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53 Province
Dec 5, 1931

Colonist
Dec 6, 1931

Province
Dec 11, 1931

BRUHN PROBES PATRONAGE RUMORS

Provincial Minister Asks Reeve of Burnaby for Information.

"NOT PUBLICLY," SAYS PRITCHARD

Anxious to Provide Work For Individuals, Not Trucks.

Earnest invitation to Reeve W. A. Pritchard of Burnaby to disclose any cases of political patronage in allotment of relief work was given Saturday morning by Hon. R. W. Bruhn, provincial minister of public works, and Mr. M. H. McGeough, assistant in B.C. to Dominion director of unemployment relief.

Answering the double invitation of the two government representatives, Reeve Pritchard said that he would be glad to communicate information he had in hand but would not do so in public. The incident was part of what turned out to be a quiet, friendly discussion between representatives of Burnaby and the government on the subject of relief administration in that municipality.

It was mutually agreed that technical representatives of Burnaby and the two governments shall confer with a view to arranging work so that less money is paid for truck hire and more to individual destitute in the relief programs under way in that municipality. Burnaby officials declared that investigation of all relief cases is under way.

Promise made publicly by Reeve Pritchard that he "had enough information to blow the lid off Provincial and Dominion relief matters" was referred to only indirectly.

Mr. McGeough said that he had heard that Reeve Pritchard had certain information about irregularities in expenditure of relief funds and asked him as a responsible public official to disclose these cases. Mr. Pritchard said that he was quite willing to let Mr. McGeough have the information.

DEMANDS INFORMATION.

"If there is any case on provincial road work where men have received too much money—any business by political leaders—the information should come out," declared Mr. Bruhn.

"I assure you that I have nothing to hide," continued the minister, "and if there are such cases I want to know about them so that I can punish officials responsible. If there have been glaring cases of political favoritism I want you to say so. All I am trying to do is to carry out this work in the fairest way to the poor people."

Reeve Pritchard said that, as the minister had stated earlier, all people make mistakes. Perhaps they have made them in Burnaby. He said that when there was the threat of cutting off the work in his municipality en-

FIREWORKS PROMISED IN B. C. HOUSE

Tax Shuffle Looms—Proposal to Reduce Size of Legislature.

BUDGET BULKS OVER EVERYTHING

Government Preparing for Attack on Relief Management.

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Easily the most important session of the British Columbia Legislature since the Great War is in the making here now. A complete overhaul of provincial finances and taxation; redistribution of electoral ridings; state health insurance and an unemployment enquiry, any one of these would make a session notable, as sessions go here. Combined they can not fail to leave the financial, electoral and political map of the province drastically altered.

As the government snatches time for sessional preparations these days between unemployment conferences, party meetings and the Columbia by-election, it finds that there will be plenty of business to take up the time of the House and make the longed-for short, snappy session as impossible as ever.

And besides, though Premier Tolmie has told his party that he has no plans for an election until 1932, that does not mean there will be no election. Such plans can be altered overnight and will be, if conditions alter. The opposition, therefore, is going into this session as if it were the pre-election session, and so is the government. In case it may decide to take the plunge in 1932, it will make all preparations accordingly. That is why health insurance is likely to be adopted without further delay. And finally the budget must be put in order.

BUDGET BULKS OVER EVERYTHING.

The budget, of course, bulks over everything and it is going to be largely a financial session. No one knows yet all that is going to be in the budget, not even the government. It is known, however, that the budget will contain a drastic scaling down of expenditures and a curtailment of grants to school boards and municipal councils. It is safe to predict that the fiercest battles of the session will be fought about this curtailment.

Already municipalities are alarmed at this prospect. They say that if the government cuts its grants it will be merely handing the trouble on to them and through them to the overtaxed landowners. Communications along this line are coming here thick and fast these days from individual municipalities. Their union no doubt will act in due course, and there will be a strong attempt to head off this programme.

The government's reply is simple. It says that the municipalities must not pass the burden on to the landowners. They must economize as the government is doing. Within a few days the government will issue a formal warning to the municipalities, as it has already warned the school boards, that they had better budget this year with these prospects in mind.

But the details, of course, can not be settled until the Conservative caucus meets. What it will do with the government's proposals no cabinet minister is bold enough to predict. If it treats them as it treated the pro-

posals of last session there will not be much left of them. As a matter of fact, however, the government is preparing to stand firm on a well-thought-out programme and is confident of its adoption.

TAX SHUFFLE IN OFFING.

Taxpayers, of course, will be interested less in these internal manoeuvres than in the final effect of them on their pocketbooks. They will have to wait for the budget to come down. Until then no one can be sure what last-minute changes may be made. But at the moment a general shuffle of taxation, rather than any serious alteration of existing taxes, seems most likely. This shuffle may meet the municipalities problem by cutting down their grants and giving them wider taxation powers, a plan known to be under consideration.

