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The Daily Colonist.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1909

THIRD SESSION OPENS WITH USUAL CEREMONY

Three O'clock Has Been Set For Arrival of Lieutenant-Governor

The third session of the present Parliament will open this afternoon at 3 o'clock with the usual brief ceremonies. At the hour mentioned the lieutenant-governor will drive up to main entrance of the Parliament buildings where a guard of honor from the Fifth Regiment, under the command of Capt. W. N. Winsby and Lieutenants H. H. Wollison and T. D. Veitch, will parade. From his office the governor will proceed to the speaker's chair in the legislative hall and there read the speech from the Throne. The whole affair will probably not occupy over fifteen minutes. The usual large gathering of guests and sightseers, however, is expected. The officers of the army, navy and militia in the city will be present as well as a large number of invited guests. Chairs for these have been placed in the hall, and there is but little space left vacant. The walls of the hall itself have been hung with crimson curtains, which add to its appearance, although this feature has been added merely to help out the acoustic properties of the chamber.

The regular business of the session will not commence until tomorrow, and the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, will be moved, as already stated in the Colonist, by H. G. Parsons of Golden. The seconded will be Fred. Davey, M.P.F. for this city.

In the evening a formal dinner will be given at Government House at which the members of the house and others will be present.

INTERVIEW MINISTERS ON CIVIC LEGISLATION

Delegation From the Union of Municipalities Visits the Executive

A delegation from the Union of Municipalities, appointed at the recent meeting of that body at Vernon, waited on the government yesterday with requests as to the legislation they desire during the coming session on municipal subjects. Afterwards they had another interview with the attorney general. The deputation consisted of Mayor Keary of New Westminster, the chairman, Mayor Hall of Victoria, ex-Mayor Planta of Nanaimo, ex-Mayor Keeley of North Vancouver, Reeve Byrne of Burnaby and Reeve Bose of Surrey. They were accompanied by J. P. Mann, city solicitor for Victoria, and W. G. McQuarrie, city solicitor for New Westminster.

The principal requests made to the executive were two in number. The first was a suggestion based on a resolution passed by the Union of Municipalities that the Provincial government take over the Anti-Tuberculosis sanitarium at Tranquille. The second was that the province establish a home for aged and indigent men, and be responsible for the upkeep of the same. The proposal was that the cities and municipalities in various parts of the province send their aged poor to this central institution paying in accordance with the number of inmates despatched. It was thought that this would be a great assistance to the smaller towns and be a much more economical arrangement all round. It was also believed that it would be self-supporting and so not a source of expense to the government. The executive took the matter under advisement.

With the attorney general the question of a number of desired amendments to the Municipal Clauses act were taken up. One request was refused, this being the suggestion that the tenure of office for mayor be extended to two years. It was also suggested that the aldermen be elected for a similar period, half at a time. The attorney general could not see his way to grant this, and it may be remarked, this plan was tried and abandoned in Vancouver.

On the question of the licensing of clubs so as to enable some control to be exercised over the less desirable ones, the minister was able to assure the delegation that he had prepared a bill dealing with the question, which will be brought down during the present session. An outline of the main provisions of the new enactment will be found elsewhere.

There were a number of other points taken up, most of which have merely a local application. These will be considered by the government and it is possible that some of them will find their way into law during the next few weeks.

IMPORTANT MEASURES MAY BE BROUGHT IN

Forecast of Some of the Legislation Expected at Coming Session

So far the session of Parliament which opens today bears no promise of being a sensational one, although there are several measures of importance to be introduced by the government. One of these deals with the superannuation clauses of the Civil Service Act, as foreshadowed last session. It was intended to bring this down at once, but now the date of its introduction is uncertain. The expert actuary, Moses B. Cotsworth, of York, England, upon whom the government is relying for some of the expert information needed, has not yet arrived. He was expected here shortly before Christmas, and indeed telegraphed that he would be here on that date. He is, however, engaged upon similar work for the British government and has been unable to get away. It is hoped that he will be here soon, but the date of his arrival is uncertain and in the meantime the bill is hung up.

Another very important bill is the new Water Clauses Act, upon which the Hon. F. J. Fulton, K.C., has been at work for some time. It contains over 300 sections and embodies a number of important innovations, the results of experience gained here and elsewhere, which will be received with interest by those wishing to take up water records for irrigation or power purposes. The exact nature of the changes from existing legislation has not been disclosed, but the new bill is likely to have been influenced by the convention of expert irrigationists which met at Vernon last summer.

