

"And we've got an unemployment problem whether you want to recognize it or not," he said.

Construction of large blocks of houses would pay financial and social dividends, the member stated.

Housing was about the only commodity in short supply, he continued. The majority of Canadians were renters, few were able to buy their homes, and a greater number were unable to pay economic rents.

As far as unemployment was concerned, it could never be corrected under the capitalist system.

"But you can alleviate it with a housing program," said Mr. Turner.



## FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

## Three Groups Offer Views On \$18,000,000 Liquor Profits

BY LLOYD BAKER

Taste of Bill Kennedy's wares may not be on the lips of the lawmakers but talk is when liquor profits for 12 months reach \$18,073,767.

That was the take of Commissioner Kennedy's Liquor Control Board in the year ended March 31 last and there are indications the profit will be sky high again at the end of the current fiscal year.

We won't know the actual amount until this time next year, though. Reports of this nature always are tardy in arriving.

That's apart from the point. The filing of the last liquor report in the House is what many members are concerned with.

The lobbying for a plebiscite on the question of opening the liquor laws to increase sales facilities—cocktail bars and the like—has been fairly strong.

There is one faction in the House, though, that would clamp down. The liquor revenue is welcome, but does it not indicate a breaking down of the morals, wasteful spending.

Then there is a group which thinks the lofty profits prove that prices being charged are far too high. "Cut down the price list as well as the watering," is the watchword.

Perhaps equally as strong is the third clan which doesn't want prices increased but allow liquor to be sold at hotel lounges, in restaurants and properly supervised bars.

The thickest plank in their platform is: "The province needs more revenue. Let the drinkers provide it."

It is interesting to note that the \$18,000,000 profit was made through an organization comprising only 329 workers. The staff of the Liquor Control Board includes 310 male workers and 19 females.

A vote of the people is not required before additional liquor stores can be opened, and the big question here is, will Oak Bay petitioners be given a bottle dispensary closer to their homes.

Here again the thoughts are divided.

The group seeking a store in the municipality is backed by most of the business people of the area.

The store operators in the Oak Bay shopping district believe a liquor store close by would bring them more sales.

Instead of the householder doing the family shopping downtown because the trip was necessary to replenish the liquor cabinet, they would buy in the suburban stores.

There is agitation for a standardization of the youths, from 16 to 23, who can be punished for crime at the New Haven borstal institution and the arguments being forwarded appear logical.

At present the terms can not be less than three months and for an indeterminate period thereafter of not more than two years less one day.

The length of sentence within these confines is left to the discretion of the court.

It is claimed that frequently the youth with the shortest sentence needs the longest period of training and many of the short-sentence lads are not ready for

release until the major portion of their indeterminate period has run out.

This means, say the supporters of sentence standardization, that a difficult youth with a short sentence, may be released with only one or two months, perhaps less, to serve on license under supervision.

As this type of offender is the one who needs the longest period on license in order to ensure that he will not lapse in to his old habits, he should have a sufficiently lengthy indeterminate sentence.

Alternatively there might be youths with lengthy definite sentences of one year or more who the Parole Board wishes to try out on license, but can not, as the board's authority is limited to dealing with those boys serving indeterminate sentences.

So a standardized sentence of six months definite and two years less one day indeterminate would provide a minimum of six months training at the institution.

If one year was needed in more difficult cases, or even longer, there would still be a sufficiently lengthy portion of the indeterminate sentence unexpired on the offender's release to afford a proper trial period on license.

## TUESDAY SET FOR BUDGET

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb will present the 1950-51 provincial budget to the Legislature Tuesday.

He is scheduled to start the budget speech at 3. It will be the Oak Bay cabinet minister's fourth presentation of a B.C. budget to the House.

# Health Insurance Loss May Exceed \$7,000,000

## Expect Scheme To Lose \$2,500,000 During Year

Deficit of the B.C. Hospital Insurance service is expected to exceed \$7,000,000 before March 31 next year.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb said in his budget speech to the Legislature today the service went in the red \$4,587,000 in the first 15 months of operation starting Jan. 1 last year, and the deficit for the coming fiscal year was expected to be \$2,500,000.

"I would like to make it clear that I am extremely disappointed to find myself today having to report to the Legislature that there is a large deficit to be taken care of from current revenue, and I am further in the unhappy position of having to budget for a deficit for the coming year," the minister said.

He left explanation of the losses and planned corrective measures for Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson to explain during estimates debate.

"I am sure," said Mr. Anscomb, "that he (the health minister) will advise you that the government is employing a company of experts to make a complete survey of the problem, and from that I am hopeful relief will come."

"In other words, I expect the result of the investigation to be such that the relief will be given in one way or another, or perhaps in two ways, to the end that deficits will cease and the scheme will be self-supporting."

Mr. Anscomb said the \$4,587,000 deficit from Jan. 1 last year to March 31 this year would be covered by \$2,500,000 from the Revenue Surplus Appropriation Account and \$2,000,000 from the stabilization fund that was set up when the scheme originated.

The \$2,500,000 deficit confronting the finance department for the coming year will have to be charged against provincial revenue, the minister said.

## Sales Tax To Bring Revenue Of \$24,000,000

Return of the 3 per cent sales tax is expected to reach \$24,000,000 in the current fiscal year, and it probably will be repeated in the coming year.

"It has exceeded our expectations," said Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his budget speech to the Legislature today.

Figures listed in the speech for the last fiscal year indicate the sales tax now will cover all social services.

In the year ended March 31, 1949, the sales tax yielded \$14,335,119. Cost of administration was \$213,304, and one-third share of the total for municipalities amounted to \$4,707,271. This left \$9,414,543 for the social security fund.

The fund, in the year, required \$10,016,435, including \$1,954,914 for old age pensions, \$2,641,752 for old age pensions cost of living bonus; \$3,158,853 for social assistance and lesser amounts for such things as mothers' allowances, hospital insurance premiums for old age pensioners and social assistance cases.

### BALANCE MET

The balance of social security costs, for which available revenue collections from the sales tax were insufficient, was met from consolidated revenue, Mr. Anscomb said.

## B.C. PROVINCIAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FOR 1950-51

The 1950-51 provincial budget highlights:

The government intends spending \$105,558,000 of an estimated \$105,831,000 income, leaving a surplus of \$273,000;

Sales tax returns in current fiscal year estimated at \$24,000,000 with similar amount anticipated next year;

Debt stands at \$146,100,363, having increased by \$18,474,426 in 1949, most of the increase for new roads, bridges and buildings;

Average interest rate on debt lowest on record, 3.28 per cent;

Hospital Insurance deficit in first five months of operation \$4,587,000, with losses in coming year expected to total \$2,500,000;

Municipalities to receive \$26,778,000 in coming year, \$5,000,000 more than forecast for current year;

Motor vehicle and gasoline taxes will fall short by \$2,560,000 1950-51 expenditures on highways and bridges;

Dominion pays \$14,100,000 to \$19,800,000 bill on 1948 flood damage and rehabilitation;

Province to spend \$10,000,000 in coming year for new school buildings;

Approximately \$7,000,000 to be spent on P.G.E. construction;

Another \$7,700,000 to be spent on provincial buildings;

New roads and bridges to be built to extent of \$10,500,000.

U.B.C. to be expanded by \$2,579,000 construction;

Some \$625,000 to be spent on Okanagan flood control;

Province to make available \$5,000,000 for joint housing project with Dominion;

Larger taxation grants to be sought from federal government;

Social assistance allowances to cost \$4,370,000;

No changes in taxation.

## B.C. Policy On Sinking Funds Upholds Credit

A "Revenue Surplus Appropriation Bill" will be submitted to the Legislature to provide payment of \$2,500,000 into the province's general sinking fund account to help decrease a shortage of approximately \$13,620,000.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb said in his budget speech to the House today a reduction in the last three years of \$9,000,000 in the shortage had resulted in "beneficial market reaction."

"Investors are fully aware of the fact that this province is compelled to compress, within a few years, very heavy borrowings," said Mr. Anscomb.

"Notwithstanding the urgency of these borrowings and the enormous benefits that will accrue from those applied to the development of our economy, money would have been scarce and certainly costly had we not re-established an effective policy of debt repayments," he added.



# B.C. Expenditures At \$105,558,000

## Growing Revenues, No New Taxes Feature Budget Speech Today

The B.C. government intends to spend \$105,558,000 in the coming fiscal year, it was announced in the Legislature today when Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb presented the 1950-51 budget—his fourth since assuming the financial portfolio.

The estimated total expenditure for the period April 1 to March 31, 1951, is the highest on record and is covered by income anticipated at \$105,831,000, leaving a surplus of \$273,000.

It was revealed in the speech that the budget for the current fiscal year of \$92,308,018 has been over-expended by \$13,017,763, but there are indications revenue will be correspondingly higher when the books are closed.

The new budget does not call for any tax changes, but Mr. Anscomb warned: "The level of the cost of service has reached that of our revenue and any major new project cannot be undertaken unless changes are made in our revenue structure."

The minister later said the province must receive larger taxation grants from the Dominion government—started when the province vacated the income tax field. In the coming year \$27,100,000 was expected from this source.

A budget surprise was the report that the three-per-cent retail sales tax was expected to produce \$24,000,000 in the current year and a like amount in the coming year. When it was started two years ago the annual revenue from the tax was forecast as \$12,000,000.

The sales tax increase over the 1949-50 estimates amounted to \$6,000,000.

### MAJOR INCREASES

Other major increases included in a total of \$12,850,600 over the current year estimates were listed by Mr. Anscomb:

Liquor profits, \$550,000; land registry fees, \$250,000; motor vehicle licenses, \$625,000; rental fees for leased tax fields, \$2,900,000; amusement tax, \$500,000; gas tax \$1,200,000; interest arrears on the Pattullo Bridge, \$245,000; real property taxes, \$450,000; mining tax, \$600,000; pari-mutuel betting, \$200,000; timber sales, \$600,000.

Revenue will drop in certain categories, said Mr. Anscomb, although no serious reductions were anticipated.

Among the more prominent decreases expected:

Companies fees, \$30,000; insurance fees, \$50,000; fuel oil tax, \$50,000; miscellaneous interest \$255,000; sundry land revenue, \$35,000; land sales, \$35,000; timber licenses and royalties, \$525,000; Public Utilities Act \$50,000.

In summing up the revenue picture, the minister stated: "They have now reached a peak level and future gains, if any, will be moderate."

The province then was faced with a rigid or inelastic revenue field on the income side of the ledger.

On the expenditure side it was a different story. "There is every indication," Mr. Anscomb stated, "of fast expansion most difficult to control."

"It is therefore the absolute duty of each department to confine its spending strictly to the appropriations authorized by this Legislature and to practice economies whenever and wherever possible," he added.

The ever-increasing volume of spending and the manner in which public funds were being applied had Mr. Anscomb worried and he predicted: "There may be serious consequences unless certain trends are checked soon."

He did not mean that too much was being spent on education and social services.

### TO DEVELOP INDUSTRIES

"But we have not, and are not, spending enough on the development of our basic industries—forestry, agriculture, mining and fishing—from which the wealth of this province comes, and on those relating links—roads, bridges, etc.—through which the economy of the province flows."

"Let me clarify this even further by saying that unless we spend to produce and achieve wealth we shall not have the means for social services and education."

Liquor profits, amusement taxes and the sales tax, which produced over 40 per cent of the province's revenue, reacted quickly to any changes in the economic cycle and were vulnerable to recessions or to a contraction in income.

The gasoline tax and motor vehicle fees produced a stable, and under normal conditions, a growing revenue. These two combined produced approximately 17 per cent of the income, but the amount was insufficient to cover fully cost of highways and bridges.

Although lumbering was the backbone of the province's industrial life, revenue from timber sales, timber royalties and timber leases provided only 6.5 per cent of the total income.

The tax agreement with the Dominion government yielded 27 per cent although nearly one-half the amount was produced by a five-per-cent levy on corporation income which the province was compelled to impose under terms of the agreement.

"On the other hand, in expenditure, for example every time we open a new 100-bed mental hospital unit we assume a yearly burden of \$100,000," the minister said.

It had been suggested, he continued, that within a short time mental institutions would have to provide an additional 1,600 beds.

"So if this is true then our current expenditure will rise by \$1,600,000 annually for just that institutional care," he said.

Any increase in unemployment also was reflected immediately by an increase in social assistance allowances. Next year it was estimated these allowances would take \$4,370,000 and "naturally we wonder to what point they might rise if our economy became depressed."

### EDUCATION COSTS SOAR

Cost of education had soared and would continue to rise sharply during the next few years because of a heavy and constant increase in school population, Mr. Anscomb said.

The minister closed with this note:

"During a period of buoyant revenues there is every inclination to expand and often there is sound reason for some expansion."

"But this should not prevent us making a provision for the possibility of difficult times ahead."

"We must not expand beyond our ability to service the debt we incur to finance expansion, and that ability will have to be determined from time to time in accordance with economic conditions."

"We must protect to the fullest measure that high financial credit that now forms the very basis of all our capital undertakings. Were we to fall in this, the outlook for the future would be dark indeed, particularly as ours is a province that is young and undeveloped."

## Broken Dykes Soon Finished

The rehabilitation work and dyke construction following the disastrous floods of 1948 are expected to be completed by the end of March.

This was reported to the Legislature today by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb who said in his budget speech the flooding of two years ago had cost \$19,827,317, most of it in the Fraser Valley area.

The province had only to provide \$5,704,785 of the total. The Dominion government contributed \$14,122,532.

The minister reported that flood conditions in November and December of last year caused extensive damage to roads and bridges. Cost of repairs was estimated at \$398,300 and special warrants had been issued for this amount.

## Debt Burden Not Too Heavy Says Anscomb

Approximately 13 per cent of the province's total expenditures from current account is allocated for debt charges, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb pointed out today in his budget speech to the Legislature.

"Compared with the 30.18 per cent spent for that purpose in 1930-40 we have every reason to believe the burden of the debt on our economy is not heavy," he said.

He was concerned, however, at a growing tendency to speed up unduly various capital projects rather than adopting a staggered plan of borrowing.

"I am fully aware," said Mr. Anscomb, "that some of our expenditures from capital borrowings cannot be delayed greatly."

"Notwithstanding this, however, I shall require the fullest co-operation from departments in order to avoid excess borrowings within any short-term period."

"On one hand, too great a volume in any one year will find an unresponsive market and will impair the high credit rating we now enjoy."

"On the other hand, if borrowings are spaced properly, we shall gain by timing our sales with the repayment of our high interest-bearing maturities during the next few years."

## Province Pays \$5 Million To Joint Housing

The provincial government intends to make \$5,000,000 available for the proposed three-way housing program with the federal government and municipalities.

This was announced in the Legislature today by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb during presentation of the budget speech.

The housing plan provides for sharing of capital costs and possible subsequent losses between the province and the Dominion with municipalities paying certain service charges.

Sharing of the major costs will be on the basis of 75 per cent by the Dominion and 25 per cent by the province.

"The legislation to be submitted contains provisions for the borrowing of \$5,000,000 to be applied in meeting the 25-per-cent share required from the province," said the minister. "It will contain also a provision for the establishment of a revolving fund that will enable, if so deemed necessary and expedient, the use of repayments, rental fees, or other revenue for like purposes as the original amount borrowed."

"I will refrain from describing the proposal in detail," he added. "This will be done in due time by the Honorable the Premier."



**HIS FOURTH BUDGET** since assuming finance portfolio in provincial government was delivered by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb at today's sitting of Legislature. Debate on budget will start Wednesday and probably continue to end of next week. Estimates discussion and consideration of new legislation will follow..

## Larger Federal Grants Essential, Says Anscomb

**Sums Received From Ottawa Fail To Match Revenue From B.C. To National Government**

B.C. must have larger taxation grants from the Dominion government, said Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb today in his budget speech to the Legislature.

"The amount the province receives from Ottawa is entirely inadequate when compared with the amount of revenue taken out of it by the national government," he declared.

Mr. Anscomb stressed that he was not criticizing the present taxation agreement or past agreements, nor his predecessors who concluded them.

He was satisfied that what had been done likely was the best that could be done at the time the agreements were signed.

Mr. Anscomb also emphasized that he was not in favor of the province returning to the income tax field, re-establishing dual taxation.

### \$20,000,000 MORE

But, the minister said, if the province was levying corporation and individual income taxes at pre-war rates it would be receiving \$20,000,000 more than it does now.

He drew attention to the fact also that the national government collected \$158,000,000 during 1948-49 from British Columbians in taxes on incomes and the succession duties.

The present taxation agreements expire April 1, 1952, but talks on new agreements will be started in the fall, and Mr. Anscomb said: "We must be very

careful to see that British Columbia has a different set-up altogether from the existing system."

"We must ensure," he continued, "receiving from our natural resources, or the money representing the use and development of those resources, a share adequate enough to allow us to conduct the affairs of the province on a basis and with a standard of living such as the people of the province have a right to expect from the wealth they produce."

### DEVELOP RESOURCES

The province had increased taxation (sales tax) to maintain existing standards, but if there were to be any further advances, "be they social services, education, or better living conditions for our people," British Columbia must do more to develop its resources.

"The very nature of our economy," the minister stated, "requires that we have ample funds to develop our resources and to promote industrial progress.

"These funds cannot be had except by securing a much greater proportion of the corporation and personal income taxes and succession duties now taken from our people by the national government."

## Health, Welfare Shows Biggest Budget Increase

Biggest increase in provincial government spending in the 1950-51 fiscal year will be in health and welfare.

It was shown in Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's speech on the budget in the Legislature today the health and welfare branch of the civil service will require \$22,314,040, which is \$3,560,266 more than the 1949-50 estimate.

The \$105,558,000 budget is broken down into 20 sections. There are increases in 10 of them.

The 10 sections to receive more money are as follows, with the 1949-50 estimate in parentheses:

Health and Welfare, \$22,314,040 (\$18,753,774); Legislation, \$198,900 (\$190,900); Attorney-General, \$5,414,920 (\$5,037,989); Education, \$15,454,871 (\$14,824,216); Labor, \$407,023 (\$404,870); Municipal Affairs, \$105,491 (\$99,590); Public Utilities and Motor Carrier Act, \$307,082 (\$285,414); Railways, \$40,261 (\$38,408).

The other 10 sections in which less spending is allowed:

Premier's Office, \$32,959 (\$33,188); Agriculture, \$911,123 (\$1,003,070); Finance, \$14,342,714 (\$17,021,060); Fisheries, \$36,367 (\$37,060); Lands and Forests, \$6,427,520 (\$6,640,358); Mines, \$636,974 (\$712,140); Provincial Secretary, \$9,223,885 (\$9,870,986); Public Works, \$15,264,472 (\$16,652,710); Trade and Industry, \$623,933 (\$634,277); Public Debt, \$13,815,982 (\$15,085,668).

## Supporter For Alco Project Councillors

Every reasonable encouragement should be given the Aluminum Company of Canada to establish in British Columbia, the Legislature was told Monday by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney.