It may also, and probably will, include changes in income taxation, with the rearrangement of exemptions and rates. Any change in rates will only be in one direction. That direction will not be down.

On top of all that, unquestionably the gasoline tax will be raised if the government can succeed with other provincial governments in making the oil-selling companies absorb it. Perhaps there will be an increase anyway. Redistribution is another leg of political dynamite. The government would like to reduce the Legislature

to a new low. It would like to cut down the representation of the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. It would like to lump several interior constituencies together. But when it comes to the sticking point—when it comes to the point of voting oneself out of membership in the House, the average member becomes a human being first, and a legislator afterwards. There is no record of any member willingly abolishing his seat, nor of any riding willingly losing its identity.

Stout of John Oliver tried to abolish Esquimalt in 1924, and by the time Esquimalt was finished with him and had burned his effigy, he was glad enough to leave it alone. Now Omicoca, threatened with partition and amalgamation with Skeena and Prince George, is up in arms, and its Conservative organization is protesting that it will be abolished, just as the long-desired defeat of A. M. Manson, K.C., is assured.

With the claims of Peace River for a new seat to be considered and with the lower mainland undoubtedly entitled to more members on a population basis, it is going to be hard to reduce this House. In the end it may very well turn out to be a question of keeping it down to its present total of forty-eight.

LIBERALS SEEK RELIEF FEE.

The session's customary unpleasantness will centre this year around unemployment and the government's handling of it. The opposition is obviously squaring away for a complete investigation of these matters and its wishes will not be refused. The government not only expects such an inquiry, but is preparing for it. Every fact in connection with its unemployment expenditures is being assembled now to meet all the accusation, which are expected to flow from the opposition benches.

Health insurance will come up in the form of a final report of the commission which has been considering it. The commission will recommend a definite scheme of insurance and it will probably be adopted in that, or an amended form. The government is expecting this plan to relieve its hospital financing and to dovetail into its budget programme.

Another project which is sure to cause lengthy debate in the Conservative caucus is the proposed creation of a highway commission which is strongly favored by some members of the government, and then the session always develops in addition many unexpected issues. Often they turn out to be the most spectacular.

JONES DENIES PARING RELIEF

Minister Says Tom Reid Does Not Know What He Is Talking About.

SOUGHT MORE MONEY

VICTORIA, Dec. 11.—Flat denial that he had cut British Columbia's unemployed relief work programme either in municipalities or in unorganized territory was made today by Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance, in reply to charges by Tom Reid, M.P. for New Westminster.

Referring to Mr. Reid's speech in Golden this week Mr. Jones said, "Mr. Reid obviously doesn't know what he is talking about. The schedules dealing with work in municipalities were never seen by me. They were approved by the unemployment committees of the Provincial Government consisting of Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Bruhn and Mr. Howe, and handed to me in a parcel on the evening I left for Ottawa. I handed them in Ottawa to the Federal minister of labor. I was informed on the following day that the Federal Government had approved works to cost \$2,750,000 in municipalities, and this was on the basis of the schedules submitted. Some of the municipalities had not yet sent in their schedules when I left for Ottawa, and these were to be submitted later on. I have no knowledge as to what was done with them, as I am not on the unemployment committee of the government. I don't know to this day the total amounts submitted to the Federal Government."

WELCOMES EXPENDITURE.

"I would gladly welcome as much expenditure on works by municipalities as possible, as it would be much easier for me to finance that portion of our relief to municipalities, rather than to carry on works in unorganized districts or to finance direct relief. The Provincial Government is only required to pay 25 per cent. of the labor costs in municipalities, whereas in unorganized territory we pay 50 per cent. of the cost of labor and materials. In direct relief we pay 33 1-3 per cent. in municipalities and 50 per cent. in unorganized districts. Any public man with the simplest idea of finance can easily see that the Provincial Government would be better off to have the municipalities handle a larger number of works than do them itself.

"I have nothing whatever to do with the work schedules in any way, and could not see them, as suggested by Mr. Reid. These are submitted by the municipalities to the unemployment committee and its officials. I never see them. They are forwarded to Ottawa and approved by the Federal Government. All I do is to undertake to finance our share of the cost involved.

"The Federal Government, not I, cut the provincial works programme submitted to it. I had nothing to do with it. The Federal Government simply approved of certain highway projects and stated that it was prepared to pay its share of work totalling \$6,000,000 in municipalities and unorganized districts."