Another act, which has been expected by the legal profession, will be one authorizing the consolidation of the British Columbia statutes, which have not been revised since 1897. The matter, as is customary, will be placed in the hands of a commission of one or more lawyers.

The Club Licensing Bill is sure to arouse a good deal of interest and some discussion, though when its provisions are made known it will be seen that no respectable clubs will be in any way affected beyond the necessity of taking out a license. Briefly the act will ensure that every club in which liquor is sold or supplied to members will be obliged to take out an annual license of \$100, which may be cancelled at any time by the attorney-general. The license will be granted by the Superintendent of Provincial Police on the written instructions only of the attorney-general, and no liquor may be sold or supplied without this license.

To Appoint Inspector.

An inspector of clubs will be appointed under the orders of the Superintendent of Provincial Police and, upon receipt of complaints of improper conduct, or if the authorities have reason to believe that such is going on, the Superintendent or the inspector or someone authorized by the former will have authority to enter any of the clubs at any time and examine the books, and especially the porch book, and generally make such enquiries as may be necessary to see that the privileges granted to clubs are not being abused. Clubs organized under the Friendly and Benevolent Societies Act will not be eligible for licenses, and so will not be able to sell liquor. One of the offenses entailing the forfeiture of license will be the selling or providing of liquor to a minor.

It is, perhaps, needless to say that this legislation is not aimed at respectable clubs, such as, for instance, the Union Club, the Pacific Club or the Vancouver Club. It is not anticipated that the inspector will ever darken the doors of these institutions. But the attorney-general's department has for a long time past been in constant receipt of complaints from all parts of the province, about alleged clubs which are nothing better than dives. Men who, on account of their record, have been refused licenses have frequently started these clubs, and it has been found that the existing machinery is inadequate to cope with the evil.

To control of the whole machinery has been designedly kept within the hands of the attorney-general's department, under whose guidance the Superintendent of Provincial Police and the inspector will act. In this way all possibility of an overzealous, newly-appointed official going officiously outside the spirit of the new enactment has been removed.

There are also likely to be amendments to the University Act and the Land Act. In the latter case the government has been pressed to make amendments along the line of a longer, certain tenure of timber licenses, though what, if any, changes will be made is not known. It is believed that

there will be no change in the law affecting the taking up of Crown lands. A number of transportation companies, as announced from time to time in the columns of the Colonist, are also seeking charters.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The British Columbia legislature will be opened today by the usual formal speech from the Lieutenant-Governor. "Speeches from the Throne," are no longer documents of any special interest. Usually they are noteworthy chiefly for what they say nothing about. Neither in Victoria nor in Ottawa, have governments the practice of taking the members very fully into their confidence at the opening day of the session, and the representative of His Majesty generally favors his audience with a little vague information about something that every body knows already. Hence we do not look for anything in the nature of a surprise in what Lieutenant-Governor Dunsmuir may say today, although we would not suggest that the absence of such material is to be taken as foreshadowing an unimportant or uneventful session. Certain things will certainly be mentioned, if the time-honored practice is followed, such as the prosperity of the province, the Tercentenary of the founding of Quebec, the centenary of the discovery of the Fraser, the lamented death of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere and the success of the various fruit exhibits. During the year the Fernie disaster called for measures of relief not contemplated when supply was granted, and the rapid development of the province has made essential large outlays that were necessarily unforeseen. Constitutional practice requires matters of this kind to be reported to the Legislature, and probably the Lieutenant-Governor will be asked to make reference to them. The same remark applies to the negotiations carried on by the government with the Grand Trunk Pacific railway company. His Honor can hardly fail to refer to the creation of the Department of Works in pursuance of the Act passed at the last session.

We do not anticipate a forecast of much new legislation, but in view of the implied promise, given last year we shall expect the government to make some announcement in regard to its irrigation policy. At the very outset of the investigation of this question, Mr. Fulton, who had the matter in charge, was confronted by the problem involved in the storage and distribution of water. The question is full of difficulties, for rights hitherto acquired by private individuals had to be considered, and the best means of handling this necessary water, could not be determined off-hand. As it is well known that the subject has been receiving the attention of the government during the recess, we anticipate some announcement about it today.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1909

LEGISLATURE IN SESSION

For the Third Time the Eleventh Parliament Gathers

WAS A BRILLIANT OPENING

Galleries and Floor of House Crowded to Hear Speech From the Throne

With all the pomp and circumstance that tradition makes imperative upon great occasions, the third session of the eleventh Legislature of British Columbia was formally opened by Lieutenant-Governor James Dunsmuir. The usual "Speech from the Throne," the message intended to outline the legislation that is to come before the House, was very brief. It was a recital of past events, with an exceedingly small mixture of prophecy. Reference was made to the Fernie fire, the Quebec Tercentenary, the death of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, and the success of the British Columbia fruit exhibits at the exhibitions in Great Britain. Practically the only mention of future legislation was in the clauses regarding a bill for "the more effectual and equitable distribution of water" in connection with the expanding fruit-growing industry, and that relating to the projected civil service pension bill.