He reviewed work that had been undertaken by the company to determine most suitable site for a plant and said a public opinion poll had shown 93.9 per cent of B.C. voters endorsed the proposed development.

The minister said salmon fishing would not be injured by development of the Eutsuk-Kimsquit or Tahtsa-Kemano areas. Spawning grounds in the Chilko-Southgate area would be affected if that district was selected, though.

## Sheriff's Duty To Call Jury

Three bills were introduced in the Legislature by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer:

An amendment to the County Courts Act would transfer from the court registrar to the sheriff the duty of summoning a jury. (Only Supreme Court juries are called by the sheriff now.)

An amendment to the Land Registry Act provides for appeal to a judge, instead of the lieutenant-governor in council, when a subdivision plan is rejected, and also for all claims on unregistered land to lapse after a fixed period.

An amendment to the Trust Companies Act provides that an extra-provincial company appointed as "administrator" of an estate that is in B.C. may function in the same way as a similar company appointed as "executor."

## Parks Essential In This Age Says Minister

Parks are not luxuries, it was stressed in the Legislature Monday by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney.

In concluding debate on the Speech from the Throne, the Minister said the tempo of modern life made it necessary for the health and sanity of the bulk of the population to have large areas of natural playgrounds within easy reach and at modest cost.

First responsibility of a family, province or a nation was to provide the essentials in food, clothing, shelter and health, the minister agreed.

But parks were fast assuming the same status as the trend toward crowding into great city communities continued.

With this thought and, of course, the amount of money available, his department was following a two-point park policy:

1. Seek out the most desirable and valuable recreational sites and reserve them for the public use, thereby guarding against thoughtless alienation before the urgent need for the areas develops and before funds are available for improvements;

2. Seek such funds as the budget will stand and spend the money where it will provide the widest variety of recreation for the greatest number of people.



# Cities' Grants Sufficient Finance Minister Declares

## Experts Report Implemented And \$7,875,000 From Sales Tax Added

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb made it clear in the budget speech presented to the Legislature today that B.C. municipalities should, in his opinion, be satisfied with the \$26,778,000 given them by the province in direct grants and indirect aid.

"Our financial relationship with the municipalities is now in a most satisfactory state, at least from the standpoint of the municipalities," he stated.

Two of the province's larger tax sources were the Sales Tax Act and the Motor Vehicle Act. From each of these one-third of the revenue, with certain minor exceptions, was diverted to the municipalities, the minister reminded.

"In these two items," said Mr. Anscomb, "we really act as agents for the municipalities in the collection and distribution of about \$10,000,000 a year."

Compared with the \$26,778,000 relief to municipalities in the coming year, the province paid only \$2,965,000 in the fiscal year of 1941-42, he said.

### GRANT BREAK-DOWN

The estimated \$26,421,000 for the municipalities in the coming year was broken down as follows:

Direct grants—  
From motor vehicle revenue, \$1,650,000; from the sales tax, \$7,875,000; basic and supplementary education grants, \$5,500,000;

education conveyance, \$366,000; teachers' pensions, \$830,000; school buildings, \$6,200,000.

### Indirect aid—

Indigent relief, \$2,666,000; indigent medical services, \$635,000; hospitalization of indigents, \$726,000; keep and transport of prisoners, \$100,000; local roads, \$100,000; interest on certificates of loan re municipal superannuation, \$130,000.

Assuming the values actually taxed in all municipalities to be \$600,000,000, the direct and indirect aid of the province would equal a mill rate of 44.63, the finance minister said.

### IMPLEMENTED REPORT

Mr. Anscomb said the province had implemented, for all practical purposes, the entire recommendations of Goldenberg Report, and in addition would be granting the municipalities \$7,875,000 in the next fiscal year from the sales tax.

"But we will still have some municipalities asking for contributions toward specific undertakings of one kind or another. In all fairness, that sort of thing must cease," he said.

## Home Nursing Service Sought

A home-nursing service to augment hospital service was advocated in the House Monday by Mrs. Tilly Rolston, Clin., Point Grey, who thought the Victorian Order of Nurses might be enlisted.

The hospitals were crowded party because many patients had no one to care for them at home after the emergency phase of their sickness was passed, Mrs. Rolston said.

She claimed a survey at one Victoria hospital revealed 105 patients could have been removed if nursing facilities had been available outside of the hospital. These were mostly chronic cases.

The Victorian Order of Nurses, even though it was a national organization receiving financial assistance from the Community Chests and the province, could look after both.

"The order could be paid on a percentage basis to take care of the many cases where there are no hospital beds," she stated.

## Wants More Color With Margarine

Amount of color allowed for margarine now being sold in B.C. was "just a legal sham," in the opinion of Mrs. Tilly Rolston, third Coalition member for Point Grey.

In Throne Speech debate Monday in the Legislature, Mrs. Rolston supported the Provincial Council of Women in demanding that more coloring be allowed for margarine and that it be mixed by the manufacturer.

"It looks just like lard still," said the woman member.

"The little moon of color" provided in the package of the butter substitute was not enough and, on top of that, the time and trouble it took to mix the two was too much "for our mothers, who have enough to do already."

## All-Canadian Route For Alberta Pipeline Urged

Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney said in the Legislature Monday "we must do our utmost to see the all-Canadian route is selected" for the proposed natural gas pipeline from Alberta to the northwestern U.S.

Preliminary engineering had been completed for an oil pipeline from Edmonton to Vancouver following the same route as the proposed gas line—through Yellowhead Pass, south through Kamloops to Princeton, along the Hope-Princeton Highway, to Vancouver.

"This line is 725 miles to tide-water, and shorter by 350 miles than a line from Edmonton south to Montana and westward to Vancouver," Mr. Kenney said.

Based on present-day costs, he continued, the proposed oil line was shown to be entirely feasible from a construction, operating, maintaining and economic standpoint.

The minister listed six benefits from the proposed transmission of natural gas along the proposed oil line route through B.C.: it would provide cheaper fuel; Canadians would have first draw on the supply; U.S. dollars would be spent for construction; Canadians would be employed in construction, maintenance and servicing; new industries would be attracted; as a national defence measure the line would provide vital fuel requirements to strategic centres on the coast.

## SCORNS SOCIALISTS

### Lands Minister Replies To C.C.F. On British Elections

The British election results were described by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney in the Legislature Monday as "a clearing of decks for action by the people to return to the path of political sanity and progress."

"The next few months will prove how determined the people are," he added.

The Labor government went into power in 1945 with the endorsement of 11,985,733 voters while the opposition received 13,032,660 votes. Today the Labor members received 13,293,107 votes with 15,289,794 opposing their policies.

"And this is what our Opposition Leader calls 'endorsement of

the socialist policies of the government," Mr. Kenney scoffed.

The minister had a word for Arthur Turner, Vancouver East C.C.F. member of the House, who last week said there was no unemployment in Great Britain. Quoting from a British ministerial source, Mr. Kenney said there were 103,363 unemployed in July, 1945, before Labor won the election; 362,976 in December, 1946; 1,870,000 in February, 1947, and 268,000 in September, 1949.

"These figures include only the registered unemployed and show conclusively there are unemployed in Great Britain—more than twice as many under Labor government as under the previous regime," he said.

## B.C.'s Payroll Hits New High

Preliminary statistics indicate B.C.'s payroll reached a new high in 1949, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb told the Legislature today in bringing down his fourth budget.

The industrial payroll was \$690,000,000, as compared with \$650,000,000 in 1948.

Value of production was up, as were other business indicators, the minister said, and while employment was off slightly, aggregate payrolls and average weekly earnings were well ahead of 1948, indicating the overall purchasing power was higher last year.

## Advance To P.G.E. Of \$115,153,014

The province has advanced \$115,153,014 to the P.G.E. Railway since it came into existence, the Legislature was told today in Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's fourth budget speech.

Of this amount \$49,366,131 covered interest charges since April 1, 1920.

Advances to the B.C. Power Commission totaled \$28,371,783, an increase of \$9,476,783 in the past year.

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## FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

## Battling Lands Minister Downs Critics With Barrage Of Facts

By LLOYD BAKER

E. T. Kenney, the Lands and Forests Minister, was lead-off batter for the Cabinet in Legislature debate Monday, and on the first pitch hit a line drive deep into right field.

Only the Premier had been to plate for the ministerial team before in speech making at the current session of the House, and his performance is on the score card.

Mr. Kenney's right field smash was on the Indian question. He chided the Indian member for Atlin, Frank Calder, for his reference last week to the perhaps out-of-the-ordinary interest that was being taken in the people of his race since they were given the vote.

"My interest in the Indians," said Mr. Kenney, "stems long before the elections."

Indians had been his neighbors for 40 years and he was proud of the fact. "Treat them right and you've got loyal, staunch friends."

Indians were given the franchise because they deserved it, the minister continued. They had proven themselves worthy citizens particularly in the fishing industry.

"Sluggo" Kenney was warmed up for his next inning. On the hospital insurance question he slammed one over the fence.

The minister had gone to bat for his teammate, the health minister, as coach of the hospital insurance plan, as well as for the service itself.

"I think it is a crime for unfair and incorrect criticism of the scheme to be bantered through the press," he swung.

It was only through trial and error that perfection was ever reached.

On any major legislation there were amendments from year to year. There was no finality.

And for the health minister (Hon. George S. Pearson): "Let he who has never made any mistakes throw the first brickbats."

Give Mr. Pearson an opportunity to round out what he wants to do with the hospital insurance plan and don't condemn him in the first year, said Mr. Kenney.

There was never anyone before who had done so much for the people in the way of social help and support as the health minister.

The small-statured Mr. Kenney, who has all of the facts at his

fingertips for the questions the Opposition ventures to throw when he is on the floor, scored a run on hospital crowding.

All the talk had started about lack of hospital accommodation since the government insurance scheme went into effect.

"But," said Mr. Kenney, "I can remember before we had hospital insurance having to go into hospital."

"I was supposed to go in on a Monday. There was no bed for me until the following Thursday. This was not an isolated case."

The minister knocked into a cocked hat the claims of Mackenzie's new member, "Bat" MacIntyre, that small lumber operators were becoming victims of the squeeze play through issuance of forest management licenses to big interests.

He read from the records to show that the little man was being given the same consideration as the big operator.

"Get the facts right before you speak," the minister advised as he issued an invitation to one and all to visit him at his office for any information they might require.

Mr. Kenney had something to say also about the cries that have been coming from fish and game associations as well as tourist promoters for larger grants for the Game Department.

The argument has been: "More of the income of the Game Department should be returned to propagate and protect the wild life."

That was all very well, said Mr. Kenney, but what would happen if this pattern was followed throughout the government service.

"Sure, I'd like to get my hands on more money for work in my department. But you cannot build up one branch of the government to the detriment of another..."

The Legislature's "other woman," Mrs. Tilly Rolston, was rubbing her hands together in

glee over the outcome of the British elections.

The women of Britain might have been responsible for the Labor victory in 1945. They had suffered untold hardships during the war. But they had returned to their senses.

"The exasperated, overworked, undernourished, over-queued housewives of England have swung the floating vote and will force a change of government," she told the Opposition.

## To Spend \$38,404,000 On Capital Expenditures

### Budget Speech Outlines Amounts Set Aside For Grants And Public Works In Province

A total of \$38,404,000 will be spent by the provincial government in the coming fiscal year on capital expenditures, it was made known today in Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's budget speech to the Legislature.

At the same time the borrowing power of the province will be increased by \$20,000,000, he said.

The \$38,404,000 will be spent as follows:

For grants toward construction of school buildings, \$10,000,000; for the P.G.E. Railway,

\$7,000,000; for provincial buildings, \$7,700,000; for highways and ordinary bridges, \$6,500,000; for steel or concrete bridges and culverts, \$2,500,000; for university buildings, \$2,579,000; for Okanagan flood control, \$625,000; for Trans-Canada Highway, \$1,500,000.

Some of the money for these works was made available last year.

The \$20,000,000 new borrowing includes \$10,000,000 for school buildings, \$4,250,000 for provincial buildings and \$750,000 for U.B.C. construction, and \$5,000,000 for the planned Dominion-provincial housing project.

"It is my understanding, too," said Mr. Anscomb, "that during the course of the year the B.C. Power Commission may find it necessary to market some \$7,000,000 of its own securities.

"These securities, of course, will be guaranteed fully as to principal and interest by the province."

## Equalization In Land Assessment Makes Progress

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb said in the Legislature today a considerable measure of equalization now exists in land assessment for taxation purposes.

He said, in his fourth budget speech: "Land values are subject to wide variations and this, coupled with the growth of population, has made our problem of assessment a very real one."

"It is a field that has been rather neglected, both provincially and municipally, in years past, but I now feel that we are reaching the point where a very considerable measure of equalization exists in provincial territory."

"The officials in the surveyor of taxes office, and the assessors in the field, have established a pattern of assessment that is legally and equitably sound."



FEMININE VIEW OF GOVERNMENT

Mrs. Tilly Rolston Speaks At Yesterday's Session

By ELIZABETH FORBES

"The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Point Grey will speak!" announced Madam Speaker. And immediately there was a thumping of hands on desks as every member present gave audible encouragement to the one woman in the Legislature who can still talk on the floor of the House.

Mrs. Tilly Rolston was seated minutes before the opening of the afternoon session.

She was wearing a plainly-styled suit in her favorite black. And her favorite white corsage bouquet—a gardenia and white

spit chrysanthemums was on her lapel.

She wore no hat. Her iron grey hair, short and thick, was slightly ruffled, as if she had been running her fingers through it in last-minute concentration. She was wearing heavy tortoise-shell rimmed reading glasses.

The notes for her speech were in a tidy pile on her desk.

To her left sat Hon. W. T. Straith, Minister of Education. He was wearing a brown suit. And to her right, Arthur Ash, M.L.A. for Saanich, in grey trousers and dark blue coat.

Strikes A More Philosophical Vein

As she waited for the stentorian voice of the assistant sergeant-at-arms to announce Madam Speaker's entrance, Mrs. Rolston relaxed in her swivel chair.

And sub-consciously she began to rock.

Nothing could have been more feminine. For I doubt if there is any woman, given the opportunity to sit in a chair that will rock, who would not do that very thing, under emotional stress or the suppressed excitement of waiting to make a speech.

When she stood up to speak, Mrs. Rolston seemed quite at ease. She spoke slowly and in a tone that was easily heard.

But some of the old-time fire was lacking.

The Mrs. Tilly Rolston who used to plant her feet, square her shoulders and sent her message out over the Legislative Chamber in a ringing voice that echoed in the galleries, was missing.

Occasionally she did emphasize a point with old-time vigor or with expressive waves of her hands. But for the most part she gave her message, in a quieter, more philosophical mood.

She talked of health insurance, the tourist industry, of roads needed and of her own constituency, Point Grey.

And when she sat down—again to the thumping of hands on many desks—she sat back in her swivel chair.

And again she began to rock. Messages, delivered by blue-uniformed, red-capped page boys, cluttered her desk. There a telegram on top of the pile.

They were ignored for several moments while Mrs. Tilly Rolston relaxed.

Soon she was going through her mail. Smiling a little as she read the messages.

After a few moments she stood up, bowed to Madam Speaker, and left the Legislative Chamber.

Forest Industry Doubles Acreage Cut In 45 Years

The forest industry in B.C. has come a long way since 1905 when only Douglas fir had any value, it was shown in the Legislature Monday by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney.

Mr. Kenney closed debate on the Speech from the Throne.

Forty-five years ago only clear logs, nothing above the first limb, of Douglas fir were accepted:

Today all species of trees, including the former "culls" such as hemlock, balsam, cottonwood and birch, were utilized.

"We take at least twice as much from an acre as we took from a similar acre in 1905, and there is still room for improvement," the minister said.

Refinement in manufacturing was now turning the province's trees into doors, plywood, furniture, cellulose and paper.

"A thousand feet of rough,

green lumber in 1905 distributed \$8," said Mr. Kenney. "A thousand feet of logs today in plywood and newsprint distributes nearly \$200."

The minister said the industry had been somewhat "uneasy" for the past two years. Austerity in the United Kingdom and a chronic fear in the U.S. that next years' business might not be quite so buoyant as last year's, had had a disquieting effect.

PRICES GOING UP

"But there seems to be no sign of a saturation point in building, and prices of lumber are on the up-trend," he continued.

Mr. Kenney said the short-term outlook for the industry might call for some "finger crossing" although it was not disturbing. The long-term outlook was bright.

Logging was being put on a sustained yield basis and both in the woods and in mill practice there was much closer utilization of the timber. Also a new mill opened last year; a new mill will open this year; another mill was projected; Celanese Corporation mill will be operating next year; there were prospects of the Port Mellon pulp mill re-opening.

"All are tending to refined products which multiply values, and which, unlike progressively poorer grades of lumber are, and will continue to be, competitive work markets," Mr. Kenney said.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1950

House Presents Much-Changed Picture

There was something of sadness in the picture.

As this one woman stood in the midst of 46 men, and pleaded for some of the things dear to the hearts of all women.

One looked back 10 years to a time when there were five women in the Legislature.

Five women of different political beliefs, 'tis true, but five women who had at heart the needs of women, and who in the various ways, worked for the betterment of conditions affecting women.

Four years ago, there were only two women seated in the Legislature.

Today, there are still two women, but one must sit silent in her role of Madam Speaker.

And where were the women in the galleries yesterday?

When one subtracted the wives of members who attend daily, there were not many left.

Why did they not turn out to support the one woman able to speak for them on the floor of the House.

Is it because they do not realize how important it is to them to have representation in their province's Legislature?

Or is it because they take

their emancipation — won for them such a short time ago with much suffering and hardship—so casually that it means merely the knowledge that they may vote—if they wish.



A little exhausted after more than two and a half hours of talking with sore throat as he presented budget, Mr. Anscomb sits with folded hands at his ministerial desk pondering reply today by C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold Winch, who closely followed printed copy of Finance Minister's Tuesday speech.

**F E B**

**1950**



## HOSPITAL PLAN CHANGES FORECAST

# \$4.5 Million Surplus for B.C. Last Year, House Advised

By LESLIE FOX  
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 14.—Changes in British Columbia's Hospital Insurance Act at the coming session of the Legislature to improve operation of the scheme were definitely promised by the government for the first time today.

The pledge came in the Speech from the Throne read by Lieut-Governor Charles A. Banks at the opening of the session this afternoon.

The speech gave no hint of the exact nature of the changes proposed by the government, other than to say they would have the object of "improving administrative procedures."

However, it is thought they may include compulsory payroll deductions for hospital insurance premiums in place of the present voluntary system.

#### NEW COMMISSION

There is also speculation the government will propose a new form of commission be set up to run the service, possibly with two assistant commissioners to aid Lloyd F. Detwiler, recently-appointed commissioner.

Also disclosed in the Throne Speech is that the government is proposing a new control scheme for the Fraser Valley dyking system.