R. W. Cle

Minister of Employment

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PROVISION NECE

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Colonist
Nov 26, 1931

R. W. Bruhn Gives Clear-Cut Outline Of B.C. Problems

Minister of Works Predicts Successful Outcome of Employment Measures and Praises Co-operation Shown by Dominion Government

SPEAKING before Saanich Conservatives at Marigold Hall last evening, Hon. R. W. Bruhn, Minister of Public Works, gave a clear-cut outline of the whole course of unemployment relief problems in British Columbia for the last two years, and sounded a note of encouragement in the successful outcome of one of the heaviest problems the province and country at large had ever

He spoke with full appreciation of the co-operation received from the Federal Government, and said he had every reason to believe that the whole situation would clear shortly, greatly to the advantage of this province.

"There is no question that unemployment is a major national problem," said Mr. Bruhn. "It is a federal, provincial and municipal obligation, and the greatest problem facing this and every Government in the whole of the civilized world.

"As to our problems in British Columbia, we are taking practical steps to deal with this matter, but the measures we have in mind are temporary expedients, which will involve necessarily a great expenditure of money we can ill afford.

UNUSUAL TIMES

"Let us fearlessly face the situation, take stock of our resources and balance our ledger. We find in this year 1931 that there is a greater abundance of food, and cheaper food, than there was in the years prior to the war of 1914. We find that commodities have been produced in such quantities that they cannot readily be consumed. We find that average savings accounts and the money on deposit in banks are actually embarrassing the

banker to find remunerative investments for the money.

"At the same time the general standard of living, particularly here in British Columbia, in practically every walk of life, is very much higher than it has ever been before. But on the other hand, we find that partly because of this over-production there is now a natural lack of employment; that because of credit selling, and because of a too-rapid increase in the standard of living there is, particularly among the wage-earners, a shortage of liquid assets. The worse feature we have to face, however, is the pessimism, and the lack of faith in the future, which is all too general," Mr. Bruhn continued.

CANADIAN OBLIGATION

"As long as there is an abundance of commodities and genuine unemployment, I consider it the duty of the Canadian people to see that these people are supplied with the necessities of life without having to endure indignity. We owe it to ourselves, and to the economic system to which we adhere, to see that there is no want in the midst of plenty. It is merely common sense to recognize the deplorable condition that exists.

"Money expended on unemployment relief will ultimately have to come out of the taxpayers' pockets, but I have a great deal of faith in the taxpayers of British Columbia, and I do not believe they will object to any reasonable increase in taxation should such be found necessary, as long as the money is used for that purpose and that purpose only," Mr. Bruhn declared.

PROVISION NECESSARY

"In this connection I can assure you that I fully realize the financial difficulties in which this Province and the Dominion find themselves today, but even in this worldwide crisis we cannot fail to provide

to take care of all transients and men without dependents; the men were to be employed through the Employment Service of Canada, who found it sometimes difficult to distinguish between those really in need and those who were not; and instead of the allocation of small sums for work in local settlements, the whole plan was based on specified highways, where camps had been erected; and lastly, the numbers of unemployed concerned had grown, through the exhaustion of their resources in continued depression of general business conditions.

After visits to this province of Hon. H. H. Stevens and Hon. Gid- eon Robertson, on behalf of the Federal Government, a working understanding had been arrived at between the two Governments, Mr. Bruhn recalled. The agreement reached as at August 19 last was that work was to be proceeded with at once on certain highways; that work, and not direct relief, was to be provided; and that no responsibility for delay in creating work would be accepted by the Dominion authorities after that date.

PROGRAMME CURTAILED

On September 4, Mr. Bruhn continued, Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett wired Premier Tolmie that the Dominion Government was particularly interested in immediate action being taken to relieve the unemployment situation in large centres, also requesting advice on what undertakings were under way and the number of men employed. Premier Tolmie, he said, replied in detail setting out the work commenced, and the fact that 44,000 had registered at that time, and that the expenditure would largely depend on the numbers for which provision would have to be made. Later the Dominion Government found it necessary, in the light of conditions all over the country, to curtail all relief plans.

Under the agreement entered between the two Governments, each was to put up half of all provincial relief work; the Federal Government was to pay half of municipal proposals, including materials, and would finance by way of loans the Provincial Government in respect to all municipal relief undertakings; and all transients and men without dependents domiciled in the province were to be placed in camps connected with these undertakings.

LARGE NUMBER REGISTERED

Acting on this clear understanding, said Mr. Bruhn, and in accordance with various telegraphic advice received, the Provincial Government commenced to carry out its programme, by establishing camps and starting works. The registration showed 60,259 persons who had sworn to the fact that they were in urgent need of assistance, and 37,153 of these were in municipalities, half of whom were married and half single, with 15,796 in unorganized districts, and 7,310 transients lately come to British Columbia.