The initial sitting of the Legislature was this year, as customary, almost purely formal, and immediately after the opening ceremonies adjournment was taken until 2 o'clock this afternoon. The usual motions regarding the election of members by illegal practices, etc., were adopted. Hon. Dr. Young, Minister of Education, presented the 37th annual report on the public schools of British Columbia, prepared by the superintendent of education. Hon. Mr. Tatlow, Minister of Finance, presented the 37th annual report on the public accounts. The Minister of Education presented a report on the free text-book branch, and the Attorney-General an act to amend the "Magistrates' Act." The debate that marked the opening of the last session was conspicuously absent—the Socialist leader also.

An Interesting Pageant.

As a pageant, however, the opening of the Legislature was a distinctly interesting event. All the time-honored observances that have formed a part of Parliaments ever since Parliaments have been, were carried out with spirit and dignity. The seats reserved for spectators on the floor of the House were filled, while in the galleries there was not a vacant chair. The scene that resulted was a brilliant one.

The Legislative Chamber lent itself to the picturesque more than in former years. The curtains of dark red material that have been draped from the galleries to improve the acoustic properties of the place, also add to the scenic properties of the chamber. Against the backgrounds of this the rich gowns of the lady guests gave new color and light, while the sombre black of the members grouped in the centre of the room added the quality of legislative dignity. In the well-filled galleries the color effects were repeated. To the left of the Speaker the little group of official visitors, some of them in picturesque uniform, made another interesting detail. The Japanese Consul was present in the uniform of the diplomatic corps, with all his decorations. His Lordship the Bishop of Columbia wore the red hood and bands of the Doctor of Divinity. Among the other guests in this group were Father Brabant, Mr. Abraham Smith, United States Consul, Carl Lowenberg, the German Consul, Senator Macdonald, and others.

Premier Enters.

Promptly at 3 o'clock the government members, led by Premier Mc Bride, filed in and took their places. The new minister of works, Hon. Thomas Taylor, took his seat informally, although he had not yet been introduced to the Speaker. Hon. F. I. Carter-Cotton, president of the council, was not in his seat, and Mr. Gardin was also absent. In the ranks of the Opposition, too, there were several vacant chairs. Messrs. Hawthornthwaite, McInnes, and Parker Williams, the Socialist members, scorned to give countenance to the pomp that waits upon royalty, and so their accustomed seats frowned emptiness upon the assemblage. Messrs.

Henderson and Eagleson, of the Liberal wing, were also absent. The familiar face of John Oliver, from Delta, waited at the end of the Opposition phalanx in watchful patience.

Into this scene entered Sergeant-at-Arms Sanders, bearing aloft the mace of state, and the members and guests arose to greet the Lieutenant-Governor. Preceded by a guard of honor of officers, whose brilliant full-dress uniforms added new color to the picture, the Lieutenant-governor passed up the aisle, his escort forming line on either side, and took his place on the Speaker's chair. The message concluded, he retired with his cohort; His Lordship the Bishop of Columbia read the opening prayers, and the Speaker declared the legislative session opened.

After these formalities it required but a few minutes for the members of the government to get through the routine matters in hand and move an adjournment. The general opinion seems to be that the session will be a brief one—"short and to the point," as one minister put it.

It is probable that W. H. Hayward, M.P.F., Cowichan, will be the next Conservative whip, although the names of W. R. Ross, M.P.F., Fernie, and Dr. McGuire, junior member for Vancouver, have also been mentioned.

The Speech in Detail.

The Lieutenant-governor's speech was as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It affords me much pleasure, in meeting you at the opening of another session, to be able to congratulate you upon the prosperity which has prevailed throughout the province during the past year and the indications of continual progress which are manifest on every hand.

The almost complete destruction of Fernie by fire, though it caused serious loss, served to awaken the indomitable energy and enterprise of the people of the province, and resulted in the speedy rebuilding of the city on a more substantial scale. My government took prompt measures for the relief of the municipality and individual sufferers, and you will be asked to approve of such action.

Messages of sympathy were received from His Majesty the King and His Excellency the Governor-General; and from various parts of Canada, as well as from Great Britain, Australia and the United States, came assistance and sympathy for the sufferers.