The dykes were all rebuilt after the devastating 1948 floods. The new scheme, details of which were not given, will be to handle the maintenance of the flood barriers. It may involve a different system of dyking districts.

The speech also announced that the government is planning "a closer liaison" with the native Indians of the province, who last year were given the voting franchise for the first time.

It is expected this will involve the appointment of an official who will look after matters concerning the Indians that are not handled by the federal Indian Affairs department.

#### HOUSING BILLS

Other legislation foreshadowed by the Throne Speech, which bears out previous forecasts, includes:

Two housing bills, one to authorize provincial cooperation with the Dominion in its low-cost housing scheme, and the other to enable cities and municipalities to participate. These have already been thoroughly talked over at conferences both here and in Ottawa.

## Greetings Received From Jewish State

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 14.—Greetings to British Columbia from the new State of Israel were read by Madam Speaker Hodges at the opening of the Legislature today.

They came from Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, and were conveyed to B.C. in a letter carried by Opposition Leader Harold Winch, and addressed to the Speaker. Mr. Winch had a two-hour talk with Mr. Sprinzak when he visited Europe and the Near East last summer.

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 14.—British Columbia's treasury collected a record \$92,000,910 in the fiscal year ending last March 31 and after paying out \$2,981,746 on Fraser Valley flood relief costs, over and above normal appropriations, finished the year with a surplus of \$4,564,946.

This was shown today when Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb tabled public accounts at the opening of the Legislature.

Revenue collections soared by \$25 million over the previous year, partly because of the newly-imposed 3 percent sales tax during the year and partly due to general buoyancy of all revenue sources. They exceeded the government's estimates by \$15 million.

On the expenditure side, estimates were overspent by \$10 million and were \$24 million greater than in the previous year.

#### BUDGETS COMPARED

Here in brief is the comparative budget picture over the two years:

1947-48 — Revenue, \$67,077,739; expenditure, \$63,475,696.

1948-49 — Revenue, \$92,000,910; expenditure, \$87,435,963.

Biggest single source of revenue for the government was the yearly grant from Ottawa in lieu of the income tax. It amounted to \$22,972,814.

Next in order was liquor profits, which produced \$18,085,680 for the provincial coffers.

#### MOTORISTS SHELL OUT

Motorists shelled out a whopping \$16,321,505, of which \$10,191,179 was in gasoline taxes and \$6,130,331 in license fees. Gas tax collections were up \$900,000 from the previous year and license receipts up \$500,000.

The sales tax, which operated only eight months of the year, produced \$14,335,119, which was entirely new revenue.

Other major sources of revenue included \$7,458,000 from timber royalties and sales, an increase of \$1 million; \$1,948,688 from the amusement tax, which is a \$1.5 million increase because the province took over the Dominion's wartime amusement levy of 25 percent; \$1,005,754 from the fuel oil tax, an increase of \$35,000; and \$1,262,422 from land registry fees.

The accounts disclosed 1948-49 was B.C.'s biggest spending year in history to date. Total outlays for all purposes amounted to \$119,679,000.

Imposition of a severance tax on E & N Railway belt timber lands. This is an outcome of Privy Council decision that the province has power to levy such a tax. It has been unofficially estimated B.C.'s coffers stand to collect something like \$6 million from the levy over a period of years.

#### HIGHWAY PACT

An agreement between Ottawa and Victoria on the construction of the Trans-Canada Highway. Details of this have yet to be worked out following preliminary conferences last fall, but the Throne Speech indicated they will be complete before the session finishes.

More funds to carry on the University of British Columbia building program were promised.

In the speech the Lieutenant-Governor took note of the fact that Newfoundland has entered Confederation since the last session. The Legislature will draft a suitable message to Newfoundland to go with the gift of a mace which B.C. will make to the new province.

#### WOMAN SPEAKER

Election of Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition MLA for Victoria, as the first woman speaker of a British Commonwealth parliament was one of the high spots as the legislature, B.C.'s 22nd since confederation, opened its first session with the traditional pageantry and procedure.

Mrs. Hodges appeared for the first time in public in her black silken robes and the Speaker's historic tricorne hat. Her selection as Speaker was indicated by Premier Johnson some two months ago.

Opposition leader Harold Winch seconded Mrs. Hodges' appointment in the customary fashion. Premier Johnson and Mr. Winch escorted Mrs. Hodges from her seat to the Speaker's chair.

A 15-gun salute thundered out across the harbor from the Causeway as the Lieutenant-Governor arrived from Government House to open the assembly. Then he inspected a military guard of honor furnished by the Esquimalt Garrison.

## HIGHEST EVER

## B.C. Liquor Sale, Profit Set Record

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 14.—A change in habits of British Columbia's liquor drinkers gave B.C.'s Liquor Control Board its most prosperous year in the 12 months ended last March 31.

Reports tabled in the Legislature show that the Liquor Board's sales jumped by \$1,705,000 over the previous year to a new high of \$56,954,898.

And in this increase the Liquor Board reaped an extra \$1,475,337 in profits, which also set a new record of \$18,073,767.

## Pattullo Span Year's Tolls \$641,488

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 14.—Motorists paid out a total of \$641,488 in tolls to cross the Pattullo Bridge at New Westminster, in the fiscal year ending last March, public accounts reports in the Legislature show.

This was an increase of \$34,000 over the toll receipts for the previous year.

It cost \$135,578 to operate the bridge and pay the staff, leaving a net profit of \$505,909, which goes toward paying for the bridge.

Despite the huge increase in traffic and toll receipts in recent years, the bridge debt as at last March 31 still amounted to \$2,545,887.

The original cost was \$4 million, but in its early years the tolls did not pay the carrying charges and the government has charged the bridge account with interest for the shortcomings which had to be made up in those years.

However, at the present rate of collections it is expected the bridge debt will be wiped out in a few more years.

WOMEN VISITORS ADD GLAMOR

# Brilliant Throng Sees Mrs. Hodges Take Office

By KATY WIGHTMAN  
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 14.—Embattled suffragettes, fighting for women's rights at the turn of the century, would have felt their efforts rewarded if they could have seen Mrs. Nancy Hodges, the first woman Speaker in Commonwealth parliamentary history, assume office today.

Mrs. Hodges donned the black tricorne hat and black robes, symbolic accoutrements of the Speaker, in a traditional ceremony at the opening of the first session of the 22nd Legislature held in the stately parliament buildings overlooking Victoria's harbor.

**COLORFUL UNIFORMS**

The smart gowns and new spring bonnets of the women attending added to the glamor of this year's event and complemented the glittering uniforms of Lt. Gov. Charles A. Banks and his aides, and the smart turnout

of the Royal Canadian Artillery guard of honor.

Leading the parade of smartly dressed women, Mrs. Byron Johnson, the premier's lovely wife, was demure but smart in her Quakerish ensemble of grey suit and white accessories, made gay with a matching hat becomingly decked with white flowers.

Vancouver's Mayor and Mrs. Charles E. Thompson were seated with Victoria's Mayor P. E. George and Mrs. George, Mrs. Thompson wearing a perky spring bonnet of turquoise blue with her black suit.

**BLACK WITH GARDENIAS**

Mrs. T. J. Rolston of Vancouver, the only other woman member of the House, was accompanied by her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Rolston, and her son-in-law and daughter, Major and Mrs. Eric Hartley, all of Vancouver. Mrs. Rolston struck a feminine note in her otherwise severe black costume with a large corsage of gardenias and a large off-the-face black hat bound with velvet ribbon.

A pleated navy shot silk hat and navy accessories completed the saxe blue costume of Mrs. Herbert Anscob, wife of the minister of finance. Mrs. H. W. DeWolfe, whose husband, Rear Admiral DeWolfe, was with the lieutenant-governor, topped her dark green dress and squirrel jacket with a feathered hat.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Roper and Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Deacon of Britannia Beach were guests of E. C. Carson, minister of public works, and Mrs. Carson. Mrs. Carson wore a full-skirted navy taffeta dress, and a new spring bonnet of Alice blue trimmed with a spray of flowers across the front.

Mrs. W. T. Straith, wife of the minister of education, chose a grey-blue wool dress, accented

with a cut bead trim and navy accessories. She was accompanied by her daughter, Miss Janet Straith, just back from a week-end in Vancouver where she attended the Normal School athletic invasion.

Many Vancouverites were among the notables going on to the annual sessional reception at Government House. Glimpsed from the press gallery were Mr. and Mrs. A. E. (Dal) Grauer, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Allen, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. MacKay, Mr. and Mrs. John Lecky and Australian Trade Commissioner and Mrs. F. R. Gullick.



**MADAM SPEAKER**—Mrs. Nancy Hodges—will rule debates in the British Columbia Legislature with opening of the House today. She is Liberal-Coalition member for Victoria, and first woman speaker in the British Commonwealth.



**FIRST INDIAN MEMBER** of the British Columbia Legislature, Frank Calder, CCF member for Atlin, is sworn in by E. K. DeBeck, clerk of the house. CCF leader Harold Winch looks on.





—George Young, Sun Staff Photographer

### Vancouverites Invade Victoria for Opening of Legislature Today

CAPT. W. R. WEBSTER, MRS. JOHN H. CATES and MISS ANNE CATES  
**THE MACE**, symbol of royal authority, is shown (left) to Mrs. Cates, wife of the minister of labor, and her daughter, by the sergeant-at-arms during a tour of the Parliament Buildings. Mrs. Cates and her daughter are in Victoria for the opening of the Legislature today but Miss Cates will return to her school in North Vancouver

Wednesday. Mrs. Cates is staying for the session, living at the Cathay. Mrs. Farris (centre) was caught by The Sun Photographer as she strolled outside the Empress Hotel. Mrs. Farris is spending a few days in the capital, planning to attend the Legislature opening today. Mrs. Ean Paterson of North Vancouver, daughter of Hon.

MRS. JOHN L. FARRIS

MRS. H. R. BOWMAN and MRS. EAN PATERSON  
H. R. Bowman, minister of agriculture, and Mrs. Bowman, is shown (right) with her mother at the Bowmans' Victoria Avenue home. Mrs. Paterson accompanied her mother to the House opening today and later attended the Government House reception. She will return home this weekend.

will rule  
with open-  
! - Coalition  
aker in the



### Indian Chiefs Offer Thanks for the Vote

**COLORFUL TOUCH** was added to the opening ceremonies of British Columbia's Legislature, Tuesday, by appearance of two Indian chiefs in the robes of their forefathers. Here Chief William Scow, president of the Native Brotherhood of B.C., and Chief Frank Asu of the Wewaike tribe and president of the North American Brotherhood, appear before the bar of the house to give thanks for the vote.

## 'Fair Return' on Liquor

We congratulate the government of British Columbia on a wonderful year in the booze business. Volume of hard liquor sales is going up and profits in proportion. In proportion to the government's greed, that is, not in proportion to service.

The government's monopoly, misnamed the Liquor Control Board, scooped \$57 million into its till in the year ending last March 31. Perhaps \$15 million of that represented beverages for sale. The balance went into federal taxes, wasteful operating expenses and a net profit to the provincial treasury of \$18 million. That's not counting about another \$1 million collected in sales taxes during the eight months that the three percent levy was in effect.

Reports tabled in the Legislature yesterday showed that the government is making a very good thing out of its non-competitive

enterprise. The net take wasn't far short of the whole sum received for leasing its income and corporation tax rights to the Dominion Government.

Victoria's morality in this matter may be inferred from the fact that it fixes a maximum "fair rate of return" for other public utilities at 5.3 percent! But with liquor, the sky's the limit. The government even sets up a special commission to make certain that other public utility customers aren't victimized. Yet look what the government itself does when it gets the citizen under its thumb!

With gross sales mounting in such a gratifying manner, no wonder the government brushes off public demand for sale of liquor by the glass. Why let people buy a drink at a time when they can be forced to buy it by the quart or the case?



LEGISLATURE MAKES HISTORY

# Films Record B.C.'s Choice Of First 'Madam Speaker'

By Sun Staff Reporter  
**VICTORIA, Feb. 15.** — Movie cameras whirred in the B.C. Legislature while the House was in session for the first time Tuesday, to record B.C.'s choice of the first woman speaker of a British parliament in history. Films of the event were taken by the National Film Board and the public galleries broke into vig-

orous handclapping as Premier Johnson and Opposition Leader Harold Winch escorted Mrs. Nancy Hodges of Victoria to the Speaker's dais after her election. Mrs. Hodges retired to her chambers for ten minutes to don the tricorn hat and silken black Speaker's robe of office, while the House recessed. When she returned she fell

very easily into the routine of conducting the complicated procedure of the House, for she has had nine years experience as a private member.

Premier Johnson, when he moved her appointment, paid a special tribute to Mrs. Hodges' past work in public life and declared "she will bring to her (new) task a broad experience in public affairs gained from her activities as an outstanding journalist both in Canada and Great Britain."

"I am sure," said the Premier, "she will fill the post with honor and dignity and be a great credit to the women of our country."

"You showed good judgment this time," chimed in Thomas Uphill, the Labor member for Fernie.

## Indians Thank 'White Brothers'

### Colorful Ceremony Marks Opening Of B.C. Legislature

**VICTORIA, Feb. 15.**—History was made at the opening of the Legislature Tuesday when two Indian chiefs were called before the bar of the House to present a petition thanking the white man for giving them the vote.

They were dressed in the ceremonial robes of their forefathers.

Chief William Scow, head of the Kwikwaka'wakw Tribe of the Kwakwaka'wakw Indian Nations and President of the Native Brotherhood of B.C., wore an ermine skin headdress with a thunderbird head mask decorated with abalone shells and a beadwork robe representing two grizzly bears.

#### INDIAN CEREMONIAL

Chief Frank Assu, chief of the Wewaike Tribe of the Kwakwaka'wakw, and President of the North American Brotherhood, wore the national costume of all North American Indians with an eagle feather headdress and a buckskin suit decorated with wampum.

It was the most colorful touch added to the opening ceremony in many years.

The two Indian chiefs solemnly approached the brass bar of the house, escorted by Sergeant-at-Arms W. R. Webster, and Chief Scow shook a ceremonial rattle while Chief Assu carried the famous Speaker's staff of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nations.

They first followed each other round in a circle, an Indian demonstration that what they intended to say was sincere and truthful.

The Speaker's staff, according to Indian lore, denotes that the man who holds it cannot be questioned. He holds the floor.

#### FIRST INDIAN MLA

Carefully following the proceedings was Frank Calder, 34-year-old Indian who took his seat for Atlin as the first native Indian ever to sit in the legislature.

Carved on the staff, in totem form, were Kalus, the sister of Thunderbird, then Taqueamee, the spirit of Red Cedar and underneath Seesumyute, the spirit of the salmon.

The ceremonial rattle, handed down for generations was made of yew wood, brilliantly carved with the spirit of the raven which brings Indians light, water, and copper for their ceremonies.

Chief Scow told the Assembly of the hard work done by Indian deputy registrar in getting the Indians enrolled on the voters' list.

It was a big job to trace them in all the remote inlets, and rivers, and bays of the coast he said, but they appreciated the white man's gift of the franchise.

#### BEGINNING OF NEW ERA

"I feel and know," he said, "that the granting of this franchise to our people is the beginning of giving them many privileges which they have not had in the past."

Chief Assu praised the friendly relations which have always existed between Indians and white men on this coast.

"No real trouble between the Indian and the white man has existed in B.C. We settle our differences by agreement.

"We still have some difficulties which we hope to settle by agreement and peaceably in the future."

## Battle Looms Over Rights of Indians

By Sun Staff Reporter

**VICTORIA, Feb. 15.** — A new battle over rights of native Indians looms here as a result of Frank Calder of Atlin, first Indian ever elected to a Canadian Legislature, taking his seat in the British Columbia House.

Calder is a CCF member and his party leader, Harold Winch, declared today he intends to demand tomorrow in the House that the government get the status of Indians cleared up for good now that they have voting privileges.

#### PENSIONS AND LIQUOR

On old age pension, social welfare, liquor laws and several other points Indians remain in a special category, Mr. Winch pointed out.

"Here we now have a situation under which Mr. Calder, an Indian, is an MLA and has full privileges of all MLAs, but only as a member on the floor of the House.

Once he steps outside the Chamber he is an Indian again and subject to Indian restrictions which do not apply to citizens generally.

"In other words he is a full citizen on the floor of the House, but not outside it."

#### MEASURES PROMISED

Mr. Winch said he will press the government to demand a straightening out of the Dominion Indian Act to remove the anomaly under which a man can be "a citizen yet not a citizen."

At Tuesday's opening ceremonies in the Legislature both chief William Scow and Chief Frank Assu, in extending their thanks to the House for voting rights, implied that the Indians will seek further privileges now that they have the franchise.

The government, in the Throne Speech, proposed measures to effect a "closer liaison" with the Indians of the province, but did not go into details.

Calder, the slight, black-haired, 34-year-old University graduate, is planning to devote most of his maiden address to the Indians' troubles.

## B.C. House Warned Farmers Unhappy

### Farm Products' Prices Falling But Wages Still Climbing

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 16.—Alex Hope, Coalition MLA for Delta, warned the Legislature Wednesday that farmers are becoming bitter because price of farm products is falling while wage earners are still demanding higher wages, and getting them.

"I don't like to use the word 'bitter,' but that is the way some of them feel," he said.

Hope declared the sharp drop in poultry prices caused by the loss of the U.K. market means ruin to hundreds of small poultry producers in the valley—particularly people who went into it with their wartime savings.

"The floor price recently set by Ottawa will be a stabilizing factor but won't save the small men," he said.

#### "BITTER MEDICINE"

He mentioned the fate of hog producers and also of Okanagan fruit growers—who he commended for their gesture of sending 1.5 million boxes of apples free to the U.K., but he declared: "It is bitter medicine to swallow when they see their former market gone in favor of countries who weren't too friendly to us during the war."

Mr. Hope, pressing for his riding's needs, urged the government to make an early start on surveying a new crossing of the Fraser, either by tunnel or bridge, between Ladner and Richmond, and to remove a bottleneck on the Transcontinental Highway between Fry's Corner and the King George Highway junction.

#### MARGARINE WARNING

The Delta member praised the government's hospital insurance plan in principle, but, admitting its original difficulties, said it is still a debatable point whether the sales tax should be increased from three percent to five percent to pay for it and have the premiums wiped out.

Mr. Hope, one of the big fighters last year against legalizing margarine sale, declared it has done exactly what predicted.

"I warned it would ruin the dairy industry and it is turning out that," he said.

He had praise for the government for calling in municipal representatives to work out the new housing program, and said if this had been done years ago on provincial-municipal problems there would have been no need to call on the services of H. Carl Goldenberg, the commissioner who reported four years ago on municipal problems.

## Don Brown Elected Deputy Speaker

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 16.—Donald C. Brown, CLN Vancouver Burrard, was elected deputy speaker of the legislature Wednesday. Nomination of Mr. Brown had been previously indicated by Premier Johnson.