Under the agreement with the Federal Government, it meant that 41,766 men, or 69 per cent of the list, were to be provided for jointly by the two Governments, leaving 8,493, or 31 per cent, for the munici-

palities to assume. Municipalities had their plans approved to the extent of nearly \$2,750,000, for 31 per cent of the problem; while the Province was asked to carry on with \$3,125,000 covering the remaining 69 per cent of the unemployed. If 85 per cent of those registered did not stand in real need of help, it still left 31,323 persons who did, he added.

WORLDWIDE PROBLEM

Mr. Bruhn made it clear that he was attaching no blame to the Federal Government, which had itself been faced with a most difficult situation. The abandonment of the gold standard in Britain had had repercussions on this continent which made the financing of any undertaking a seriously difficult matter. It was wise and necessary to curtail borrowings as far as possible, and the Province had throughout received a high degree of co-operation from the Federal authorities.

"The grave and serious situation that unless further provision is made, we will not be able to resume

work for the men in camp," said Mr. Bruhn. "No further work would mean direct relief, and this, besides having a bad moral effect on the men themselves, is most objectionable. I am convinced that under direct relief a large number of men desiring employment in the camps will return to the cities, thus creating further problems for the municipalities.

RECEIVED GENEROUS OFFER

"Realizing the seriousness of the situation, I visited Ottawa, laid the matter before the Federal Government there, and received every possible co-operation. An understanding that the Dominion Government would advance one-half million dollars per month for work was reached, and I hope such financial arrangements will soon be made that will enable us to take advantage of this offer," Mr. Bruhn stated.

The minister then traced the history of the camps, and showed these had been erected as all other construction camps in the province, and without waste or loss of money. The camps intended for long periods of work had to be made weatherproof and according to provincial health regulations; the food supplied to the men had to be sufficient to keep them in good health, but no extravagance had entered into the picture.

Erection of the camps had had to be rushed to relieve pressure when it was serious, and to take advantage of climatic conditions. The fact was 210 temporary and semi-permanent camps had been erected, at a cost, together with equipment, of less than \$500,000. The magnitude of the undertaking, in regard to registration, encouraged some abuses, but the Government had taken every possible precaution open to it.

MANY PEOPLE AIDED

From the commencement of work this Fall 27,700 men had been given employment, averaging twenty days. A total of \$1,691,392 had been paid in allowances, each worker receiving approximately \$61. In addition 8,221 families, with 36,000 individuals all told, had received direct relief, at a cost in excess of \$800,000, Mr. Bruhn declared.

The work carried out in the main was satisfactory and would return a saving to the province in future years. It had been concentrated on main highways and connecting links, making a permanent improvement to the road system of the province.

STANDS BEHIND POLICY

"What has been done in connection with the unemployment problem in this province I consider has been in the best interest not only of the province, but of those for whom no other form of employment was open. If work is started up again, as I hope it will, I will stake my reputation that every cent invested in camps and equipment will be amply repaid, not only in providing work for the needy, but in the general improvement of our highway system, every bit of which would have had to have been carried out in the next year or two," Mr. Bruhn concluded.

Colonist
Dec 22, 1931

TINAL FIGURES IN BY-ELECTION

Thomas King Given Ma- jority of 305—Conserva- tive Forces Undismayed

GOLDEN, Dec. 21 (CP)—Three missing polls reporting today raised the Liberal majority in Columbia riding, in which a provincial by-election was held Saturday, to 305 votes. Thomas King retained the seat for his party by defeating F. W. Jones, Conservative.

The complete vote was: Jones 621, King 926.

The campaign was featured by the presence of Premier S. F. Tolmie, Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, and prominent members of both parties, who addressed the electors.

ARE UNDISMAYED

Government forces were undismayed by the result of the Columbia by-election on Saturday. Conservative workers pointed out that the riding had voted Liberal for twenty years, and that the majority secured by the new member-elect, Thomas King, was the second smallest in the history of that period. The smallest majority was in 1928, when the late John A. Buckham was returned with less than 100 votes to spare.

The election of Mr. King to the Columbia seat will not change the standing of the Provincial House, which will enter the fourth session of the seventeenth Legislature next year with thirty-seven Conservatives, ten Liberals and one Independent Laborite, as before.

LOCAL CONDITIONS

Older heads among the Conservative ranks attributed the failure of the Government to capture the seat to local conditions in the area, complicated by general hard times, with their attendant dissatisfactions.

On the Government side, however, there was no attempt at an alibi. Inner circles of the ministry had been doubtful of its ability to win a traditionally Liberal seat in such times.

T. D. Pattullo's announcement that the return of a Liberal to replace a Liberal was a call to the Government demanding a general election at the earliest possible moment, was not taken seriously at the Legislative Buildings yesterday.