The Tercentenary celebration of the founding of Quebec, and the Centenary of Fraser's overland journey to the Pacific and discovery of the Fraser river, were two notable events of the past year. At the former it was my privilege to represent British Columbia and to donate, on behalf of the province, a substantial sum to the fund for the preservation and nationalization of the Quebec battlefields. My government was also called upon to assist in the very successful celebration of the Simon Fraser centenary at New Westminster.

It is my sad duty to refer to the death of my esteemed and distinguished predecessor in office, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, whose demise was regarded throughout the Dominion as a national loss. His amiability, courtesy and kindness in private life, and his sterling qualities as a public man, won for him the love and respect of all classes, and his memory will long be cherished by Canadians.

I have again to congratulate the horticulturists of the province on the remarkable success they have achieved with British Columbia fruit at the exhibition in Great Britain. The minister of finance and agriculture, who assisted in the work this year, is also to be congratulated on the favorable impression made by him upon the press and public of the Motherland. I must also express my gratification in the fact that British Columbia fruit-growers won several thousand dollars in prizes at the Spokane apple show, where the fruit was in competition with the principal fruit-growing states of the Union.

The rapid development of the province and the extension of settlement in new districts, necessitating the construction of roads, trails and bridges, the establishment of new schools and the surveying of large areas of agricultural lands, have rendered extraordinary expenditure imperative during the recess. You will, therefore, be asked to confirm certain disbursements made under the authority of special warrant.

The negotiations between my government and the Grand Trunk Pacific railway company respecting the town-site of Prince Rupert have been concluded, and the work of surveying, subdividing and laying out the new city is proceeding satisfactorily.

In consequence of the rapidly increasing demand for water for irrigation and power purposes, coincident with the expansion of the fruit-growing industry, you will be asked to consider a bill for the more effectual and equitable distribution of water required to meet the new conditions.

The act passed at the last session, providing for the creation of a department of works, has been put in force, and a minister of works appointed. It is confidently expected that the new arrangement will be found effective in expediting the public service in connection with the public lands and the carrying out of public works.

The public accounts for the past financial year will be at once submitted for your consideration, as well as the estimates for the coming year.

In leaving you to your deliberations, I have every confidence that they will result in promoting the welfare and prosperity of the province.

OPENING SESSION OF NEW PARLIAMENT

Many Subjects Referred to in the Speech From the Throne

Ottawa, Jan. 21.—The formal opening of the first session of the eleventh parliament of Canada took place at three this afternoon with the usual brilliant ceremonies. The speech from the throne was as follows:

Honorable Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—In welcoming you to the performance of your duties at the first session of the new parliament, I desire to acknowledge with devout thankfulness the abundant harvest with which divine providence has blessed us.

Honored by the gracious presence of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as representing His Majesty at the celebration of the Quebec Tercentenary, marked an epoch in the history of the Dominion. The generous support given to this national celebration by the federal parliament and provincial legislatures and by the people of Canada, of the other dominions and of the United Kingdom, emphasized the community of sympathy which binds the various parts of the British Empire to each other and to the throne. The presence of representatives from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Newfoundland and from the Great and friendly republics of France and the United States, with the ships of war of the three nations, served not only to add lustre to the occasion but to provide an assurance of increasing amity and peace.

I have much pleasure in announcing that a treaty relating to the great lakes and other international waterways has been agreed upon between His Majesty and the government of the United States of America, and is now awaiting ratification. Both countries are to be congratulated on having arrived at an amicable settlement, which I trust will remove during the lifetime of the treaty many questions in the field of controversy. The treaty and papers relating thereto will be laid before you in due course.

A little more than a year ago the whole civilized world entered into a period of commercial, industrial and financial depression which may not yet have completely spent its force. Signs there are, however, that it is gradually passing away. Whilst it is hardly disputable that owing to the abundant and elasticity of her resources, Canada has suffered less than other nations, this depression has seriously affected our trade, producing an appreciable shrinkage in the public revenue and calling for exceptional caution in the administration of the national affairs.

The rapid settlement of the new provinces calls for new lines of transportation. The construction of the transcontinental railway has been vigorously pressed forward during the last year. The line was open for the carrying of the crops from Winnipeg to the Battle river, a distance of 675 miles.

Exploratory surveys for a railway from the western wheat fields to Hudson's Bay are being pushed forward. Parties have been at work since August last. Upon their report it will be possible to reach a decision as to both the route to be followed and the approximate cost. The provision of the Dominion Land Act of last session for the sale of pre-emptions and purchased homesteads has created a new source of revenue that will be sufficient to bear the cost of the railway to Hudson's Bay without burdening the ordinary revenue. From September first, when the act came into force, until January first, sales of pre-emptions and purchased homesteads have amounted to over two million acres, all subject to homestead settlement conditions.