## New E & N Tax Revenue to Be 'Considerable'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 16.—Indication that the new tax on E&N railway lines on Vancouver Island will apply not only to areas alienated by the company but also on lands they retain and use for other than railway purposes, was given in the Legislature Wednesday by A. D. Turnbull (Cln., Rossland-Trail).

Mr. Turnbull, moving the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne — his maiden speech in the House—also declared that the E&N lands will be made subject to the forest protection regulations of the Forest Act.

In moving the Reply, Mr. Turnbull was in the position to foreshadow government policy on the point.

He declared the revenues to be gained from tax "will be significant," but did not give any estimate of the amount.

Mr. Turnbull made a solid speech on provincial affairs, although that was the only new ground on which he touched.

He urged the government to watch very closely the U.S. development of power on the Columbia River and suggested the B.C. Government might build a storage dam across the Lower Arrow Lake near Castlegar and sell water to the Americans at low-water periods.

He made a plea for greater attention to the work of the Tourist Publicity Bureau and a larger appropriation for the Game Commission, declaring the tourist business has not yet been fully exploited.

He defended the government's hospitalization scheme. Despite its shortcoming in the first year, a very large proportion of the people are completely satisfied with it, he maintained.

In a plea on behalf of people over 45 who find difficulty getting jobs, he urged the government to stimulate growth of secondary industries of manufacturing and processing wood, metal and food products.

## Mather's Nightcap

By BARRY MATHER

VICTORIA—Liquor profits, the entertainment tax, and levies on motorists have yielded a total of \$36,355,873 in government revenues during the fiscal year. (News Item.)

#### MEMO TO MR. ANSCOMB

Herb—aint it kind of queer  
How, every fiscal year,  
The burden of your taxes  
Falls on the sinners' backs'es?

To nightclubs or the shows  
And there his money blows.  
... From the wild oats that he  
sows.  
Entertainment Tax soon grows.

I notice, in the news,  
One-fifth of revenues  
Now comes from those who  
booze.

Without such foolish cusses  
How could you show surpluses?

Herb, if through sudden piety,  
These guys embrace sobriety  
What happens to society?

Another point, of course, is  
The ones who play the horses  
And end up in divorces.  
—They're vital as tax sources.

Again, take gasoline—  
I see where some Eighteen  
Million bucks have been  
Contributed by drivers  
For licenses and divers  
Other forms of levies  
On their Fords and Chevies.

Now—judging by these facts,  
If morals were less lax  
Just how could you raise jacks?

Suppose, instead of roamin',  
The motorists stayed home in  
Their house or their apartment?  
—What then of your Dept.?

Oh Herb, it's plain to see  
That finance in B.C.  
And all economy  
Depends on guys like me.

Or take the guy who goes

Herb, I don't like the responsi-  
bility.

## OIL LEASE LAW CHANGED

VICTORIA, Feb. 16.—(CP)

—A bill always is introduced during opening ceremonies of the B.C. legislature to show the people's business comes foremost.

The bill which went before the members at the start of the first session of the 22nd B.C. legislative assembly this week was to do with common law in the granting of leases on property for oil and natural gas exploration.

Given first reading, Bill No. 1, an act to amend the laws declaratory act, eliminates the common law ruling that a lease for an indeterminate term can be terminated at any time by the person granting it, for mining, petroleum and natural gas leases.

## Winch Finds Gov't Napping On Procedure

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 16.—Opposition Leader Harold Winch had the government benches confused in the Legislature Wednesday when he caught them out on a point of legislative procedure.

Mr. Winch got into a highly technical argument with Attorney-General Wismer and Premier Johnson when he "asked leave to move adjournment of debate" until the next sitting of the House.

Mr. Wismer thought Winch worded his motion wrong.

So did Premier Johnson. Then Mr. Winch jumped in and demanded to know if the government intended to override the established procedure of the House.

Because, he said, he had discovered that in the opening proceedings of the Legislature on Tuesday the government forgot to include a highly important motion.

This motion, normally passed by the House in the first session after a general election, specifies that if it is suspected that any member secured his seat by bribery or other unlawful means, the most vigorous investigation into the happening will be pressed.



# West Vancouver Route Favored for PGE Line

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
 B. C. PHOTOGRAPHIC  
 ASSOCIATION

## Premier Indicates Highway Plan 'Out'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 17. — Construction of a Squamish-North Vancouver link for the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, with development of terminals in North Vancouver is to get the "serious consideration" of the government this year.

Premier Johnson announced this in his policy speech to the Legislature this afternoon, disclosing a sharp change in the government's plans for the railway.

If it is built the railway will follow a water-level grade around the rugged cliffs of Howe Sound, along the old right-of-way through West Vancouver to the North Vancouver terminus.

The change in policy is the result of a report by J. A. Kennedy, general manager of the PGE that if the North Vancouver extension is constructed, the railway can be put on a paying basis.

## 'Feeder Route' Plan

Originally the government had planned to build a highway between Squamish and West Vancouver as a feeder route for the PGE and to concentrate on getting the railway through to the Peace River before bringing the southern end to Vancouver.

This was all announced last year, but may be changed as the result of surveys now in progress both for the highway and the railway extension.

Full text of Mr. Johnson's statement on this phase of the PGE follows:

"The policy as outlined during the election proposed to construct

a lumber assembly plant at Squamish and defer extension of the railway into North Vancouver until such time as the extension from Prince George to Dawson Creek was completed.

"In the meantime it was proposed to construct a highway from Squamish into West Vancouver to give access to the North Shore until such time as the railway was extended to that point.

"The surveys for the proposed route are nearing completion but until the engineers have completed their plans and estimates, it will not be known what the cost of this road will be.

## Through W. Van. 'Costly Way'

"Neither can it be determined the road can be constructed along the water level route without interfering with the railway right-of-way.

"The information which we have from the engineering department of the railway is that there is only one way to get the railway to the North Shore, and that is along the water level of Howe Sound and over the right-of-way, which the railway company has kept intact through West Vancouver to the site reserved for a terminal on the north shore of Vancouver harbor.

"The railway company owns 57 acres of land on the north shore, with a frontage on Van-

couver harbor for nearly 3000 feet, which has been held as a terminal site since the inception of the railroad.

"A year ago Mr. J. A. Kennedy was made general manager—with instructions to take full charge of the railway and put it on a paying basis.

"Mr. Kennedy has had a full year of operation and his report to me, as Premier of the province, is to the effect that the only way that the railroad can be placed on a paying basis is to construct the section between Squamish and North Vancouver, making it possible for a rail service from the north shore to Quesnel, and when the extension is completed a complete rail service to Prince George.

## Abolish Barge Service

"This will do away with the costly barge service from Vancouver and Squamish with all the attendant delays which are very costly from operating point of view, and at the same time increase the earnings of the railroad by increased passenger revenue between Vancouver and Squamish.

"I may say, I was of the opinion that the extension of the line from Prince George to Dawson Creek should have priority over the construction of the section from Squamish to Vancouver.

"However, in the light of the recommendations of our general manager that the railroad can be placed on a paying basis by filling in the gap between Squamish and the North Shore, the dual surveys (for road and rail) between Squamish and Vancouver will be continued.

"When the reports have been made available the government proposes to give serious consideration to Mr. Kennedy's recommendation with a view to determining the policy to be followed.

"There is one thing we must keep in mind and that is the deficits of the PGE railway are paid by the taxpayers of the province.

"I realize the many difficult problems which lie in the way of extending the line through West Vancouver.

"However, it is a recognized fact that the railroad eventually

must have a terminal on Vancouver harbor."

The Premier also revealed that plans for the northern end of the Quesnel-Prince George extension now under construction, have been revised.

It has been decided that the government-owned line will enter Prince George over its own rails and have its own terminal in that city instead of going in over CNR lines as originally proposed.

This will involve construction of an extra bridge across the Fraser River at South Fort George with the railway entering the town on the west side.

The Premier reported that construction on the northern extension of the line is proceeding well and that contracts for the last 35 miles will be let this spring. Steel will get to the Cottonwood River by June of this year.

Tenders will be called in the near future for a big railway bridge across the Cottonwood canyon.

The Premier again told the House that the government is standing by its policy that eventually the railway must go into Dawson Creek to connect with the Alaska highway.

He said the importance of owning its own terminal at Prince George as well as at North Vancouver will be even greater if newspaper talk about U.S. interest in the line materializes.

## Winch Asks Gov't Bare Hershey Case

### Calls for Tabling of Correspondence Between Ex-Insurance Chief, Pearson

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 17.—Opposition leader Harold Winch called on the government in the Legislature Thursday to table all correspondence between Health Minister George Pearson and former commissioner Dr. J. M. Hershey of the insurance service.

Hershey resigned last December because, he said, he had no assurance the government would carry out his recommendations on reorganizing the scheme.

However, he demanded the government produce for the House all reports dealing with the scheme so that members can find out what went wrong in the first year to cause the big deficits.

He declared that after spending \$241,000 on "health insurance investigations" between 1934 and 1947 the government should have known enough to avoid difficulties with the hospital scheme.

He was referring to the abortive attempt of the late 30's when B.C. started out on a health insurance scheme, appointed a commission, and then never got it into operation.

# Winch Raps Gov't On Job Problem

## Coalition Accused of Having Done Nothing to Make Employment

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 17.—CCF Leader Harold Winch clashed sharply with the government on the unemployment question when he spoke in the Legislature Thursday.

He charged the coalition administration was elected on a security and full employment program, but has done nothing to meet the winter jobless situation, particularly in Vancouver.

"I've heard your answer—that it is the responsibility of Ottawa! I agree with that too, but Ottawa hasn't accepted its responsibility and until it does, the responsibility of this government to help its people in need is not removed," Mr. Winch declared.

### "NONSENSE" SAYS GILLIS

Dr. J. J. Gillis (Cln., Yale) shouted "nonsense" when Mr. Winch declared the only time the capitalist system has provided full employment is in time of war.

Trades and Industries Minister Leslie Eyres interrupted. Mr. Winch to assert "last year B.C. had the highest employment level in its history."

"Yes, and also the highest unemployment for years," Winch retorted. He asserted "in war, under your system, you can make all the bombs and guns and planes you need and keep everyone working, but you can't produce the things we need in peacetime. That's the greatest indictment there is of your system."

### HAS DONE SOMETHING

He said Ottawa does not accept responsibility for the unemployed employables, but until it can be shamed into doing so, B.C. should do something.

Premier Johnson interrupted at this point and declared he refused to accept the idea Ottawa had done nothing.

In the two months of December and January, he said, the Dominion paid out a total of \$6,600,000 in Unemployment Insurance and Family Allowances, certainly a great contribution toward those who are not working.

"There you are, my friend," shouted Dr. Gillis. "I don't say this is the whole answer, but you can't say Ottawa is doing nothing toward security, said the Premier."

### 95 PERCENT ELIGIBLE

He maintained that 95 percent of the unemployed are eligible for unemployment insurance, showing they had jobs in the first place.

"You're talking unemployment insurance, but you were going to give them jobs under private enterprise system," Winch declared.

"I say that 95 percent of those on insurance have jobs when the weather is good," said the Premier.

Winch, in chorus with his father, E. E. Winch, CCF, Burnaby, shouted "You don't know how this system works. Those men have to find jobs first."

Winch declared the Premier was completely out of touch with the unemployment situation and added he ought to know the profit system always leads to unemployment.

### HOSPITAL INSURANCE

The Opposition leader covered a dozen or so points of provincial matters in the course of his hour and 20 minutes' speech.

He admitted he couldn't deal specifically with many matters because the government is so vague in its Speech from the Throne and he urged the Premier to make an innovation and start the opening debate in the Legislature with his policy speech rather than wait until the third day as he now does.

On hospital insurance he said it appears the government don't seem to know how to run business as it should but he declared: "Make no mistake, the people of

B.C. will not let hospital insurance die. I'm more certain of that than anything in my life."

### INDIANS' CITIZENSHIP

He said after spending \$241,000 between 1930 and 1947 on health insurance investigations the government should have been better prepared to avoid mistakes.

Mr. Winch made a demand for full citizenship rights for Indians, declaring that despite their voting rights they are still second class citizens.

He said Frank Calder, the new CCF Indian MLA for Atlin, has all privileges on the floor of the House, but reverts to Indian status outside it.

The Attorney-General should take this up and see that they have full rights as well as the responsibilities of all citizens, he said.

# Program Set For Improving B.C. Side Roads

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 17.—An indication that the British Columbia Public Works Department is ready to turn greater attention to improving secondary roads was given by Premier Johnson in his policy speech to the Legislature.

For the last three years B.C. has been concentrating on the rebuilding of its main highways and the side roads have suffered a bit in consequence.

The Premier said the trunk road policy will be pushed forward as rapidly as funds permit, and added: "At the same time the government will continue to increase its activities with respect to our secondary highways."

He warned, however, that the huge cost of moving snow from main roads during the current severe winter will cut down somewhat the money available for road work this summer.

## REVENUE NEEDED

# Hospital Insurance Cost Increase Hinted

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 17.—Premier Johnson warned British Columbians today they must understand that revenues from the hospital insurance scheme must be sufficient to meet the costs of the service.

The premier gave this warning after a lengthy defence of the human side of the hospital insurance service and what it had provided for people and for hospitals in meeting their budgets.

He gave no official hint of what changes the government proposes in the scheme during the present session, but his remarks were interpreted here as meaning the government may ask for an increase in the present \$33 limit on insurance premiums.

The premier said he is leaving the details of changes to be explained by Health and Welfare Minister George Pearson when he speaks to the house next week.

Premier Johnson made a warm defense of the human side of B.C.'s hospital insurance service when he gave his policy speech to the Legislature this afternoon.

He said, however, "the government will overlook no opportunity to strengthen the plan with a view to maintaining as high service as possible at as low a premium as can possibly be maintained."

Regardless of criticism levelled at the scheme, the premier declared the facts that 170,000 people have had their hospital bills paid in 1949 and that hospitals are in much better financial shape as a result are considerable achievements.

"I venture to say that nowhere else on this continent is so wide a hospital service given for so reasonable a premium," he declared.

He said at least half the population benefitted directly or indirectly from the scheme last year, with \$15 million in hospital bills paid, in amounts ranging from \$10 to \$2000, including hospital bills for 1800 people who were treated outside the province.

The premier declared he was willing to take the full responsibility personally for the decision to bring hospital insurance into effect in B.C. and explained that two years ago, when he took office he was faced with requests for an extra \$1,100,000 of government funds to help the hospitals out.

Besides relieving hospital finances, people working in hospitals are now getting better paid, he said. Merchants no longer have to carry accounts for hospitals like they used to do. There was one case before hospital insurance where a hospital was six months in arrears on its fuel bill.

"It would seem to me that what should be kept in mind in considering the hospital insurance service during its extremely short history is that for the first time hospitals in this province have been freed from the worry and anxiety of whether they can keep their doors open and for the first time in the history of the province those citizens stricken with illness are free from financial worry and anxiety which inevitably impairs recovery.

# Gov't Drops Old Election Bribe Motion

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 17.—The B.C. Legislature will not be asked this year to pass the once-traditional motion demanding rigorous prosecution of anyone who might be responsible for an MLA getting elected to his seat through bribery or corruption.

Premier Byron Johnson told the House Thursday such a resolution isn't necessary because such practices are all covered by penalties under Section 270 of the Elections' Act.

The point had been raised Wednesday by Opposition Leader Harold Winch, who questioned why the government had left out the resolution from its opening procedure of B.C.'s new legislature on Tuesday.

Premier Johnson, caught off-base Wednesday by Mr. Winch's sudden question, explained to the House the old resolution was dropped in 1946 because constitutional experts found there was nothing to require it, and the Elections' Act provides the machinery for dealing with anything of the kind.

## SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS

# Streamlining Set for B.C. Civil Service

Other government policies disclosed in Premier Johnson's address to the Legislature today:

- 1—Provincial civil service operations will be streamlined as an economy move.
- 2—Provincial Government will make an additional grant of \$750,000 toward building program of UBC.
- 3—An "overriding authority" will be set up to ensure that reconstructed dykes in the Fraser Valley and elsewhere are properly maintained.

The Premier hinted the government may ask an increase in the present \$33 limit on annual health insurance premiums.



## Misrepresentation by Population

During its first session the 22nd Legislature should attempt a redistribution of seats in the House in line with the principle of representative government.

Alex Hope, MLA for Delta, was quite right in bringing the matter to the attention of his fellow members. His own riding has grown faster in population between elections than any other. It has 35,000 voters. Victoria City has 32,000, yet Victoria has three members and Delta only one.

Mr. Hope points out that even Vancouver, with nine members for 220,000 voters, is better off than Delta. But at the rate Victoria is represented, Vancouver ought to have 18 to 20 members.

Shifts in population since the last distribution are most apparent in urban areas, and especially in Greater Vancouver. The scattering of the population in the province makes it impossible to have a completely balanced representation, but the Legislature should make a start at it before the next election.

A special committee of the House should be appointed to go thoroughly into the matter over the next year or so.

It should consider enlarging the membership in the House. We had 48 MLA's when British Columbia had only 600,000 people. Today the province has a population of 1,000,000. A larger legislature would make it easier to balance representation.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1950

## Lumber Trade Best Ever, Premier Says

### House Told Industry Getting Better Prices, More Orders

By LESLIE FOX  
Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 18.—Premier Johnson declared in the Legislature Friday that the "B.C. lumber industry has never been so well off as it is now."

The premier slapped at opposition leader Harold Winch for his statements of Thursday accusing the government of lack of action on unemployment.

"I've been here in Canada for 59 years and the five years since the war have been the best years we ever had," the premier declared.

He charged Winch with "belittling" our country.

"As for the lumber industry in our own province, I challenge any man to say the lumber industry has ever had more orders or better prices than it has now."

The premier also left aside his notes on the question of hospital insurance when he made a fighting defense of the whole scheme.

"I'm not blaming Dr. Hershey (the commissioner who resigned in December). I'm not blaming anyone, because I realize it was a big job and any man handling it would have troubles," he said.

He declared if it weren't for the insurance scheme, hospital boards would have had deficits of from \$1 to \$1.5 millions at least this year.

## Mounting Oil Search Seen By Premier

VICTORIA, Feb. 18 — (CP) — There will be much more drilling for oil in British Columbia this year than last, Premier Johnson today told the Legislature.

At the end of 1949 there were 27 operators applying for or holding 4,500,000 acres of petroleum and natural gas rights under permit, license and lease.

Eight wells have been drilled for gas in the Peace River area. Two other deep-drilling tests are being made. There were two small drilling operations on the lower mainland and some work was done on two other wells in the Flathead district.

One exploratory well was completed in the Queen Charlottes and much additional drilling and investigating will be done there.

Referring to coal, he said diamond drilling last year confirmed large tonnage of high grade coal in deposits in the Pine Pass region. Development must await extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

The premier said that exploratory work is continuing aimed at establishing an aluminum industry in the province.