54 Colonist Dec. 29, 1931

SURPRISE IS EXPRESSED AT PAY STOPPAGE

Cheque in Mail When Teachers' Salaries Withheld by Reeve William Crouch

RELIEF MONEY IS ALSO DUE TODAY

"Only this afternoon Reeve William Crouch and myself talked over the whole matter, and I told him that cheques for the teachers' salary grants to the municipalities had already been put in the mail and that cheques for the pari-mutuel distribution and liquor profits would be in the hands of the municipalities before the end of the year."

Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, last night made this declaration when questioned regarding the action of Reeve William Crouch in suspending teachers' cheques because, he alleged, the Government had not made payments on their grants and the bank would not extend the overdraft.

OVERDRAFT \$85,000

Reeve Crouch, at a special meeting of the Saanich Council, held last night, said the municipality's relief appropriation had been cut to \$47,500 and that, unless the Government made payments on the relief work and grants, Saanich would be faced with an overdraft at the end of the year of \$85,000, of which \$57,000 would be due to nonpayment of Government moneys.

Officials of the Provincial Government were at a loss to account for the action of Reeve Crouch in reporting to his council on relief matters. While the reeve, in addressing council, had attempted to lay blame at the door of the Provincial Government for Saanich difficulties, Mr. Jones made it clear that Saanich had been given the utmost consideration on relief matters.

CHEQUE PROMISED

"I made it plain, I thought, to Reeve Crouch that if Saanich signed the agreement tonight and returned it in the morning (that is Wednesday morning), the Provincial Government would have a cheque ready for Saanich by the same night, and to this end would make special arrangements to check the necessary vouchers," the Minister of Finance said.

"We are doing our utmost to expedite payment to municipalities all over the province. It must be clear that we have gone more than half way to meet Saanich in the difficulty. Reeve Crouch has been in constant communication with the Government and knew the facts. I cannot, therefore, understand his attitude in not disclosing this to the council as reported," Mr. Jones concluded.

RELIEF APPROPRIATION

Officials of the Public Works Department explained further that tentative approval had been given to Saanich plans by Federal officers at \$75,000. Later, when all British Columbia municipalities had put in their plans, it was found necessary to allocate \$50,000 for the purpose and this sum was cut by \$2,500 in the final scaling down, undertaken to comply with Federal requirements, Jones asserted.

The vouchers of any municipality could not be paid until the agreement had been signed and the Provincial Government itself has only just completed the task of the municipal agreements with the Do-

minion Government. The Provincial Government on Monday began mailing the individual agreements to some sixty British Columbia municipalities. In respect to Saanich, its agreement was placed in the hands of the municipal clerk yesterday.

NO DELAY

The Minister of Finance made it clear that the Government decision still held and that Saanich had only to present its agreement, duly signed, and it would get action without delay.

Saanich, as a matter of fact, has not only drawn benefits under the National Employment plan, but has been directly aided by considerable Provincial Government road work in the area and also by Federal road work in regard to Observatory Road on Little Saanich Mountain. The Provincial Government itself has taken hundreds of men from the municipality for work on Provincial highways this fall.

At last night's meeting of the Saanich Council the agreement on relief work was read and the council expressed surprise that the total had been cut from \$50,000 to \$47,500. Reeve Crouch said that the municipality had received no money from the Government so far and that the overdraft at the bank already exceeded by \$20,000 the municipality's legal limit set by the amount of arrears in taxes.

CHEQUES HELD UP

Reeve Crouch said he had conferred with the manager of the Bank of Montreal and had been told that no further extending of the overdraft could be granted until the matter was taken up at headquarters. In view of this, the reeve said, he had held up the teachers' cheques, amounting in all to \$12,000. His action was concurred in by the council.

Provision had been made, however, to pay relief workers on Thursday night by holding back other accounts.

The council decided to sign the relief programme agreement, but declined to accept the Provincial Government's offer of financing, it being felt the municipality could do this better itself. All relief work will cease on Thursday, but improvements to Observatory Road will be resumed on January 4.

Colonist Jan 10, 1932

SAYS CREDIT UNIMPAIRED

Hon. J. W. Jones Scores T. D. Pattullo for Mainland Attack on Ministry

Categorical answer to statements credited to T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, made in a recent Mainland address, was given by Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, yesterday, in a prepared statement which was issued with the sanction of the Provincial Government. The statement charged Mr. Pattullo with an attack on the credit of the province, and repudiated assertions as to its financial standing.

The statement issued by Mr. Jones was as follows:

"The recently reported remarks of the Leader of the Opposition at Vancouver concerning the finances of this province were most unwarranted and calculated to impair the credit of British Columbia. Were it not for this fact the gross revenues of the province would be increased by \$26,580,400 in 1928-29, and that the policies and projects to which he was a party were constantly increasing in volume so that by 1931-32 the provincial budget, on the same basis, would require an additional sum of \$1,894,888 per annum, or an aggregate sum of \$26,580,400."