The total volume of immigration has not reached the high figure of previous years, but the number of those seeking homes on our unoccupied lands has been fully maintained during the last season, and owing to the ever closer supervision of the immigration branch of the public service, the character of these new inhabitants of Canada seems to be of the highest and promises no small addition to the wealth of the country.

The government of the United Kingdom having expressed its willingness to include a representative of Canada among the delegates to the conference held at Shanghai to investigate the opium trade, my government has been pleased to welcome an offer so significant of Canada's growing importance, and on its recommendation the government of the United Kingdom has accordingly appointed a member of the Dominion parliament to be a member of the commission.

Representatives of Canada participated lately in the permanent establishment and organization of the international institution of agriculture, with its headquarters at Rome, an event of interest to our colony, in whose economic system agriculture plays so great a part. It is gratifying to note that among the forty-eight states adhering to the institute recognition of Canada's agricultural importance was shown by the election of our representatives to some of the highest offices of the institute.

The appalling calamity which has befallen Sicily and Southern Italy and

caused a total destruction of life and property absolutely unprecedented and unequalled in the long series of historic disasters, has induced my government to offer assistance for the immediate relief of the hundreds of thousands of sufferers who were helpless against famine and all its consequent horrors. I confidently hope that you will approve its action.

In pursuance of an announcement made during the concluding session of the last parliament, a commission was appointed to examine the various lines of railway connected with the inter-colonial railway and which might become valuable feeders thereto. The report of this commission has been received, and will be placed before you.

The commissioner appointed for investigation of the conduct of officers in the department of Marine and Fisheries has concluded his labors, but has not reported. His report, however, is expected at an early date, and when received, will be placed in your hands.

A measure will be submitted to you, based upon similar legislation enacted in 1906 by the parliament of the United Kingdom, aiming at repression of the payment of secret commissions and gratuities in both public and private business. You will be asked to consider measures relative to insurance, the civil service, immigration, naturalization and other subjects.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—The accounts of the past year will be laid before you. The estimates for the coming year will be submitted at an early date; they have been prepared with a due regard for economy, consistent with the requirements of the public service.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate, Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—I pray divine providence that it may guide your deliberations and that they may tend to a further increase in the prosperity of our country and the well-being of our people.

BIG SURPLUS AGAIN SHOWN BY GOVERNMENT

Public Accounts for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1908, Are Brought Down

The public accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1908, presented by Hon. R. G. Tatlow, minister of finance, at the opening of the session yesterday, show a net surplus of \$1,388,381.78. The surplus for the preceding year amounted to \$1,249,594.49. Despite the redemption of debentures to the extent of \$686,000 the increase in the surplus amounts to \$138,787.29. The chief factor was the increase in the receipts from timber royalty and licenses, an increase over the previous year of \$1,103,220.53. Land sales were not as great during the same term as in the twelve months preceding. Largely owing to the government's policy of reserving land for the

pre-emptor, the sales fell off over \$100,000.

There are many other reasons for the increased surplus. The province received from the Dominion government \$345,000 as its share of the Chinese headtax, and if British Columbia laments the influx of Orientals the treasury has been somewhat enriched thereby.

From the royalty and tax on coal an increase of about \$18,000 is recorded but the tax on minerals to offset this shows a decrease of nearly \$40,000. In registry fees there was an increase of nearly \$20,000.

Against all this increased revenue, there is an increased expenditure shown. Civil government salaries show an increase of \$36,000; to hospitals and charities \$40,000 more than during the preceding year went. Upon education some \$60,000 more than during the preceding fiscal year, was expended.

But the chief increase in expenditure was upon public works. Over \$50,000 more than during the year before was expended. The total amounting to nearly a million and a half. The increase in expenditure under all heads amounted to \$1,398,481.48.

A statement of the revenue and expenditure in tabulated form for the last two years, follows:

EXPENDITURE

Table showing expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1908. Total expenditure: \$4,590,673.18. Categories include Public debt, Civil government (salaries), Administration of justice (salaries), Legislation, Public institutions, Hospitals and charities, Administration of justice (other than salaries), Education, Transport, Revenue service, Public Works (Works and buildings, Government House, Victoria, Roads, streets, bridges and wharves, Irrigation, Surveys), and Miscellaneous.