On public works, Mr. Johnson said the policy of improving and completing main trunk roads and secondary highways would be pursued. Before prorogation he hoped to be able to present a measure for ratification of an agreement with Ottawa on construction of the Trans-Canada Highway.

## Abolition of Garibaldi Park Board Asked

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 18.—The provincial government was asked Friday to abolish the Garibaldi Parks Board and put development of the great alpine playground under its own parks division.

A delegation representing 15 organizations with memberships of more than 100,000 people, interviewed the cabinet and urged a vigorous development program to make it into a No. 1 recreational asset.

Spokesmen were Dr. Bert Brink, of the Vancouver Natural History Society; Don Buchanan of the Community Planning Association and Dr. Neil Carter, of the Alpine Club of Canada.

They contended the Garibaldi park board, set up 23 years ago to administer the alpine wonderland within 75 miles of Vancouver is hamstrung without power or funds to do anything on a large scale with the area.

The brief was also supported by the B.C. Mountaineering Club, Natural History Societies of Victoria and Pemberton, B.C., Vancouver Local Council of Women, Pemberton Women's Institute, Vancouver Junior Chamber of Commerce, Girl Guides Association of B.C., Vancouver YMCA, Sigma Phalanx and Y Camera Club, Glacier Research Society, Vancouver Photographic Society, Native Daughters of B.C. and the Varsity Outdoors Club.

## 'Use Again' Plates for B.C. Autos

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 18.—A system of semi-permanent license plates for automobiles will probably be adopted by B.C.

Instead of issuing new plates every year the government is planning to put them out every five years, with a tag each year covering the year of issue.

In some parts of the world permanent plates are issued. Up to now B.C. has rejected the scheme because of the difficulties in checking up on plates each year.

But a recent efficiency check of the Motor Vehicle Branch has shown that substantial savings can be made by manufacturing license plates less frequently.

It is expected that the new system will go into effect next year.

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ROUTE OF PGE EXTENSION to get serious consideration of the provincial government as revealed by Premier Johnson in his policy speech to the Legislature Friday would follow the line's old right-of-way through West

Vancouver to Horseshoe Bay, as shown in this sketch. Decision to make surveys for a rail extension was taken on recommendation of J. A. Kennedy, general manager of the railway.

RAILWAY TO BUCK B.C. COLLECTIONS

# New Fight by CPR Looms Over Taxing Timber Lands

By ROY W. BROWN

VICTORIA, Feb. 18.—A major legal fight looms between the government of British Columbia and the Canadian Pacific Railway over taxation of Vancouver Island timber lands owned by the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, a CPR corporation.

Last year, the B.C. government won a spectacular judgment in the Privy Council at London, after a battle which has been going on since 1946, when Chief Justice Gordon Sloan, sitting as Timber Commissioner, made his famous recommendation in favor of the right of public taxation.

It will be recalled that the Supreme Court of Canada rendered an unanimous decision of its five judges in favor of the CPR. On the province's appeal to London, the Privy Council reversed that decision.

Since then, the right of appeal to the Privy Council by Canadians has been abolished. In a nutshell, the situation regarding E. & N. timber lands is that in any new legislation, the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada will be final and may not necessarily be subject to the Privy Council decision of 1949. It is said that the CPR is preparing to resist enforcement of the tax and obviously hopes that the Supreme Court of Canada will finally decide again in its favor in the new litigation now in prospect.

**\$6-\$10 MILLION**

It has been estimated that between \$6 and \$10 million are involved in the outcome of the coming test case. It has been reported that the minister of finance has been tentatively figuring on extra receipts up to a million dollars a year for a few years, following the Privy Council victory of last year.

The expected procedure will be somewhat along the following lines: Within the next three or four weeks, the attorney-general will introduce a bill, which was foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne, to give effect to the right of the province to collect taxes on the crown lands involved.

**COURT REFERENCE**

The case determined by the Privy Council last year was a "reference" by the government to the courts—it was not the result of an action by the government against any corporation or person. The London decision was on the abstract question of whether the right of taxation existed—and the government's contention was upheld.

Broadly, it was based on the proposition that there never was a direct agreement between the company and the railway that taxes should not be collected.

There were agreements between the provincial and federal governments, there was an agreement between the federal government and the railway, but not the vital one between province and railway.

**TEST SALE**

Within the next few weeks, the E. & N. will presumably sell a block of timber to John Jones or Bill Smith and assure him he will not have to pay taxes.

The government, under the coming new enactment, will start suit to collect the money—and the CPR, as final owners, will stand behind John Jones. The Appeal Court of B.C. may be assumed to maintain its former view in favor of the government.

CPR will then appeal to the final court of competent jurisdiction under the new system in Canada and will, of course, expect that the five Ottawa judges will not reverse their previous finding, which unanimously favored the company. In any event, the case will end in Ottawa.

It is reported here that during recent weeks representatives of the CPR have been pressing the moral issue involved upon the attention of Premier Johnson and his cabinet.

For 60 years the practice has been to regard these lands as tax free following the understanding reached at the time of building of the E. & N. Railway.

The non-taxing agreement was then between the Dominion government and the railway which was given a federal subsidy.

**AVOIDED ISSUE**

In his brilliant conduct of the appeal in London on behalf of the B.C. government, Senator Farris avoided the moral issue involved with elaborate care. One of the lords of appeal had raised this moral question and Senator Farris replied:

"Is it just and equitable? Very definitely that question is not before this board. That is a question, in the first place, for the conscience of the parliament of the province of B.C. and, in the second place, for the good judgment of the Dominion government having the power of disallowance."

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1950

## B.C. Licenses More Motors

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 20.—British Columbia's total of motor vehicles and motorcycles hit 228,030 at the end of January, the motor vehicles branch reported today.

This is an increase of 27,000 or about 14 percent over a year ago. In January alone, 136 vehicles were newly licensed, compared to 1878 in January of 1949.

Out of the total registrations 163,518 are passenger cars, 59,843 commercial vehicles and 4671 motor-cycles.



# Hospital Benefits 'Must Be Cut Down'

MacDougall, B.C. Gov't Supporter,  
Says 'Too Much for Too Little'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 21.—First sharp criticism of the operation of the B.C. Hospital Insurance scheme from one of the government's own supporters came in the House Monday from A. Reginald MacDougall (Cons.-Cln., Point Grey).

"I cannot but think," he said, "that the scheme was too hastily devised, which accounts in large measure for the position in which it now finds itself.

"More study should have been given to the questions of premiums and administration generally, and more advantage should have been taken of actuarial figures then available."

### TOO MUCH

He said it should have been apparent from the outset that the benefits offered by the scheme could not possibly be given for the premiums collected.

"It seems to me too much is being got for too little," he declared.

MacDougall admitted it was too late to argue the point now, but said the whole scheme might have been better handled by private firms. He noted that 90 percent of workmen's compensation schemes in the U.S. are handled privately.

The Point Grey member insisted that in reorganizing the scheme benefits should be cut down, including the placing of a limit on the length of stay in hospital and an elimination of some of the incidentals.

In addition he suggested a sliding scale of premiums through which people who paid higher rates could get more benefits.

He was also mildly critical of Premier Johnson over his recent statement that the PGE extension into North Vancouver might have to replace the promised highway.

Whether or not people in West Vancouver have been justified in building homes along the old right of way, the fact remains they have done and possibly had reason to believe the railway would never be built.

### PROMISE

But, he said, the highway promised last year—now held up—was not only to help the PGE, but to open up the Howe Sound area as a scenic route and give Vancouver people an entrance to Garibaldi Park.

## NEW 'SPEAKER' NO PRECEDENT

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 21.—Reg. MacDougall (Cln., Point Grey) congratulated Mrs. Nancy Hodges in the House Monday on her election as Speaker, but he said perhaps the appointment isn't so precedent-shattering as people say.

"For," he declared, "it must be a truism that woman is the 'speaker' in every house in which she is to be found."

"I say the government must not lose sight of the fact there was a definite promise to the electorate to build the highway to Squamish, and only something of the most urgent and compelling nature would justify the serious deterioration which would result (from the railway) to the present very beautiful area."

Mr. MacDougall, one of the Conservative party's stalwarts, sounded an amicable note as far as Coalition's future is concerned. He said at the last election there were no Liberals and no Conservatives, only Coalitionists—and any talk about the Liberals having enough members to go their own way will only cause trouble with the electorate which chose a Coalition government.

He finished with a serious plea for two Vancouver projects, the long-talked-of express highway out to Pattullo Bridge and construction of a new bridge at Marpole. The city's plan at Marpole, costing \$1 million, is not the full answer to the traffic problem there, but will achieve some purpose and should get a provincial contribution of money. The larger project of the Oak Street bridge may take a long time to settle and meanwhile the emergency exists at Marpole.

# Douk Rebels Cost \$10 Million—MLA

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 21.—Doukhobor outrages in British Columbia in the last 50 years have cost governments \$10 millions, Walter Hendricks, the new Coalition MLA for Nelson-Creston, declared Monday in the Legislature.

Maintaining the outbreaks by the Sons of Freedom have become intolerable, Hendricks said the destruction of 52 B.C. schools since 1923 has alone cost \$2 millions.

The famous Piers Island isolation camp of the 30's cost another \$3 millions. And even last year it cost \$100,000 to maintain extra police guards in the Nelson region from April to August.

### "DEMOCRACY" URGED

Hendricks, however, could offer no solution to the situation, beyond urging use of "democratic principles" as opposed to "drastic suggestions" advanced by many people.

Blaming rebellious moves on a small group—there were less than 1000 fanatics out of 15,000 Doukhobors in B.C.—he advocated the children be educated regardless of religious beliefs and adults be given the vote and treated as other citizens when they break the law.

He declared he is confident retiring Commissioner John Shiras of the B.C. Police and Col. F. J. Mead of RCMP, appointed to deal with the problem, would find a solution.

### NEAR MOB HYSTERIA

Hendricks said the dynamiting of trains in the Doukhobor area last fall very nearly reached the state of mob hysteria and vigilante action, and praised the B.C. Police and RCMP for their handling of the situation.

He commented on the recent light sentences imposed by Mr. Justice A. M. Manson on arsonists convicted at the recent Nelson assizes, but said he passed no judgment.

"It would appear that Mr. Justice Manson gave the matter a great deal of thought. Time will tell whether these people are sincere in their representations to him." Perhaps jail was not the answer for this "subnormal" group because it only made martyrs.

## IN VICTORIA

# Crash Shows Need of B.C. Coast Guard

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 21.—Last week's B-36 accident over Queen Charlotte Sound is another illustration of the need for a Canadian Coastguard service along the coast. J. D. McRae (Cln., Prince Rupert), declared Monday in the Legislature.

With increasing traffic, both on the sea and in the air along the rugged coastline, there are bound to be more accidents, said McRae, making his maiden speech since election last June.

### RADIO TELEPHONES

Fishing vessels and towboats pulling the log booms, as well as passenger ships and airplanes, now carry radio telephones so they could take full advantage of a proper life-saving service, he stated.

"This government should urge upon the Dominion the importance of such a service," he said.

Mr. McRae also served demand on the government that the time has come to give native Indians the full citizenship started through the franchise last year.

### PAY FULL TAXES

He said Indians have always had to pay taxes the same as white people, but still do not get full social security and education benefits.

He called on the government to give full social service, old age pensions, education in the public schools and even road maintenance on reserves, to Indians.

At the same time he expressed fear that Japanese fishermen would, now that restrictions are lifted, invade the Coast.

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To Alaska and 'The Peace'

By Roy W. Brown

## SEATTLE EXCITED OVER PGE RAIL LINK

Officials of American railways entering Seattle were tremendously pleased at last week's developments in the B.C. Legislature.

Hon. Byron Johnson's rather unexpected announcement favoring completion of the PGE into North Vancouver will make up an important link in plans which the Great Northern Railway, for instance, has for through business to Alaska.

What the United States lines want is the transcontinental haul of a huge volume of freight originating in the Eastern States and which now is routed from Chicago west over the Canadian National. During the war, this was big business, and the U.S. lines chafed at the loss of it. The goods for Alaska were hauled to Prince Rupert and transhipped to Anchorage and other ports in Alaska.

During recent months, plans have been maturing in Seattle and Ketchikan for the peacetime inauguration of a large car-barge service out of Rupert to Haines, Alaska, just north of Skagway. From there, freight could be transferred to various points in Alaska by truck or railway.

What the American lines envisage is a major freight business in carload lots—entire trainloads when federal construction gets underway in Alaska—Chicago to Seattle, to Vancouver, to Prince George (via PGE) and then to Prince Rupert by CN and on by barge to a port in Alaska. The present gap between Vancouver and the south end of the PGE at Squamish was somewhat too clumsy to overcome. Now, the picture of through shipment, Seattle to Rupert via Prince George, looks attractive to the Americans.

Willis T. Batcheller, indefatigable consulting engineer of Seattle, who a year ago did not get far in negotiations with Premier Johnson when he called at Victoria as the president and chief engineer of the Canadian Alaska Railway Co., is also very pleased at current developments.

It is not known whether Mr. Batcheller is or is not working with people like the Great Northern Railway. Recently he wrote: "You would know that the entire Peace River and

Alaska railway connections are economically impossible without rail connections to Vancouver, and that for commercial purposes the highway is useless. We found that out before we started and the provincial engineers (of B.C.) have since independently reached the same conclusion without any help from us. I cannot believe the great bulk of your citizens want to keep the city of Vancouver in a vacuum and this will be made known at the present session of the British Columbia Legislature without any help from me.

## Batcheller's Route

Mr. Batcheller intimates he has worked out a survey for a better route through West Vancouver. This involves two tunnels through the shoulder of mountain north of Point Atkinson, "so as not to interfere at all with high property value there."

I confess I am unable to give any confirmation of the Batcheller angle from any independent source, but I present the information as it develops; and I assume it does not detract in any way from the plan in the Premier's mind to join hands with the Canadian National on the North Vancouver waterfront. The CN, as recently pointed out, will be extending its waterfront connections on both sides of Vancouver harbor through many new ties and the PGE, as owned by the government of B.C., is certain to work in with that, in every friendly way possible.

Mr. Johnson seems determined to play it smart and conform with the ideals and possible extensions of both U.S. and Canadian railways. Exactly what has happened is not quite apparent, but there is no doubt the premier's mind and entire outlook for the PGE have been transformed during the last few months. A year ago, he announced a railway extension from Quesnel to Prince George. Just as firmly he then also announced a highway, Squamish to Vancouver. That would have been the time for our friends in Kamloops or Ashcroft to have become busy on the project of a Savona cut-off.

That, or a similar line, Clinton to Ashcroft, was suggested some years ago by Mr. Sullivan, an eminent engineer loaned by the CPR. Today, Jack Kennedy, another former CPR official—a traffic man more than an engineer—tells the Premier the Squamish-Vancouver connection is what is needed; and no time has been wasted on looking up what Mr. Sullivan had to say or his reasons for coming to the conclusions he reached in earlier days. Savona is now a dead horse.

Of course, what all this adds up to is a policy—"On to Peace River" as the campaign cry of the next election or perhaps long before. "Boss" Johnson is enamored of the Peace River country. He sees a truly immense development coming up in oil, wheat and coal and the adventure involved in a vast development plan enthralled him.

## John Hart Saw It

Five years ago, John Hart possessed the same vision, but he viewed it more cautiously. The PGE had a history of trouble and disaster and the people of British Columbia had sunk more than \$100 million in it and were still paying through the nose. Hart could not bring himself to gamble another \$100 million of the people's money to finish the line with good equipment, Vancouver to Dawson Creek. He would not go it alone. That was the reason he invited the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National to co-operate. Those two transcontinental lines are today operating north of Edmonton to Dawson Creek, hauling out the wheat the long way around. Can they be induced to assist B.C. to build a competing line into the Peace territory, as a joint operation?

So far all efforts to achieve this have ended in failure. Premier Johnson may think he has a better chance to play ball with the Canadian National alone and start with a tie-up at North Vancouver. He enjoys a very healthy respect for his own prowess in getting help out of Ottawa, on the basis of his Liberal connection. Perhaps he intends, if necessary, to go in alone. Anyway, Peace River is the ultimate goal.

## ATTACK ON PGE EXTENSION OPENS

## 'Battle of West Vancouver Holds Legislature Spotlight

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 21.—"The Battle of West Vancouver" threatens to hold the spotlight in the Legislature.

Opening gun against the possible ruination of several beautiful homes along the old PGE

right of way by construction of the line into North Vancouver was fired Monday by A. R. MacDougall, Conservative Coalition member for Point Grey. (Mr. MacDougall's remarks are reported on Page 7.)

There is every indication that the government definitely plans to go ahead with the PGE construction south from Squamish this year.

Premier Johnson made it very clear that railway engineers consider this the only feasible route for bringing the line to Vancouver harbor and the whole scheme is to be given serious consideration this year as soon as current surveys are completed.

## CUT-OFF UNLIKELY

Chance of building the Clinton-Savona cut-off as a means of getting PGE traffic into Vancouver—subject of a hot campaign by the Kamloops Board of Trade—seems to be definitely out of the question.

Premier Johnson indicates that while this would give the PGE a link with Vancouver it would not solve the railway's

own financial problem, because it would lose most of its traffic between Clinton and Suamish.

His whole policy, he stressed, is based on making the PGE pay its way, and general manager Jack Kennedy has recommended this can be done by putting through the Squamish-North Vancouver link.

It is probable a lot will be heard from Vancouver members on the subject during the debates.

At the same time, people of Squamish are starting a big agitation against the railway extension. Already the Board of Trade has wired for assurance that the railway isn't going through.

## SQUAMISH WORRIED

Squamish was promised a new lumber assembly wharf as part of last year's PGE program, but if the railway continues to North Vancouver, this project is almost certain to be discarded.

When the PGE extension to Prince George and the highway link between Squamish and West Vancouver were announced last year, Squamish had visions of becoming a busy little industrial port.

Land values soared amazingly as businessmen prepared to take advantage of the expansion. So did property values on the probable route of the highway along Howe Sound.



# \$100 Million B.C. Budget Tuesday

## Anscomb Financial Proposals to Set New Record

By LESLIE FOX  
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 22.—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb will bring down his record-shattering new budget in the Legislature next Tuesday, according to present plans.

For the first time in British Columbia's history he will call for spending in the current budget of over \$100 million for the year.

Just how much over that mark is one of the intriguing points of speculation in pre-budget gossip. It may go close to \$105 million.

### NO TAXATION INCREASES

This would be an increase of \$12 million over the budget for 1949-50.

The Cabinet has been wrestling for three months to keep the figure down, but growing population has added to social service costs, higher wages have increased departmental estimates and the steady expansion of all provincial services takes its toll of the dollars.

There will be no changes in taxation.

But Mr. Anscomb is expected to sound a pretty stiff warning to the house and to the people generally that the time has come to call a halt and consolidate the budget at its present figure.