"Obviously the finances of this province, of other provinces and of the Federal Government itself, have been adversely affected by the world-wide economic depression

B.C. CABINET ENJOYS LULL

Municipal Problems May Be Subject of Early Government Pronouncement

Affairs of government moved quietly for the Province yesterday, with half of the Cabinet absent on business or through ill health. Premier Tolmie, Hon. N. S. Loughheed, Hon. S. L. Howe, Hon. W. A. McKenzie and Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe were at their desks as usual.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn and Hon. J. W. Jones paid flying visits to their constituencies in the Interior. Hon. R. H. Pooley, K.C., and Hon. William Atkinson were suffering with colds taken at the Christmas season, but expect to be about again shortly.

REVISE ESTIMATES

The period between Christmas and New Year's coincides with a lull in demands on the Government's time, the respite being taken by all departmental heads as an opportunity to revise their estimates for the next fiscal year, and

The fact is self-evident to anyone who reads the newspapers. Hence, it is extremely unfortunate for the credit of British Columbia, during these universally critical times, that the Leader of the Opposition should so grossly distort the condition of our provincial finances in a futile attempt at self-aggrandizement," continued the Minister of Finance.

"No Government contemplated the sudden change in international finances encountered with all governmental financing today, and I hardly think that the Leader of the Opposition could foresee what was not apparent to the most eminent experts of the world. Therefore, it is not only absurd but extremely childish to blame this or any other Government for the existing state of world-wide conditions.

"One day the Leader of the Opposition speaks in glowing terms of the recuperative powers of British Columbia; the next day, with political motives, he endeavors to embarrass the Tolmie Government. One day he states that he would do nothing to injure the credit of this province, and then, with a very sudden and convenient lapse of memory, emphatically does so," Mr. Jones continued.

HOW IT BALANCED

"Mr. Pattullo is quoted as saying: 'The first thing that the Liberal Government did was to take steps to balance our budget.' It is interesting to recall that during nearly twelve years in office the Liberal Government had only two small surpluses aggregating \$452,124, compared with ten deficits aggregating \$17,109,399, or a net deficit during the period of \$16,657,275.

Expenditures during that period rose from \$9,349,000 per annum in 1917-1918, to \$26,580,400, in 1928-29. "In view of this I think Mr. Pattullo would be well advised to be more circumspect in his criticisms, especially when he refers to the Tolmie Government, 'indulging in a mad orgy of spending.' He is either conveniently forgetting or disregarding facts when he forgets to mention that the gross public debt of this province as at March 31, 1917, was \$25,521,860, and that the liability handed over to the Tolmie Government in August, 1928, had increased to a total of \$117,452,568."

"Mr. Pattullo advocates a land policy, apparently also forgetting that the Government of which he was a member, found it necessary to expend \$26,580,399 in 1928-29, and that the policies and projects to which he was a party were constantly increasing in volume so that by 1931-32 the provincial budget, on the same basis, would require an additional sum of \$1,894,888 per annum, or an aggregate sum of \$26,580,400."

are passing through, Mr. Pattullo should stand out so conspicuously among the men in public life today throughout Canada as the sole and lamentable example of a politician, who, thinking more of himself than of the welfare of our people, stoops to criticize in the manner he has adopted the financial stability of British Columbia. One may search the columns of the press in

to make some headway on suggested legislation for the next session.

Officials of the Works Department were busy mailing municipal agreements for relief programmes, and those of the Finance Department were at work on the distribution of liquor profits and pari-mutuel receipts by cheques to the various municipalities.

Delegations, usually heard at the rate of four or five a day, dropped to a low minimum, and the routine of government moved smoothly forward, without excitement.

MUNICIPAL REVENUES

Early in the new year an announcement is expected of what the Government intends to do in relation to grants to municipalities in the fiscal year 1932-33. Those from the Department of Education, it has already been intimated, will be materially less.

It is considered likely, however, that any reduction in cash grants to be received by the municipalities next year will be made up in additional revenue opportunities to be placed in the hands of these centres. Just what form these measures will take has not yet been outlined, but the principle of direct municipal collection is believed to be a part of the plan.

OBLIGATIONS REDUCED

"We do not owe the bank \$10,000,000 as alleged by Mr. Pattullo. Our obligations to the bank are \$3,500,000 less than they were when the Government, of which Mr. Pattullo was a member, handed over to the business of the province to the Tolmie Government.

"With respect to short term financing, when this Government assumed office there was outstanding approximately \$22,000,000 which matured within six months, all of which could have been disposed of on long term issues at most attractive prices. However, due to the procrastination of the late Government, and in spite of the most eminent advice to go to the market for long term issues, they failed to do so, with a resultant loss to the province of \$2,598,702.