The following items, not included in the above expenditure, have been paid out of the ordinary revenue of the province—

Table showing items not included in the above expenditure: Shuswap and Okanagan railway, in excess of earnings; Nakusp and Slocan Ry., in excess of earnings; Victoria and Sidney railway, 2 per cent. guarantee of interest on bonds; Dewdney municipality (grant under "Dewdney Municipality Relief Act, 1906"). Total: \$49,395.64.

Comparative Statement of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Province of British Columbia

Table comparing receipts and expenditure for 1906-1907 and 1907-1908. Receipts include Annual payment of interest, Subsidy, Grant per capita, For lands conveyed, Special grant "B.N.A. Act, 1907", Land sales, Land revenue, Survey fees, Rents, Timber leases, Timber royalty and licenses, Free miners' certificates, Mining receipts, Licenses, trade and timber, Licenses, game, Licenses, commercial travellers, Fines and fees of court.

Table of Revenue and Expenditure. Revenue includes Probate fees, Succession duty, Law stamps, Registry fees, Sale of government property, Marriage licenses, Revenue tax, Real property tax, Personal property tax, Wild land tax, Income tax, Mineral tax, Royalty and tax on coal, Revenue service refunds, Tax sale deeds, Tax on unworked Crown-granted mineral claim, Commission and fees on sales for taxes, Printing office, Registered taxes, Bureau of mines, Hospital for the insane, Provincial home, Reimbursements for keep of prisoners, Chinese restriction (Act, 1884, Dominion Statute), Traffic tolls, New Westminster bridge, Dykes Assessment Act, 1905, Log-scaling fees, Miscellaneous receipts.

Interest on investment of sinking funds, Unclaimed money deposits (reverted to the Act 1905), Net revenue.

EXPENDITURE

Table of Expenditure. Public Debt—Interest, Sinking funds, Trustees' account, Sinking fund "Dykes Assessments Adjust Act, 1905", Premium and exchange, Discount and commission, Redemption of Debentures, Civil government (salaries), Administration of justice (salaries), Legislation, Public Institutions (maintenance), Printing office, Hospital for the insane, Museum, Provincial home, Bureau of mines, Fish hatchery, Hospitals and charities, Administration of justice (other than salaries), Education, Transport, Revenue services, Public Works—Works and buildings, Government House, Victoria, Roads, streets, bridges and wharves, Surveys, Irrigation, Miscellaneous.

Less amount of sinking funds as above, charge to investment account, Less redemption of debentures as above, charge against loans, Net Expenditure.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The Public Accounts for the year 1907-1908 are the most striking demonstration of the progress and prosperity of British Columbia, that any one could ask. They show Net Revenue \$5,879,054.96, Net Expenditure \$4,686,349.96, Gross Surplus \$2,292,705.00. From this must be deducted: Redemption of public debt, \$686,000.00; Paid to sinking fund, \$169,927.58; Paid guarantees, \$49,395.64; Total deductions \$904,323.22. This makes the net surplus \$1,388,381.78. We find an increase in net revenue over the previous year of \$1,531,461.15, and in net expenditure of \$436,869.99. The manner in which the provincial revenue has expanded is worthy of special mention. The million-dollar mark was passed in the year ending June 30, 1892, when the net revenue was \$1,038,237.95. There was a slight decrease in the following year, and a further decrease in the next year, so that the million mark was not again passed until the year ending June 30th, 1898, when the amount was \$1,333,048.24. The increase has been steady since then. The two-million mark was passed in the year ending June 30, 1903, when the amount was \$2,009,412.05. By the close of the year 1905-06, the three million mark was passed, the amount being \$3,044,442.49, and last year, as the figures above given show, the total is not much under six millions. These figures are more eloquent than any words can be of the progress of the province. A new item appears in the receipts of the year, namely the \$100,000 provided for at the last interprovincial conference, an amount which is almost lost sight of among the greater items. Of the provincial revenue

the people of the province would both make themselves heard in no uncertain tones.

Fiscal Policy Attacked.

The fiscal policy of the Government was next taken up. Even Mr. Davey, said the speaker, had not seemed to be satisfied with the taxes on personal property and on income, stating that these should be removed or else readjusted. Yet the Minister of Finance had declared on the floor of the House that he thought the most equitable tax was that on income. Mr. Macdonald agreed with Mr. Davey that the tax on personal property should be readjusted. Taxes on personal property within the municipality should go to the municipality. At present the municipalities had great trouble in raising sufficient revenue, the revenue from land, liquor licenses, etc., not being enough to carry on such work as schools, streets, and so on. If there was to be any change in the personal property tax, the change should divert this revenue from the provincial to the municipal treasury.