### SOME STORM SIGNALS

In the short period of four years provincial spending has jumped from \$38 millions to \$100 millions. New taxation producing nearly \$30 millions has been added in that period, so that despite the huge jump in expenses the treasury has been able to report a comfortable surplus each year.

However, the Finance Minister takes the view that he cannot keep budgeting for an ever-expanding boom and that storm signals on the economic horizon must be considered.

It is expected there will be some cuts in the general vote for the public works department, although the main road building program, based on capital expenditure borrowings, will go ahead.

A sharp slash is predicted in the government travel bureau's tourist publicity.

The agriculture department has also been hard hit by the economy campaign, it is reported.

On Tuesday the Finance Minister will disclose just how hard these items have been hit.

With the budget coming just two weeks after opening day in the Legislature, some observers are predicting the session will wind up in very short time, possibly by March 18, in which case it would prorogue before Premier Johnson leaves for England to speak to the Timber Trade Federation.

# B.C. Gov't Hit For 'Pollyana' Job Stand

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 22. — Ernest Winch, CCF Burnaby, charged Premier Johnson in the Legislature Tuesday with a "pollyana, unrealistic attitude on unemployment."

Even official Ottawa figures, he said, show an increase of 52,000 unemployed in Canada in the last three weeks and there are now 120,000 more than a year ago.

"You can't solve it by waiving responsibility," he said.

A news report, he said, states the unemployed are threatening a sit-down strike in Vancouver. "Perhaps we'll get some action then, and I hope it's different than the policeman's club we remember."

He said the premier made a great point that Ottawa paid out \$3 million in unemployment insurance in December and January and another \$3.6 million in family allowances.

But at least four-fifths of the unemployment insurance was paid by the men themselves and their employers through contributions. And the family allowances went to everyone, unemployed or not.

"You can't judge unemployment by the magnitude of the problem, he asserted. "To a man out of a job it doesn't matter if there are ten or ten thousand without work."

Speaking of hospital insurance, he urged the government to go further and start an intensive preventive medicine campaign instead of concentrating on treatment after people become ill.

# CCF MLA Says Jap Canadians 'Good Citizens'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 22.—Japanese resettled beyond the coast mountains because of war restrictions have turned out to be "very good citizens."

This verdict was given the legislature Tuesday by Rupert W. Hagen, CCF, Grand Forks-Greenwood, making his maiden speech.

There are many Japanese in the Greenwood area.

"I was sorry to hear the Member for Prince Rupert (J. D. McRae) declare yesterday that he didn't want to see the Japanese back in coast fishing."

"Because our experience is that the Japanese, and particularly those born in B.C. and educated here, have been good citizens—very good citizens."

"So for goodness' sake, let us have no more of this racial discrimination which was so stirred up by a man now in the Senate."

# WON'T QUIT, SAYS WINCH, TILL GABRIEL BLOWS HORN

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 22. — Seventy-one-year-old Ernest Winch, CCF veteran in the Legislature from Burnaby, says he's staying in politics until there is no longer breath in his body.

Speaking Tuesday he scouted some published reports that this will be his last term in the House (he was re-elected for the fifth time last June).

"Only the Angel Gabriel will decide when I retire," he said, "and he'll have to blow his horn very hard because I don't hear well when it comes to a call like that."

# Elected Hospital Boards Advocated

## MLA Urges Elections in Same Manner as School Trustees

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 22. — An elective system for public hospital boards in B.C. was proposed in the Legislature Tuesday.

Cattleman M. MacIntyre, Cln., Mackenzie, making a forceful maiden speech, proposed this as an essential for preserving local autonomy under the present system of hospitalization.

His idea was that hospital boards should be chosen by the voters the same way as school boards.

They would have guidance from the health department as the school boards get theirs from the education department.

Such a system, he said, will give uniformity of administration in hospitals all over the province, at the same time reversing autonomy for local communities in their hospital affairs.

Government benches, already wrestling with the problem of how to control hospital costs without taking them over entirely, sat up and took notice of Mr. MacIntyre's plan.

The new Mackenzie member also urged compulsory payroll deductions for hospital premiums and the setting up of a system by which every person carries a hospital card the same way as auto drivers carry drivers' licenses.

However, he contended that premium payments must be waived for low income groups, particularly wives of veterans on allowances, those on widows' allowances and dependent parents' pensions.

He dropped a warning against any increase in premium rates, declaring the people expect the government to provide the service "within the existing premiums."

Mr. MacIntyre added his voice to those demanding better treatment for native Indians. He noted particularly they should be allowed into the general schools and also demanded Indian old-age pensioners should get the same \$50 a month as white people instead of \$8 they now get from Ottawa.

# CCF to Seek B.C. Hospital Plan Probe

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 22.—CCF opposition members made a double-edged move today to have the troubles in British Columbia's hospital insurance scheme probed by the House.

CCF leader Harold Winch filed a motion demanding production of all correspondence between Health Minister George Pearson and Dr. J. M. Hershey, the commissioner who quit in December.

At the same time Randolph Harding, CCF, Kalso-Slocan, gave notice of motion demanding that the operations of the scheme be investigated by the social welfare committee of the house.

He asserts there is "widespread dissatisfaction among the public both in regard to obtaining hospital services when needed and in regard to the cost of premiums which are deemed to be too high for a large section of the people on low incomes."

## Gov't May Slash Hospital Extras

Axe Due for X-Rays, Pathology, Motor Accidents, Alcoholism

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 22.—Several "trimmings" in British Columbia's hospital insurance scheme are due for the axe in the drive to get the plan into financial balance for this year, it is reported here.

Payments for both radiology, X-ray and pathology are almost certain to be cut down. It has been found that many more people are being sent to hospital for these services than before insurance started because they come free under the scheme.

Another loophole expected to be plugged is payment for hospitalization for automobile accidents.

The point here is that in most accidents where people are injured, someone is to blame, and in most cases cars are insured and private insurance companies are liable for the hospital bills of injured persons.

Up to now the government hospital insurance scheme has paid for hospitalization of victims since they are covered by the insurance premium.

This would be done by exempting all such hospital cases from the act the same way as Workmen's Compensation cases are now exempt.

It is also possible all treatment for alcoholism of any kind will be wiped out. Restrictions had already been placed on this, but it is believed there have been abuses and the only way to meet these is by wiping out all benefits for alcoholism.

On X-ray and pathology services an effort will be made to cut down the number of people who are put into hospital primarily to get these services free when they could just as well be supplied by private doctors, at a fee, without the patient going to hospital.

One suggestion is that a half-rate charge be made for them and the benefits made available

to all people, including out-patients of hospitals.

All these points are due for a thorough going discussion by the Coalition caucus within the next week when the government will submit suggested amendments to the act.

## Plebiscite Demanded On Liquor Question

30 Years Since Voters Had Chance To Give Stand, Coalition Whip Says

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—A plebiscite of all voters on how liquor shall be distributed in B.C. was demanded in the Legislature Wednesday by Charles W. Morrow, the Coalition whip (North Okanagan).

Nearly 30 years ago, he said, the voters had their last chance on the liquor question.

They gave the government then a mandate to control the sale of alcoholic drinks, but certainly didn't give the authorities the instructions to charge a tremendous share of government expenditures to people who buy drinks.

In the first year of control, in the early twenties, the government got about \$1 million in liquor profits, but these have now soared to \$19 million (nearly a fifth of the budget).

### REPEATED REFUSALS

"It is a far cry from those days," said Mr. Morrow. He pointed out that a few years ago there were repeated requests on the government for a plebiscite, but they were turned down.

"No government ever made a mistake by taking the people into its confidence, so I urge the government once again to place the question before the people. Let the question be worded in such a fashion that the public will really understand the issue."

Coupled with his demand for a plebiscite, was the North Okanagan member's complaint about the Vernon liquor store, which he said is so poorly constructed that the watered-down liquor actually froze during the winter cold spell.

### SCHOOLS "UPHEAVAL"

Mr. Morrow also demanded more government aid for schools, declaring that "a serious upheaval" is threatened in the interior because of the rising school costs.

"Stating that Vernon city council has recently rejected its school board budget, he declared that under former law the voters

could have decided in the democratic way whether the money should be spent, but now they have no such opportunity.

"What we need is a solution, not a temporary alleviation of this problem for any particular year," he declared.

### POLL TAX HIT

Mr. Morrow also urged repeal of the poll tax, demanded all money raised from sportsmen be spent on the game department, and favored the view that if it was necessary to raise hospital insurance premiums to provide the service, this should be done.

He slapped out sharply at "ginger groups" who are frightened of the PGE going through West Vancouver and ruining property rights. If it is the sound thing to do, the PGE must be extended that way and, if necessary, brought over the Second Narrows bridge right into Vancouver.

## Winch Wants Lowdown on Mr. Kennedy

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 23. — Liquor Commissioner W. F. Kennedy's position in British Columbia's liquor administration came under questioning today by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Mr. Winch filed questions for Attorney-General Wismer asking whether Mr. Kennedy is sole commissioner or chairman of the Liquor Control Board.

He also wants to know what part Mr. Kennedy plays in recommendations to the cabinet on liquor policy; if he is solely responsible, or if there are any other advisors.

In another series of questions, Mr. Winch is probing the position of the B.C. Hotelmen's Association.

He asks if the Liquor Board gives the association a monthly statement of beer sales to hotels and if the hotels pay the association 10 cents a barrel and two cents a case on their beer sales as shown in the statement.

If such money is paid, he asks, what is the money for?

Also under Mr. Winch's scrutiny is the question of classifying hotels with beer parlors according to their standards of service. He asks what steps have been taken to improve the lower categories and if the lower group has to pay more for beer than the better hotels.

## COURSES URGED FOR DOCTORS

VICTORIA, Feb. 23. — Ernest Winch, CCF member for Burnaby, doesn't think B.C. doctors keep up to date on the latest techniques in medicine.

Today he filed a motion in the legislature urging that every doctor licensed to practice in the province take a post-graduate course not less than every five years.

He says that rapidly changing techniques make many old practises obsolete and that because doctors have a privileged position they should be required to keep up to date.



# Schools Rapped for Tax-Eating Frills

## Calf-Roping and Weight Lifting Probably Next, Says MLA

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—British Columbia should stop "keeping up with the Joneses" in education until it is sure it can afford it.

If it doesn't, said Sidney Smith (CLN, Kamloops) in the Legislature Wednesday, schools will soon be teaching courses in fly fishing, weight lifting and calf roping, and future generations will be burdened with an unpayable school debt.

Mr. Smith, making his maiden speech, said the time has come to call a halt on education costs and to distribute those that have to be paid more equitably.

"It is time we approached this problem with courage and frankness—even at the expense of being charged with a lack of appreciation of modern education," he said.

He declared in the days of the "Three R's" it was easier to get children to apply themselves to a worthy occupation than it is today.

He wondered whether the enormous expense for schools today is justified.

The mass of people who get the school benefits are not paying the shot, he insisted, and the landowner is being too hard hit.

As illustrative of all districts, he showed how the Kamloops school district costs have gone up from \$353,000 in 1948 to \$383,000 last year and to \$422,000 for 1950.

"The present situation cannot go on," he declared. "I urge a determined effort to revise school costs and redistribute school taxes."

Mr. Smith dealt also with the need for more irrigation in his district, demanding a business like administration for hospital insurance and commended the attorney-general for backing a B.C. gas pipeline route from Alberta.

# MLA Urges Island Road Flood Probe

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—Andrew Whisker, Cln, Cowichan-Newcastle, urged in the Legislature Wednesday an investigation into responsibility for winter-time flooding of Vancouver Island roads because of log jams in the creeks.

He said that because there are large logged areas in the district, with their leftovers, jams have developed and have diverted creeks from their original beds, causing flooding of highway and property.

Just whose responsibility this is must be decided and farmers are losing by the delay.

Mr. Whisker, in a maiden speech, dealt with the road problem generally on the central part of the island, urged larger appropriations for game development and declared he is satisfied that alarm of island residents that their hospitals will be closed has been dispelled by Health Minister Pearson in a statement that local communities will have the last word.

# Premier's Plans Hit by House Speech Delay

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—Premier Johnson's rush to get the legislature prorogued by March 18 so he can go to England without leaving the house in session ran into a snag in the legislature Wednesday.

The whips had listed five members to speak in the Throne Speech debate but Arthur Ash, CLN, Saanich, demurred at the last moment.

Mr. Ash's turn came after four other speakers at 4:53 p.m. but instead of making his speech he adjourned the debate, which meant that the house, with no other business in sight, quit for the afternoon.

There was a flurry of argument.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch complained that the party whips had messed things up and if they didn't do better the government could not bring its budget down next Tuesday as planned, because there would be more talking.

Premier Johnson expressed surprise. He was ready to sit through until the usual closing hour of six.

But Mr. Ash was not interested in making his speech. He insisted on his right to adjourn the debate.

Several members jumped up to argue the pros and cons, but it finally ended in Madam Speaker Hodges putting a motion to the House whether to adjourn or not, a most unusual procedure. The motion passed. Mr. Ash had won his point of a private member's rights.

# Morrow Private Bills Group Hit

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—Private bills committee of the legislature organized Wednesday, named C. W. Morrow, Cln, North Okanagan, as chairman, and A. R. Macdougall, Cln, Point Grey, as secretary.

Arrangements will be made shortly for Vancouver city to discuss its charter amendments with the committee.

Municipal committee named Alex Hope, Cln, Delta, as chairman, and set Thursday, March 2, as a date to discuss Municipal Act amendments with the Union of B. C. Municipalities.

# Indian MLA 'Goes to Bat for White Man'

## But Frank Calder Insists He's B.C. Citizen in House, Not Indian

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—British Columbia's first Indian MLA was given a thunderous desk-thumping welcome by other members when he made his maiden speech to the Legislature Thursday.

He is Frank Calder, 34, UBC graduate who won the Atlin Riding last June in the first election Indians had the vote.

Calder established himself immediately as a debater of no mean calibre.

"ISN'T IT GREAT?"

"I've heard so many honorable members going to bat for the poor Indians this last week that I think I should go to bat for the poor white man," he said amid roars of applause.

He said he wanted it understood that in the House he is a citizen of B.C., not an Indian.

In his compliments to Mrs. Nancy Hodges on her appointment as Speaker, he said he and she had taken the spotlight by establishing two firsts during the session.

"Just between you and me, Madam Speaker, isn't it a great feeling?" he asked.

CHINOOKAN LANGUAGE

He recalled that 150 years ago when white men started trading in B.C. they adopted the Chinookan language.

"Now, through process of time the Chinookan tongue has all but disappeared. But today I can return the compliment and speak to you in the English language."

After these compliments, Calder got serious and made an earnest plea for better treatment of all Indians.

Even he, as an MLA, was an Indian outside the house, he said, without such privileges as old age pensions, social welfare rights, liquor rights and other things that go with citizens.

"MESS OF LAWS"

He called the position of Indians "second-hand" citizens, said they have to pay sales tax without getting the social security benefits from it.

Indians were told they got a Magna Carta in the vote, but they are still hemmed in with a "mess" of laws. "But I'm not blasting anyone for the injustices to Indians in the past. I'm talking constructively," he said.

He warned the government that its new plan for a liaison with the Indians should not mean appointment of a "go-between" man such as the Federal Indian Department has used.

JAPANESE FISHERMAN

He scorned all racial discrimination, but expressed concern that fishing companies are "recruiting" Japanese back into the fishing industry and threatening the livelihood of the older Indians in the industry.

He proposed that the Legislature have a standing committee on Indian affairs to study how they can get full citizenship rights.

He concluded with a quotation from Booker T. Washington, the famous Negro educator: "No race can hold another race in the ditch without staying in the ditch itself."

# MLA URGES B.C. BILL OF RIGHTS

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—A provincial bill of rights to protect all minorities is asked by Frank Calder the new Indian MLA in British Columbia's Legislature.

Following his maiden speech in the House Thursday, Mr. Calder filed notice of a motion calling for the establishment of such a code.

In it he urged the government to bring down legislation to cover "the points and to guarantee freedom of religion, or free expression, free association, freedom from arbitrary imprisonment, right to employment, right to engage in occupations, right to own and occupy property, right of access to public places, right to membership in professional and trade associations and the right to education."

# Johnson Mum On B.C. BNA Act Proposals

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—Premier Byron Johnson told the Legislature Thursday the B.C. government will not divulge its proposals for amending the Canadian Constitution until a special committee of attorneys-general has arrived at a formula.

Following the conference last fall on ways and means of amending the BNA Act now that it is in Canada's power a continuing committee of the law officers was set up to receive suggestions of the provinces on the formula.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch declared in the House Thursday that because of the importance of the changes the Legislature should have an opportunity to discuss first what the government is proposing.

Premier Johnson replied: "I don't think we should divulge it first. But I will assure the House that whatever we do will be brought here for ratification."

Attorney-General Wismer said none of the provinces are announcing their proposals beforehand. The committee will iron them out into a general formula first.

"I insist there should be some way in which the government seeks the advice of the legislature first on a matter of such importance."

"Not in the matter of detail," said the premier. "Our recommendations won't necessarily be adopted but when the findings of the committee are decided we will put them before the House."

## Salmon Arm MLA Entertains House

Arthur Ritchie's Amusing Speech Needles Members on Roads, Rivers

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—Arthur B. Ritchie, CLN, Salmon Arm, kept the Legislature amused for half an hour Thursday with some good homespun philosophy on the problems of his riding in the central interior.

He was very annoyed, he said, because the provincial and federal governments keep "passing the buck" in the clearing of log jams that cause flooding of streams.

While they do, he said, "old man river goes on raising hell with the farmers."

He complained about the dust on the part of the Transcanada highway in his district. "Why," he said, "every time a car goes through it looks like a destroyer putting out a smoke screen. It is so bad some people reported forest fires."

### NO EXCUSES

So, he told the cabinet benches, the way he looks at the road problem is like the lady who caught a young man kissing her daughter, she said, "Young man I don't want an excuses, get on with the job."

He made strong pleas for a western representative on the International Joint Commission which decided problems on joint waterways between Canada and

the United States. And he wanted a young vigorous man.

"There's a guy on it now who's even older than I am," he said. "It just isn't good enough that the Americans can send a couple of engineers and a lawyer up here and say they're going to dam one of our rivers. We need someone who knows what's going on to represent us on the commission."

### APPLE GIFTS

He had arranged that every member had an apple from Salmon Arm district on his desk and went on to explain that his district had contributed its share of the Okanagan's million gift box of apples to Britain.

## Legislators Get 'Report' From Winnie

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—B.C.'s legislators Thursday talked about roads, rivers and a dozen more local problems, but their main thoughts were on the British elections, which were not up for formal discussion.

Big, bluff, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb finally broke the spell just before adjournment by announcing he'd received word that "the Tories have got five seats, the Liberals four and the Grits none."

"I've just had that from Mr. Churchill's headquarters direct," he said with a smile.