"The amount of our own short term financing, which has been yielded at exceedingly low interest yields, is much less than that of the former Government. The last provincial loan, a five-year term issue, was purchased in May last at a cost not exceeding 4.29 to the province.

"In dealing with the exchange situation the Dominion Government has come to the assistance of all provinces, not only British Columbia, in connection with New York maturities. As I have already said, the condition is one over which no Government has any control. This province has no maturities falling due in New York until December, 1932, and these are for a comparatively small amount which were floated there some two years ago.

UNWARRANTED ASSERTION

"The unjustified insinuation of the Leader of the Opposition that we are using trust funds is very misleading. With regard to the Superannuation Fund and Teachers' Superannuation Fund these contributions are all invested as and when the receipts come in, allowing only sufficient cash to pay out the monthly vouchers. To date all funds available are invested. All other funds, such as Official Guardian, Intestate Estates, Sutors' Funds and Liquor Funds are dealt with strictly in accordance with statutory authority. The inference of the Leader of the Opposition is, therefore, entirely unwarranted," Mr. Jones declared.

"It is very much to be regretted that, in critical times such as we

are passing through, Mr. Pattullo should stand out so conspicuously among the men in public life today throughout Canada as the sole and lamentable example of a politician, who, thinking more of himself than of the welfare of our people, stoops to criticize in the manner he has adopted the financial stability of British Columbia. One may search the columns of the press in

other provinces and would fail to find similar petty and petulant attacks; attacks which will be read with regret by those who have the welfare of our province at heart," concluded Mr. Jones.

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Province
Jan 7, 1932

PATTULLO FAVORS AID FOR SETTLERS

Declares Unemployed Need Measure of Assistance To Get Started.

Mr. F. D. Pattullo, leader of the Liberal party in British Columbia, has issued the following statement:

"With reference to suggestion which I made that a vigorous land settlement policy, sponsored by the Dominion Government in conjunction and co-operation with the province and the two national railways should be carried out, newspaper despatches state that in reply to my suggestion a high official at Ottawa made a statement that such a policy had already been inaugurated and that during the last nine months 42,000 men, women and children had been placed upon the land without cost to the government.

"This is all to the good; the benefits from it will be increasingly felt, and it is well that the public should have the information. It should be pointed out, however, that this does not fully meet the suggestion made by me. The 42,000 persons referred to as having been placed without cost to the government must have had some means. To assist in solving the unemployment problem I have stated that of the large number of unemployed, a very considerable number could be placed on the land with benefit to themselves and the state, but obviously they must have a measure of assistance until they can get their land into production.

"I am not aware that any concerted action along this line has been taken. The problem of land settlement should be dealt with in generous scale upon a continuous basis, and public pronouncement should be made in respect thereof from time to time in order to reassure the public mind."

Colonist
Jan 14, 1932

TO INTRODUCE BUDGET EARLY

Length of Legislative Session Depends on Desire of Members

While Government plans for legislation to be introduced at this session of the Legislature will not be revealed until they are disclosed to a caucus of Conservative members, a desire for a short and intensive working session was evident in official circles yesterday. The budget, it is indicated, will be brought down early and will be accompanied by the Government's programme of other legislation in rapid order.

Speakers from the Government made it clear that they have no intention of avoiding a second sitting of the Legislature after the Easter holidays if this is found necessary; on the other hand, many believe that the business to go before the House can be disposed of before Easter. Night sittings may be employed early in the period to expedite the passage of bills before the House.

Members on the Government side said no attempt would be made to muzzle criticism, a certain amount of which appears to be indispensable to the usual course of a session. On the other hand, the public, it is believed, is in no temper to stand for two-hour harangues about grievances which may have existed in the dim annals of history, and the raking up of which will contribute nothing to the solution of an entirely different set of problems of today.

Champion long-distance orators of the Legislative Assembly are likely to be bridled by their political chieftains early in the session, as with twenty-seven working days before Easter there will be little time for verbal displays in the face of a genuine programme of urgent business waiting to be done.

and similar petty and petulant attacks; attacks which will be read with regret by those who have the welfare of our province at heart," concluded Mr. Jones.

Province
January 14, 1932

B. C. Election This Year, Is Pattullo's Tip \$20,000,000 "Wasted" By Tolmie Government, He Charges.

PRINCE RUPERT, Jan. 14.—At the annual meeting of the Prince Rupert Liberal Association, T. D. Pattullo, leader of the Liberal party in British Columbia, and member for the district, made a fighting speech in which he roundly attacked what he characterized as the incompetency of the Tolmie administration. He declared that in 1916 the Liberal administration had been called upon to pull the country out of its financial difficulties, so now he expected to be called upon to do the same and bring back prosperity to the province. While he did not crave the position, somebody had to clean up the situation, and he was prepared to do it, he said.