Then Mr. Macdonald passed to the matter of beautifying Victoria. It had been suggested, he remarked, on the part of the Premier's own constituency, that something should be done towards beautifying the city of Victoria. "I trust," said he, "that the premier sees to it that he does something for Victoria. In the recent election campaign a great deal was said as to what the defeated Liberal candidate had not done for Victoria. What has Premier McBride ever done for Victoria? If he does not propose to do something this session, when does he propose to do it? If he does so intend, why was there not some mention made of it in the Speech from the Throne?"

The revenue tax then fell under the lash of the leader of the opposition. There was a tax of three dollars levied on every adult in the province, the revenue from which went to the provincial treasury. Those who pay this are in many cases municipal taxpayers. He believed the tax in itself to be legitimate, but there was no reason why people who paid taxes in other forms should be liable to this one also. There was, after all, a growing revenue in the province, and the finance minister claimed a surplus of a million and a half. There was no reason why we should hoard up a surplus, or why, when there was such a surplus, the claims of the municipalities should not be heard as well as those of the unorganized districts. The municipalities had a perfect right to ask for better terms. "Surely," said the speaker, "the honorable gentleman who made 'Better Terms' a byword in British Columbia and throughout Canada cannot deny better terms to the municipalities when they come to ask for them."

Mineral Tax Inadequate.

Speaking next of the mineral tax, Mr. Macdonald declared that this was a burning question in the province and has been for the last six or seven years. It had never been dealt with by this government. In 1893 the premier had promised to take up the question, but this promise had not been fulfilled, and the mineral tax was today the same inequitable tax it was then. As a result the output of minerals in the past years shows a decrease. Outside of the large tonnage of one or two of the Bountiful mines, the mineral output had gone down steadily for the past four or five years. No encouragement had been given by this government to the struggling mine-owner. What should be the greatest industry of the province was languishing under the "do-nothing" policy of the McBride administration.

The Speech from the Throne had said nothing regarding railways. The railway situation in this province was not at the present time the most satisfactory. Two or three years ago Premier McBride had admitted the necessity of encouraging railway construction in the undeveloped parts of British Columbia. But nothing had been done. Last year the Railway Assessment Act had been passed, in order to give the government a pull with the railways, but unfortunately it had only given the government a "pull" with the great railway already constructed. What did the premier intend to do about the new railways?

"I pointed out a year ago," said Mr. Macdonald, "that two-thirds of the revenue of the province is derived from those parts which have been developed by railways. The Kootenays, the Boundary, and southern Vancouver Island. Surely that is sufficient encouragement for the government to do something to encourage railways in other parts of the province."

The Liquor Licenses.

Last session an act had been passed placing in the hands of the attorney-general the administration of the liquor laws in the unorganized districts. This was a dangerous step. The people of this province desired to say something about the liquor licenses in their midst. Whether the laws are administered by popular vote in the localities affected, or by commissioners appointed in that locality confer with a United States forestry expert, but he had not come West. In any case there was little need of haste for a matter of a few months. It was an important matter that should be approached only with a thorough knowledge of all the facts.

"I may say," announced the speaker, "the people wanted something to say. In this instance the government had again followed out that policy of centralization, a bureaucratic policy, that gave them power over the people. The license-holder must knuckle down to the government or else give up his

license. The government had a power that compelled license-holders to become members of the Conservative party, or if they stay until after the next election, members of the Liberal party. How could any man depending on the government of the province be an independent and free-minded elector. The speaker said that he could give instances of this principle working out.

Public Works

The distribution of the appropriations for public works was another question touched upon. It had been pointed out at the last session that constituencies which dared to elect Liberals were punished by being deprived of their appropriations. In the estimates only about one-half the average appropriations was given them. The speaker hoped that his honorable friend would this year rise superior to this spirit, and deal fairly and justly with the whole people.

There was another question that must be touched upon in connection with the policy of the government, said Mr. Macdonald. A certain part of the public service was being debased. Government agents in certain parts of the province had been taking part in political campaigns. If the premier did not know this, he would be told now. He would find that government employes went about at elections, provincial and federal, using the public money at their disposal to compel men to vote for the Conservative candidates. This had been done in two constituencies at least. Kootenay and Yale-Cariboo. He had been told on good authority that a government agent at Nelson, once a member of the legislature, went about the constituency during the recent campaign telling the farmers and settlers where public works were being carried out that these would stop if a Liberal were elected. He would ask the premier to investigate and find out whether these things were true. If so, they showed a shocking state of affairs existing in certain parts of the civil service of the province. Other names could be mentioned, and this in face of the cry in British Columbia that there had been interference from Ottawa in the elections of 1907. The provincial politicians would do well to confine themselves to provincial contests, and vice versa. The premier seemed to agree that Dominion politicians should keep away from provincial contests, but what was his opinion as to the other side of the matter?