Opposition leader Harold Winch jumped up and said, "You haven't got it straight. It is five Tories and four Labor."

"Listen," said the Conservative leader, "when you start to get word from Churchill the world will really be finished," the House roared.

## House to Debate Rental Control

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—The legislature is slated to debate the question of provincial rent control.

Opposition leader Harold Winch filed a motion today urging the government to consider bringing in a provincial law curbing rents.

He says that as a result of federal rent controls, tenants now expect legislative action to protect them from extortionate rents.

## House Told Douks Kootenay Headache

Kaslo-Slocan Member Calls for To End Fire, Bomb Outrages

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—One of southern Kootenay's major problems today is that of dealing with doukhobors, Randolph Harding (CCF, Kaslo-Slocan) said in the Legislature Thursday.

With schools, homes and bridges burned and railroad tracks blown up, people in that district are living in a state of anger and fear. Quick action is necessary, he said.

While there were several groups of the sect in his territory, only one was troublesome—the Sons of Freedom. This group, Mr. Harding said, violently oppose military service, education, registration of vital statistics, and refuse to pay, not only taxes on community land, but to pay for those lands which were taken over from the Sun Life Insurance Company some years ago to avoid foreclosure.

The Sons of Freedom aim to unite all factions again, and to do this, they wish to discredit all their sect so the public will shun them, he said.

The solution of the problem, Mr. Harding said, is education over a long period of years. In order to drive a wedge between the lawless element and those who wish to assimilate with their Canadian neighbors the government should offer those desiring it, full Canadian citizenship.

Turning to power development, Mr. Harding contended the West Kootenay Power and Light Company should be brought under public ownership and its line extended to cover the territory up the Slocan Valley.

## MLA Demands Better Roads In Omineca

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—(CP)—Secondary roads in Omineca Riding should be put into better condition if farmers, mill operators and miners are to prosper, declared R. C. Steel, Coalition member for that constituency, in the House Thursday.

Mr. Steel contended that equipment sheds being built by the Works Department are unsuitable for extreme cold weather and warned other members who come from cold sections to look plans for such sheds over carefully before they give approval.

## Mine, Timber Returns Hit

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—(CP)—The people of British Columbia are not receiving a fair return from spoliation of their lumber and mining resources, contended Leo T. Nimsick (CCF, Cranbrook) in the British Columbia House this week.

Only \$6,963,000 has been collected from a lumber production valued at \$360,000,000 and a mere \$206,817 from mines which produced ore worth \$152,000,000, he charged.

Turning to school taxes, Mr. Nimsick said industries were not paying a fair share of school taxes as compared with the burden met by ordinary taxpayers. In Kimberley the school tax rate was 50 mills of the 69 general rate owing to the fact that mines of that area were not included in city limits.

Indians who now enjoyed the franchise should receive higher old age pensions and the province should pay its share of that social security towards the natives, he contended.

## Hail Insurance Plan in House

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—Petition for a private bill to incorporate Okanagan fruit growers' plan to set up hail insurance was introduced in the Legislature this week by Maurice Finnerty (Cln., Similkameen).

It would be known as the B.C. Fruit Growers Mutual Hail Insurance Company.

Also put before the house was a petition for incorporation of the Certified Public Accountants Association of B.C., J. J. Gould (Cln., Burrard) piloting the plan.



## Hospital Insurance Handling Rapped

House Told Private Firms Would Do Better Job Than Government

By LESLIE FOX  
Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—It is now becoming pretty clear in the Legislature that the great majority of members do not intend to level direct criticism at Health and Welfare Minister George Pearson for the big deficit in the first year's operation of hospital insurance.

Already 22 out of the 48 MLA's have taken part in the throne speech debate—due to wind up Monday—and most of them have made some reference to the insurance mess.

### OUTSPOKEN CRITIC

Most outspoken critic was A. Reginald MacDougall Cons. (Cln.) from Pt. Grey, who said the whole plan was too hastily conceived and would have been better handled by private firms.

Most of the others, both on the government and the CCF side, have bemoaned the fact that the scheme ran into trouble.

But they have taken their cue from Premier Johnson, who declared he would not blame Dr. J. M. Hershey, the commissioner who quit, or any other individual because in putting an entirely new scheme into operation there was bound to be trouble. The premier stressed the fact that so many tens of thousands of people have benefitted from the plan.

In Friday's session the CCF Whip, Arthur Turner of Vancouver East, asserted, "I'm not blaming the minister. I blame some of the reactionary forces in the cabinet." He said the deficit should be made up from the general revenue as a welfare matter.

### LOYALTY PLEA

Commander Charles Beard, Cln., Esquimalt, made a personal pledge of loyalty to Mr. Pearson on the issue said his only regret is that the minister had not spoken on the issue early in the debate so the members can know exactly what happened.

A full dress debate on the whole question is still to come. Mr. Pearson has indicated privately he intends to tell the whole story to the House, but he may wait until the second reading of amendments to the Insurance Act which have been promised by the government.

Final drafting of these amendments probably will await the submission of the preliminary report of James Hamilton and Associates on their survey into the scheme.

Latest word is that James Berne, the Blue Cross expert hired by Hamiltons for the task, has sent his report to Minneapolis for an OK by Hamilton and it would be received any day now by the government.

## B.C. to Tighten Control Over Dairy Farms

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—Stricter control over dairy farms supplying milk for the fluid market is proposed by the B.C. government.

Agricultural Minister Harry Bowman introduced a bill in the Legislature Friday to carry out the new policy.

Main purpose of the bill is to give departmental inspectors power to force farmers to correct unsanitary conditions found during an inspection.

Farmers will be given a time limit to clear up conditions and if they do not do so will be subject to penalty.

In another bill put before the House the agricultural minister plans to tighten up on stock branding in the cattle industry.

Because of the many thousands of brands for cattle now in use, one of the purposes will be to eliminate single brands. In future all branding will be done by more than one iron and new brands will consist of three characters.

## Coalition MLA Raps Power Commission

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—The publicly-owned B.C. Power Commission is not doing the job it set out to do, Commander Charles T. Beard, Cln., Esquimalt, charged in the Legislature Friday.

He declared the purpose of the commission was to extend rural electrification so that country people would have the benefits of city life, and people would be attracted there.

Instead, he said, it has concentrated on developing only the areas which show a profitable revenue.

While it is good to know the commission is showing a profit, "it had strayed from its original aim," he declared, and urged the government to keep it on the right track.

The Esquimalt member also slapped the government for delay in building the promised new Victoria-Langford highway cutoff

## Uphill Sure There's Oil in Fernie Area

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—(BUP)—Thomas Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, is sure there is oil in his district.

Uphill asked the government today to do something about searching for oil in the Flathead area of Fernie.

## CCF Cheers Labor Victory By Wearing Red Carnations

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—The CCF party's seven-man opposition all wore brilliant red carnations in the Legislature Friday to celebrate the Labor government's re-election in Britain.

But there was plenty of heckling from the government side of the house when Arthur Turner, the party's member from Vancouver East, undertook to do a little crowing about it.

"Quite a difference in the majority," shouted Mrs. Tillie Rolston, Pro-Con (Cln.), Point Grey.

"But I am sure those of us who've been to Britain know the temper of the people who will see that there is a stable government," retorted Turner.

### ELECTION SPENDING HIT

The Vancouver East member switched from Britain into last June's B.C. election and declared it is high time campaign expenditures are limited here the same as in Britain.

He cited the difference between \$21,000 spent by Liberals in Vancouver Centre federal campaign compared to \$578 by the CCF opponent.

"The CCF would never try to compete with such extravagant and unwarranted spending, but it would be a fairer election if there were some limits as in Britain," he said.

Turner ran into fire from the government benches when he started to charge into the cabinet with lack of action on unemployment. He said it was no sense the premier quoting, as he did the other day, figures on family allowances and unemployment insurance payments as positive action by the federal government.

"Those are the things your capitalist system is forced into because it fails to provide jobs at proper wages," he said.

"I challenge you to name one country outside of the U.S. that pays higher wages than Canada," retorted the premier.

### JOB IN U.K.

"That's not the point," Turner said. "In England they have full employment."

Aren't you in favor of unemployment insurance, demanded Attorney-General Wismer.

"Sure it's a good thing, when

there is unemployment. And the only times under your system you don't have unemployment is when you're either preparing for war, waging war or rebuilding afterward."

Turner decried Vancouver Board of Trade proposals of odd jobs for the unemployed, and of loans to tide them over their jobless period.

He declared an all-out housing program is the best answer to the problem of jobless and housing shortage.

# B.C. Budget Asking Record \$105 Million

## Bigger Share of Income Tax Sought

By LESLIE FOX  
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—In his budget speech to the Legislature this afternoon, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb announced:

Current expenditures will hit an all-time high of \$105.5 million in 1950-51, with a further outlay of \$38.4 million on capital works projects.

British Columbia must seek a greater share of the income taxes Ottawa takes from the province by a revision of the taxation agreement which expires in 1952.

The total shortage in B.C.'s hospital insurance scheme for its first 27 months of operation will reach \$7 million (of which \$2 million was allowed for in the original scheme).

Sales tax revenues are now running at \$24 million a year so municipalities will get \$8 million of this next year, but can expect no further provincial help.

## No Changes in Taxation

Chief feature of the budget address was the fact that the inflationary tendency plus new provincial policies of the last few years have reached the point where an outlay of \$105.5 millions is necessary to carry on the government functions.

The new budget involves no major changes in government policy.

There will be no changes in taxation.

But the Finance Minister's demand for a greater share of Ottawa's income tax revenues opened up a subject for sharp controversy.

He declared flatly that the extra social service work done recently by Ottawa is not carrying out the bargain that was implied when British Columbia signed away its own income and corporation tax rights in 1947.

Despite its huge revenues now, British Columbia needs still more to develop its huge resources and the only large source of money is from the income tax Ottawa collects, he said.

Mr. Anscomb's new budget is what might be described as a "hold the line" budget, because he believes the postwar boom is now levelling off.

## Sets New Record

Although it represents an increase of \$13 million over last year's estimates, he explained that these have already been overspent by this amount and that actually the 1950-51 spending is to be held at roughly the 1949-50 level.

He said the Cabinet had gone through a hard struggle to hold it down to that figure.

The budget sets a new record for the fifth successive postwar year. In this period the yearly spending by the government has nearly tripled.

But revenues, helped by the heavy new taxation imposed in

the last three years—the sales, extra gas tax, extra amusement tax and extra pari mutuel taxes—plus a high level of business, are also setting new records, so that the huge spending can be done without any increases in taxation.

Mr. Anscomb estimated revenue for the coming year at \$105,831,189 and expenditures at \$105,558,517, leaving him a nominal surplus of \$232,736 with a fully-balanced budget.

The \$38.4 millions to be spent on capital works is another instalment on the big expansion program laid down two years ago.

## New Housing Program

This figure includes \$10 million as a half share in new schools, \$7 millions on the PGE extension now underway, \$7.7 millions on new public buildings, \$6.5 million on highways and ordinary bridges, \$2.5 million on steel and concrete bridges and

on all accounts for the year will amount to \$144 million.

The new housing program calls for an additional \$5 million in loans to finance 25 percent of Dominion - provincial - municipal projects.

Despite the big jump in estimates over last year's \$92.3 millions, the budget shows signs of some sharp trimming by the cabinet's budget axe.

"The house might as well be told that it required many days of intensive study and lopping off of millions of dollars of proposed expenditure before it was possible to bring revenue and expenditure in balance — not a happy task," the Finance Minister said.

culverts, \$2,579,000 on UBC buildings, \$625,000 toward the Okanagan flood control scheme and \$1.5 million on the Trans-Canada Highway.

Thus total provincial spending

## \$22 Million for Welfare

He explained that although the current year's estimates called for \$92.3 million they will be overspent by some \$13 millions, so that the coming year's budget is about on a par with that of 1949-50 when it comes to the actual outlay.

Biggest single increase in cost comes in the Health and Welfare department which is up \$3.5 million to a whopping \$22,314,040.

Chief reason for this is a vote of \$2.5 million to take care of further deficits in the hospital insurance plan and old age pensions and social allowances will cost another \$800,000 between them.

Education is taking \$630,654 more than this year and the Attorney General's Department an extra \$376,931 which includes an increased appropriation of \$33,000 for destruction of predatory animals.

The Forests and Lands Department has been hard hit by the budget slashing, with a drop of \$212,838.

### MINING AID CUT

The vote for parks is slashed by \$183,000, the reforestation program cut by \$18,000 and forest management services reduced \$14,000, but an extra \$108,000 has been added to the survey and mapping services.

A slash of \$100,000 has been

ordered in grants for mining roads and trails.

The provincial secretary's department has been cut with \$136,000 lopped from mental hospital votes, \$29,600 taken off charitable grants and \$138,000 from a vote for aged people's homes.

Public Works Department votes are slashed by \$1,388,238, with \$774,900 of this coming off the road maintenance vote and \$109,000 of the cost of maintaining government buildings.

Grant to the B.C. Research Council has been cut by \$10,000 in the Trade and Industry Department.

### "BOOM" LEVELLING OFF

Mr. Anscomb said he had fought to keep the budget down to the present spending level because he believes the big business boom of recent years is now levelling off.

"I wish to make it very clear that the presentation of such a large budget has given me much concern," he said.

"It has been my bounden duty to insist on a true and properly-balanced budget, and this I have achieved, although not without considerable effort both in my own department and with the cooperation of the other departments."

## Gov't Takes \$100 From Each Citizen

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—The provincial government now is collecting an average of \$100 a year from every man, woman and child in British Columbia.

This was revealed in the budget today which also disclosed: The big ceremony at the opening of the Hope-Princeton Highway last November cost \$20,000.

B.C.'s \$24 million sales tax revenue costs between 1 and 1.3 percent for administration expenses in collecting it.

Extra policing required by Doukhobor outrages in the Kootenays last year cost \$100,000.

The 10 percent cost of living bonus given civil servants last fall will hit the treasury for \$1,750,000 in the coming year.



# Storm Seen Over Sales Tax Surplus

## MLA's Expected to Ask Extra Funds To Offset Hospital Plan Deficit

By LESLIE FOX  
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—One portion of Finance Minister Anscomb's budget threatens to be a storm centre before the session is over.

It governs his report on the collections from the one-controversial three percent sales tax, first levied in July, 1948.

From the figures given by the finance minister, it is apparent total revenues from the tax are now more than enough to pay for municipal aid and the social security fund for which it was imposed.

In the first eight months of operation—to the end of the last fiscal year on March 31, 1949—the tax produced \$14,335,119.

Out of this one-third—or \$4,707,271—went to municipalities.

The other two-thirds—\$9,414,543—was only \$800,000 short of covering the expenditures listed by Mr. Anscomb from the social security fund. The shortage had to be made up out of consolidated revenue.

### COLLECTIONS SOAR

But since that time collections from the sales tax have gone up enormously. They will total more than \$24 million in the current fiscal year and as much next year, he estimates. The municipal share of this will be \$8 million and the provincial share \$16 million.

While no figures on social security costs for the corresponding period have been issued yet, it is apparent to observers here that they will not reach anything like the \$16 million mark.

Thus there is likely to be a considerable balance left after the municipalities are paid and the items listed for the social security fund are met.

### SCOPE CONTROVERSY

This is where the controversy is likely to start.

Some officials here use the term social security in a general sense, and imply that it covers almost anything the government spends in a welfare way and for institutions, running to \$25 or \$30 million in the budget.

But the finance minister today listed only 10 specific items as part of the social security fund payments.

In fiscal 1948-49 there were: old age pensions (provincial share), \$1,954,914; old age pension cost-of-living bonus, \$2,641,752; hospital insurance premiums for old age pensioners, \$1,066,698; social assistance allowances, \$3,158,653; hospital insurance premiums for social assistance cases, \$36,473; welfare field administration, \$648,229; mothers' allowances, \$445,927; hospital insurance premiums for mothers' allowance cases, \$491,414; maintenance of dependent children and grants to homes, \$552,402; medical service drugs, \$466,469—a total of \$10,016,435.

In the original SS and MA Act, social security was defined as including also assistance to hospitals and eleemosynary institutions and charitable grants. The finance minister made no mention of these in his payments.

Thus, if the use of provincial sales tax receipts in the current year is restricted to the ten items

laid down by the minister, it is almost certain there will be a surplus of several millions in the fund. The estimates for all these items amounted to no more than \$13 millions, although actual outlays may be a bit higher.

A number of MLA's are urging, however, that the deficit in hospital insurance be made up from the sales tax—since the insurance scheme is definitely designed as an assistance to hospitals. As it now looks as if the social security fund will have this surplus, they will insist any attempt to increase the insurance premiums rather than pay the deficit from the sales tax receipts.

## Private MLA 'Out in Cold,' Says Tilly

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—(CP)—Mrs. Tilly Rolston, a dauntless defender of her sex and the beliefs she champions, Monday dominated the British Columbia Legislature in her inimitable fashion.

Mrs. Rolston, Coalition member for Vancouver-Point Grey, held the floor to discuss, among other things, "the private member, the ordinary garden variety, and how, too often, he or she is left out in the cold on general policy."

When the Throne Speech is presented to the members the day they arrive, they haven't time to understand it as thoroughly as if they were called in to participate in its formation, she declared.

"I know Premier Manning does it in Alberta, but when we get here there is nothing we can change. The policies are laid down and the estimates are in. "The longer I am here, the more I realize that the private member, the ordinary garden variety, is more or less window dressing and this is really not good enough."

Mrs. Rolston congratulated Madam Speaker Hodges on achieving the distinction of being the first woman speaker ever elected in the commonwealth. It was an honor to the women of Canada—not only to those of this province—she said.

"You have power over 46 men—most of us over only one—and I hope you will enjoy it thoroughly."

## SELF-SUPPORT ANTICIPATED

# Hospital Loss Hits \$5 Million

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—The B.C. treasury will have to dig into general revenue for \$5,000,000 to meet the deficits in the Hospital Insurance scheme.

All told it is expected that in its first 21 months of operation up to March of next year the premiums will fall by \$7,000,000 to pay hospital bills. But \$2,000,000 of this was anticipated as part of the organizing difficulties when the scheme started and a stabilization fund was set aside to take care of it.

In his budget speech to the Legislature today Finance Minister Anscomb placed the overall deficit for the first 15 months at \$4,587,000. The stabilization fund took care of \$2,000,000 of this, with the other \$2,587,000 taken from general revenue.

He said he also anticipated another \$2,500,000 deficit in the next 12 months and is making an appropriation to take care of it.

### TWO METHODS STUDIED

However, he said he expects the current investigation into the scheme (by the Hamilton experts) will make the plan self-supporting "one way or another, or perhaps in two ways."

The finance minister went no further than this general statement, stating he was leaving the details to be given by Health and Welfare Minister Pearson.

But his remarks were interpreted as meaning that, in addition to trimming off some of the benefits, the government is planning to increase premiums as well to wipe out deficits.