Mr. Pattullo declared that the present government experiment had cost the province more than \$20,000,000 that had been wasted. Road machinery had been purchased, and there now was no money to operate it. Camps had been built, and there was no money to utilize them. He charged that there had been an outrageous orgy of partisan expenditures, and asked why it was that, even in the city of Prince Rupert, some party magnate was lordling it over the others, and not allowing a man to get a job without applying to him and joining the party. The government today owed the bank more than \$10,000,000, and was in the disgraceful situation where its cheques had to be held back because there was no money to pay them, he said.

While the government had from fifteen to eighteen months of legal life, Mr. Pattullo said he believed it would go to the country this year, forced to do so by the financial situation. During the coming session, the opposition would demand an investigation into the employment and financial situation, and put all the members on record in regard to it.

Finally, the speaker said that it had been rumored that he would seek a seat in Southern British Columbia, but he assured them that, if Prince Rupert would stay right here. He suggested it would be a rather nice thing to extend his sixteen years of representation into twenty.

Province
Jan 19, 1932

WILLIAM DICK QUITS AS TORY TREASURER

Friends Claim He Was Dissatisfied With Conduct Of Association.

VICTORIA, Jan. 19.—William Dick, M.L.A., of Vancouver, has resigned as treasurer of the British Columbia Conservative Association. His resignation was announced here today by Lindley Crease, K.C., president, who said he had received a telegram from Mr. Dick, giving no reason for his retirement.

Mr. Dick's closest political friends here said that he had been dissatisfied for a long time with the conduct of the association, particularly its finances. He threatened to resign last year if the cause of his complaints were not removed. At the recent Nanaimo meeting of the association he was re-elected by acclamation along with all the other officers.

The Nanaimo convention ordered the provincial executive to form a committee to confer with Vancouver Conservatives on the internal difficulties of the party there. This has not yet been done, but action will be taken shortly.

Colonist
Jan 23, 1932

If Sold P. G. E. Must Be Constructed Into Peace, Says Premier

Completion of Line at Both Ends Will Be One of Terms in All Negotiations—Legislature Must Ratify Any Agreement

VANCOUVER, Jan. 22.—Completion of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, both into the Peace River area and into North Vancouver, definitely will be one of the terms under which the railway will be sold, Premier S. F. Tolmie declared here tonight.

The Premier was en route to Victoria after addressing the fruit growers at Vernon. He left later for the Capital.

Tomorrow morning the Premier and his committee will discuss terms of sale with the representatives of one of the several bidders for the railway.

NO DETAILS READY

Dr. Tolmie stated, however, that they were by no means on the verge of a sale yet, and for this reason he could not divulge any details as to who was making the offer or what was being offered.

For one thing, the Premier explained, the Government must be thoroughly convinced of the responsibility and financial backing of any party before a deal can be made. Before negotiations can be definitely closed the terms will have to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for consideration.

AID FOR UNEMPLOYED

Regarding relief arrangements for unemployed, Dr. Tolmie is hopeful that the men in camps can be put to work again very shortly. A committee now is considering this matter. He could not yet say what hours the men will work or what the remuneration will be, but he intimated it would be sufficient for

them to pay their board and something over to buy smokes and socks. In this way, he said, the men would not feel that they were the objects of charity.

Furthermore, he added, the work done on the roads will be worth something to the province also.

CLEARING FARM LAND

He expressed agreement with the proposal of the Minister of Land, Hon. Nels Lougheed, that some of the unemployed be put to work partially clearing suitable agricultural lands in the Fraser Valley. He was not in accord, however, with any suggestion that men be placed wholesale on the land to work as farmers.

Great discrimination, he stated, must be shown in actually placing men on the land. They must demonstrate their adaptability for farming, and he intimated that some financial resources were a necessity.

At Vernon, he remarked, he pointed out that the older farmers had achieved their success by dint of hard work and perspiration. The attitude of some of the present generation, he said, had rather suggested they might be anti-perspirationists. When the older farmers first went on the land they

knew they had to work to be successful, and that if they failed they did not have a Government to fall back on.

RESPECT TO FLAG

The Premier did not see why an outcry should be raised about Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, Minister of Education, and "flag waving." Surely, he suggested, teaching the youngsters to respect the flag can do no harm. For many of the young foreign settlers in the country, he believed, it was an excellent plan to teach them what the flag stood for. Waving the flag and saluting it was at least harmless, he said, and in many cases might do a great deal of good.

Personally, the Premier declared, he was proud of being a British Columbian, a Canadian, and a good Britisher, and was glad to pay respect to the flag any time.