"I would like to make it clear," he said, "that I am extremely disappointed to find myself today having to report there is a large deficit to be taken care of from current revenue and I am further in the unhappy position of having to budget for a deficit for the coming year."

He said it had always been his own view—and, he thought, the government's view—that the scheme must be self supporting except for the special subsidies set up in the first place, such as per diem grants by municipalities and the government and premiums for old age pensioners and the needy.

### HOPED DEFICIT MET

"... It was understood that, apart from the subsidies mentioned, there would be no further drain on the provincial treasury on account of hospitalization," he declared.

"It is quite true, of course, that had there been no hospital insurance scheme, the government would still be contributing to the deficits of hospitals. I do not dispute that, but what I do say is that the scheme was inaugurated for the express purpose of eliminating that financial drain, as well as to give financial protection to the individual (from hospital bills)."

Explaining the financial details Mr. Anscomb said the deficit to date has wiped out a \$2 million stabilization fund set up for it in 1948 and he will ask a special appropriation of \$2.5 million this session to cover the balance. Then in next year's budget another \$2.5 million appropriation will be asked to take care of the additional losses expected in the coming year.

# 1948 Flood Bill Near \$20 Million

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—British Columbia has finally toted up the bill for the disastrous floods of 1948 which inundated the Fraser Valley and damaged homes at numerous other points of the province.

It was \$19,827,317.

Finance Minister Anscomb gave the figure to the Legislature in his budget speech and he explained that out of the total the federal treasury at Ottawa paid \$14,122,532 and British Columbia paid \$5,704,785.

Covered by this substantial total was the cost of fighting the floods when they took place, the rehabilitation of homes and families (outside of that done by Red Cross and other charity groups) and the largest item, which was the cost of rebuilding the dykes.

The Fraser Valley quite naturally got the bulk of the expenditure.

Flood control and relief took up \$6,009,000, rebuilding of the dykes \$10,750,000 and repairs to roads and bridges \$733,727.

Outside of the valley, in such places as the Similkameen, the Okanagan and the Kootenays, the costs were \$1,036,235 for relief and rehabilitation and \$1,259,792 for restoring roads, bridges and services.

## Full Probe of B.C. Liquor System Urged

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Full probe of British Columbia's whole liquor system by a committee of the Legislature was demanded today by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Mr. Winch filed a motion in the House calling for the investigation. Specifically he asks the following points be probed:

Liquor production and distribution costs and consumption methods; the operations of the Liquor Act, and the views of interested persons and organizations on matters concerning the distribution and consumption of liquor.

He would empower the committee to recommend changes either in the Act or in regulations "for the purpose of encouraging temperance and having liquor consumption in public places under proper conditions and environment."

# B.C. Gov't to Ask Greater Tax Share

## Anscomb Says He Will Adopt Hard Attitude at Ottawa Parley in Fall

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Finance Minister Anscomb served warning today that B.C. will demand a greater share of the income taxes Ottawa collects from this province.

He declared that when the Dominion and provinces meet at Ottawa in the fall "we shall have to take a very broad and realistic outlook of British Columbia's needs."

The Ottawa conference has been called for preliminary talks on revision of the agreements under which, in 1947, seven of the nine provinces surrendered their income and corporation

tax rights in exchange for yearly rental payments.

Mr. Anscomb told the House that while B.C. now gets \$27 million a year for the rental, it would be collecting at least \$43 million if it were levying its own income taxes at prewar rates.

The Dominion, in 1948, collected \$158 million out of B.C. companies on account of these taxes.

## Best Terms Available at Time

Furthermore, Mr. Anscomb said the province still, as part of the agreement, levies a five percent corporation tax (which the Dominion collects on its behalf).

So that, in effect, the rental payments based on 1948 figures were not much more than \$10 million because in that year the five percent corporation tax amounted to around \$12 million.

Mr. Anscomb said he was not criticizing the 1947 agreements (which were negotiated by former Premier John Hart) and they were probably the best terms that could be secured at that time.

But conditions have changed since then.

No longer, he said, can the Prairies, with their rich oil strikes and price-supported wheat crops, be regarded as "have-not" provinces of Canada.

British Columbia, by its very nature, must spend large sums on development so that the wealth in its ground can be taken out for the good of everyone.

The government here, Mr. Anscomb asserted, had to levy the sales tax two years ago because of the increasing demands of the people for social services. It took a lot of courage to do this.

"But," he continued, "let us face this further fact. If there are to be any further advances at all within the confines of British Columbia, be they social services, education, or better living conditions for the people, this province must do vastly more than it does to develop its resources, and we have no large income-producing revenue sources from which we can secure the necessary money to do it."

## 'Consider Own Needs First'

In other words, Mr. Anscomb said, B.C. was ready to help the "have-not" provinces in the dark days (by allowing the Dominion to collect the income taxes and spend them where they did the most good).

Now that conditions in these provinces have changed "however much we may wish to help others, let us consider our own essential needs first."

Even if the Dominion takes over the full cost of old-age pensions and some other social service costs, it would not be the answer, the Conservative leader insisted.

"The very nature of our economy requires that we have ample funds to develop our re-

sources and promote industrial progress.

"These funds cannot be had except by securing a greater proportion of the corporation and personal income taxes and the succession duties now taken from our people by the national government."

Mr. Anscomb recounted for the house the entire history of the income tax question; how Ottawa stepped into the field to finance the First World War, promised to step out afterwards but did not, then in the Second World War took over entirely and promised to reduce taxes afterwards so the provinces could step back in, but instead signed up the taxation agreements.

## Ottawa 'Failed on Promises'

He charged Ottawa had never carried out its part of the 1947 bargain to implement the "Green Book" social services proposals.

The fact Ottawa has made larger health grants, contributions to hospitals and similar expenditure was certainly not carrying out the bargain, he maintained.

Part of the 1947 deal, he continued, was that there should be no dual taxation in B.C. In fact, there is, because B.C. has to

levy the five percent corporation tax, even though Ottawa does the actual collecting.

Mr. Anscomb stressed, however, he has no desire to return to dual income taxes, but B.C. must get a larger share of the national collections when the agreements come up for revision in the fall.

(The present agreement expires in 1952, but this year's talks will pave the way for renewal or scrapping of them.)

# 10 MAIN FEATURES OF RECORD BUDGET

- 1—Current spending for 1950-51 set at record \$105,558,000, an increase of \$13 million over this year's estimates. \* \* \*
- 2—A further \$38,404,000 to be spent on capital works of all kinds. \* \* \*
- 3—No changes in taxation. \* \* \*
- 4—Further aid to municipalities rejected. \* \* \*
- 5—Sales tax receipts reach \$24 million a year. \* \* \*
- 6—B.C. to demand greater share of income tax revenues from Ottawa in next taxation agreement. \* \* \*
- 7—Hospital insurance faces deficit of \$5 million by March, 1951. \* \* \*
- 8—B.C.'s share of housing program to be \$5 million. \* \* \*
- 9—Gross debt jumps \$19.5 million in year to total of \$197,687,499 at last December 31. \* \* \*
- 10—Total bill for 1948 floods and dyke rebuilding amounts to \$19.8 million, of which B.C. pays \$5.7 million. \* \* \*

# Municipal Money Bids Rejected

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Requests of B.C. municipalities for more financial aid from the provincial government were flatly rejected by Finance Minister Anscomb in his budget speech today.

In fact he recited at some length how generously he considers they are now being treated.

He added that "in all fairness" the municipalities "must cease asking" for contributions for one thing and another.

In the last few years, the finance minister said through the sales tax and an increase in the motor license distribution, the province has boosted its municipal grants to a figure that will reach \$22,421,000 in the coming year.

This is nine times as great as the grants were in 1941-42.

A further \$4.5 millions a year is given the municipalities in indirect aid through social assistance payments and other matters.

He said the record provincial budget could be cut by \$10 millions if it wasn't for the fact the province collects the sales tax and the motor license fees and hands one-third of them on to the cities.

He asserted that for all practical purposes the government has now carried out the full recommendations of H. Carl Goldenberg, the commissioner who investigated the municipal problem four years ago and on top of that gave them the sales tax.

He added that if it were not for the direct and indirect aid given the cities by the province the average tax rate would be 44 mills higher on land than it is today.



**BUDGETING** for \$105,831,000 for 1950, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb presented his estimates to the Provincial Legislature today.

# Roads Outlay Exceeds Tax Drivers Pay

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Finance Minister Anscomb claims motorists of B. C. are getting more in the way of road expenditures than they are paying in gas tax and license fees.

In his budget speech, the minister placed the estimated overall cost of roads in the 1950 budget at \$19,996,615.

This includes \$5,236,998 for debt charges on roads that have already been built, \$12,057,650 for general maintenance and surfacing on highways, roads and bridges, \$1,650,000 in grants for municipal roads from the auto license fees and the balance in smaller items of administrative costs.

Against this, the finance minister said, motorists will pay to the treasury \$17,433,000 of which \$6,375,000 will come from the license fees, \$10,685,000 from the gasoline tax and \$373,000 from motor carrier fees collected by the public utilities commission.

This leaves the motorists \$2,563,615 short of paying for what they are getting.



BUT ANSCOMB SEES LEVELLING OFF

B.C. Business Trend High in 1949

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—British Columbia's business continued at a high mark all through 1949, but there are now indications it is levelling off from the inflationary and boom-trend of the post-war years.

This is approximately Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's estimate in his budget speech. "Our future, to a considerable extent, would seem to rest on a

solution of the marketing problems of our exportable surpluses," he said.

The minister said devaluation in England has not had the serious immediate effects that were at first predicted. The U.S. market has taken up the slack for the lumber industry to a remarkable extent.

But he contended the basic problems ahead have not been solved in international trade and

because B.C. is so tied up in the picture the long term view, "while not being too clear, does not appear quite as favorable" as the present high level of business indicates.

The basic industries of forestry, agriculture, mining and fisheries lost some ground during 1949, with a \$701 million production against \$717 million in 1948, the minister pointed out.

Employment was off slightly, but total payrolls and weekly

earnings were well ahead of 1948 because of general higher rates. External trade was well ahead, retail sales were higher in dollar value though perhaps not in volume because of the higher prices, and both bank debits and life insurance savings were higher.

Mr. Anscomb submitted the following table for the five post-war years on the production and income factors affecting business activity in B.C.:

INCOME	Unit or Base Period	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949x
Industrial Payroll		\$383,700,000	403,161,610	557,075,508	650,000,000	690,000,000
Retail Sales		438,838	529,213	664,470	731,520	768,250
Wholesale Sales	1935-39=100	226.5	271.9	314.6	333.8	333.1
Sales of Life Insurance		58,258	92,064	103,104	103,301	110,976
Population		967,000	1,003,000	1,044,000	1,082,000	1,114,000
PRODUCTION						
Net Value of Producing, D.B.S.		\$535,488,648	591,478,855	769,392,150	910,000,000	915,000,000
Wholesale Price Index	1926=100	103.6	108.6	129.0	153.4	156.7
Retail Price Index	1935-39=100	119.5	123.6	135.5	155.0	161.0
Freight Loaded, Tons		8,399,597	8,171,456	9,904,060	10,325,427	10,400,000
Bank Debits		4,416,364	5,367,594	6,564,000	7,043,620	7,540,592
Electric Power Consumption	000 K.W.H.	2,768,577	2,820,188	3,011,763	3,436,778	3,601,317

xPreliminary statistics, subject to revision.

How Government Spending Has Climbed Since 1947

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—The following table submitted by Finance Minister Anscomb shows how B.C.'s government expenditures have been boosted more than 60 percent in the last three years. It also shows what the Finance Minister describes as the "functional breakdown" between the various forms of government spending.

	Actual Expenditure 1947-48	Actual Expenditure 1948-49	Estimated Expenditure 1950-51
<b>Debt Services</b>			
Debt charges	\$ 5,873,000	\$ 5,895,000	\$ 7,441,000
Sinking fund and debt redemption	5,250,000	7,685,000	6,993,000
Totals	\$11,123,000	\$13,580,000	\$14,434,000
Percentage of total expenditure	17.52	15.53	13.67
<b>Social Services</b>			
Public welfare, including provincial institutions, maintenance of hospitals, mothers' allowances, old age pensions, public health, labor, etc.	\$16,422,000	\$22,721,000	\$29,824,000
Education	11,265,000	12,806,000	14,992,000
Totals	\$27,687,000	\$35,527,000	\$44,816,000
Percentage of total expenditure	43.62	40.63	42.46
<b>Productive Services</b>			
Agriculture	\$ 598,000	\$ 696,000	\$ 762,000
Public domain, including forests, mines, lands, water development, etc.	5,024,000	7,953,000	7,253,000
Highways, bridges, ferries, etc.	8,858,000	11,976,000	13,195,000
Totals	\$14,480,000	\$20,625,000	\$21,210,000
Percentage of total expenditure	22.81	23.59	20.09
<b>General Services</b>			
Administration of justice	\$ 2,457,000	\$ 3,024,000	\$ 3,066,000
Legislation	596,000	606,000	304,000
General government	5,604,000	7,691,000	12,203,000
Other expenses, including statutory aids to municipalities of motor vehicle and Social Security and Municipal Aid tax revenue	1,529,000	6,383,000	9,525,000
Totals	\$10,186,000	\$17,704,000	\$25,098,000
Percentage of total expenditure	16.05	20.25	23.78
Grand totals	\$63,476,000	\$87,436,000	\$105,558,000
Percentage of total expenditure	100	100	100

Figures for the current fiscal year of 1949-50 were not included in the table since they are not yet completed, but Mr. Anscomb estimated that they will reach about \$105,325,781, or about the same as next year's budget.

DOWN FROM 1941

# British Columbians Owe \$131 Each in Provincial Debts

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—British Columbians owe \$197,687,499 in provincial debt, have \$30,069,532 set aside as sinking funds to meet it, leaving \$146,100,363, or \$131 for every man, woman and child, as their net debt.

This was the picture given the Legislature by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his budget speech.

The debt is rising, because the government has embarked on a considerable expansion program of new roads, buildings, power development and other schemes in the postwar period.

But there is a bigger population to pay it and the per capita

rate of \$131 as at last December 31 is \$46 less than it was in 1941 and \$59 less than it was in 1933 at the pit of the depression. However, the per capita jumped from \$118 on December 31, 1948.

In the last 12 months the gross debt was increased by \$19,597,919 and the net debt by \$18,474,426, the finance minister reported.

## Too Great a Hurry

He said he is not greatly concerned about that because B.C. now has to allocate only 13 percent of its current budget toward paying interest and sinking-fund charges when only 10 years ago it had to set aside 30 percent.

He warned, however, that there is a tendency of everyone to go too fast in demanding expensive public works. He does not want to be pressed into borrowing great amounts in short-term periods, but wants to stagger them over a period of years so he can get better interest rates in the financial market.

Interest now costs \$6,482,407 a year and the sinking funds \$6,992,000.

Mr. Anscomb explained to the

House he is adhering strictly to his "sound finance" policy of driving hard to get the sinking funds fully paid up.

During the depression years, B.C. went far into the hole in these funds, which are instalments set aside each year toward paying off debts at maturity. The money had to be used for current expenses.

Former Premier John Hart, when he was finance minister, adopted a policy of setting aside partial sinking funds and refunding other debts as they came due.

Three years ago, however, Mr. Anscomb laid it down that full sinking-fund payments will be set aside each year.

## Sinking Fund Reduced

In addition to that he has taken advantage of buoyant revenues and surpluses to reduce the sinking-fund deficit by \$9 millions in the last three years, and this deficit now stands at \$13.6 millions. He said he plans to appropriate another \$2.5 millions this year to cut it still further.

However, he said, to cut down on these charges on future bor-

rowings he is considering issuing a new type of bonds to cover long-life public works.

Under these bonds, if a 20-year issue were put out to build a road that will last 40 years, the terms would provide that only part of the face value need be protected by sinking funds as it would be understood, the rest would be re-funded at the end of the 20 years.

# Aluminum, Pipelines Outlined By Kenney

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—The B.C. government has a mandate from the electorate to make any agreement "within the bounds of reason" with the Aluminum Company of Canada Ltd. to get its \$500 million hydro-aluminum development underway, Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney declared in the Legislature Monday.

Mr. Kenney was the final speaker in the Throne Speech debate.

It is no "pushover" for B.C. to get the company's scheme, he pointed out. Even in the last year they have started another development in Africa.

A public opinion poll recently showed 83.9 percent of B.C. people in favor of the Aluminum Company's plan.

Not within the lifetime of most people today will there be a similar opportunity for the huge (1.5 million horsepower) development of B.C.'s hydro potential as the company plans, he said.

Mr. Kenney said he is satisfied that not one salmon will be affected if the development goes ahead on the Nechako in the Tweedsmuir Park area. He con-

ceded that on the Chilco River system a power development would be disastrous to salmon fisheries.

The minister mentioned that the Aluminum Company of America is talking about a scheme which would use the waters of the Atlin and Tagish Lakes to supply power for an aluminum plant in Alaska.

While B.C. is willing to help this scheme out, it is "infinitesimal" in its value to B.C. by comparison with Aluminum of Canada's scheme.

Turning to the question of a gas pipeline from Alberta, Mr. Kenney saw the potential development of B.C.'s industry set back for "many, many" years if the line does not come through B.C.

# B.C. Cancer Control Grant Cut in Half

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—A 50 percent reduction in funds available for the joint Dominion-Provincial cancer control program in British Columbia is indicated in the provincial budget today.

Mr. Anscomb said the estimates for the cancer control work have been cut by \$146,000.

In last year's budget a total of \$581,940 was allocated to the work, of which B.C. voted \$290,970.

Unofficially it is understood, however, that the organization of the cancer program has taken longer than was anticipated and that all of these funds were not spent.

For this reason the cut has been made in the coming year.

Several other health measures will get less money.

Estimates for general health services have been cut \$42,330, public health nursing down \$62,000, tuberculosis control down \$134,000.

The treasury will also save \$100,000 on mothers' allowances, but this, it is understood, is due to the fact that there are fewer women drawing them.

# Kenney Flays Press Attacks On Pearson

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Press criticism of B.C.'s Hospital Insurance Scheme was flayed in the Legislature Monday by Lands Minister E. T. Kenney.

He decried attacks made on Health and Welfare Minister George Pearson in connection with the plan, declaring some of the press attacks were a crime, unfair and incorrect.

"Certainly there may have been errors," Mr. Kenney declared. "But every time there's been an important bill before this Legislature it has had to be changed as years ago on."

To paraphrase a Biblical saying, he added: "Let him who has never made a mistake cast the first brickbat."

Mr. Kenney said no one in British Columbia has done so much for the poor and underprivileged as "our minister."

"Let him round the scheme out and he'll give you a hospital scheme; you'll be proud of."

"Let us be tolerant and give the minister an opportunity. Don't go into the press with condemnation we've heard so much about lately."