Land Settlement

As for the settlement of the land in British Columbia, it was at present a case of speculator versus settler. The land laws had apparently been passed and manipulated not for the settlement of the lands but to enable the favored speculator to get rich quick. This government was no more at fault in the matter than former governments, but the course was wrong. One, and the sooner the lands of the province were placed at the disposal of the bona fide settler the better for the province. In the north, the Bulkley and Nechaco valleys were now covered with scrip, wherever there was an acre available. The minister of finance referred to a reserve of 50,000 acres for the settler. The time to deal with this was before the speculator got in. He advocated the policy that had been pursued by the Dominion government in distributing lands in the northwest.

There had been another notable absence in the Speech from the Throne. No mention was there made of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition. This exposition would prove of great value to the mineral, timber and fruit-growing resources of the province. The government should have told the House that it recognized the importance of this and was prepared to give some reasonable grant.

The Premier Replies

Premier McBride arose to reply on behalf of the Government. He congratulated Mr. Macdonald on the latter's assurance that the honorable gentlemen on the Opposition side would do their best to further legislation during the session. He would take him at his word, and so would expect more cordial co-operation from the Opposition than he had in the past. As for the Speech from the Throne, his honorable friend had repeated almost word for word the references made by him in former sessions. The Speech was recognized to be a more or less perfunctory part of the opening exercises. It had been attempted to put in the Speech matters worthy to come from the lips of the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Speech was, in his opinion, in every way suitable. The Premier warmly congratulated Mr. Parson, who moved the address in reply, and Mr. Davey, the seconder.

"The leader of the Opposition has gone to some trouble to embarrass my position with regard to the gentleman who has been chosen as the new Minister of Works," said the Premier. "However, I am very fortunate in my party, and in the men who sit with me in this Legislature. Let me tell all who may have any doubt on the subject that there are nothing but the very best of relations at the present time subsisting among all the members of my party. As for the member for Okanagan, he is all that the honorable friend has said. I have never been importuned in any way regarding any of these Cabinet appointments, and my friends have all shown a trust in me that leaves my hands free for the work I have to do."

Irrigation Measure

Premier McBride dealt at some length with the Quebec Centenary, the Simon Fraser Centenary, and the

Fernie fire, and then passed on to other clauses of Mr. Macdonald's attack. As for the harsh criticism of the Government in not outlining more legislation in the Speech from the Throne, he felt that the speech had done its part. As for the clause regarding the water legislation, he was glad to be assured that when this came before the House the Opposition would aid in making the bill as perfect as possible. The matter had been approached with all possible care, it being realized that serious and difficult complications were likely to arise. Nothing that might come up in the House might cause more trouble in the dry belt than legislation that would affect water rights that had been held and enjoyed for many years. The bill would be presented within a day or two so that the members would have ample time to familiarize themselves with its various clauses.

"It is not often that I can say that the honorable gentlemen opposite have helped me," remarked the Premier at this stage. "They have been often ill-advised. But here is a golden opportunity, and I am glad that they are going to embrace it."

A great deal has been said about the timber question, but the honorable gentleman has left a great deal of doubt as to what he meant. The word "speculator" was one that seemed to be but vaguely defined in the minds of the Opposition members. "I have always held," said the speaker, "that all of us in British Columbia are more or less speculators in the sense that if we have anything and get a chance to sell it at a good price we do not throw it over."

The Land Act

In speaking of lands in the Northwest he would have thought that his honorable friend would have referred to a concession such as that secured by one Mr. Burrows. Would he have Mr. Macdonald advise him that Mr. Burrows was a speculator? What was the policy that had enabled Mr. Burrows to get a concession of almost all the marketable timber in the Northwest? The only criticism he had ever listened to regarding the timber statutes was that which claimed that a twenty-one year lease caused waste. The tenure of the lease should be indefinite, depending on the removal of all the timber. Strong representations on this matter had been made from all parts of the province and the government was at present looking into the thing with a view to bringing down a comprehensive measure that would meet the case. The government had expected to able to "that the Commissioner of Lands has at present in view the establishing of a bureau of forestry to take over the branch of the public service that looks after the prevention of forest fires, the collection of stumpage, etc. There would be a chief forester in charge of this, necessarily a skilled man who could advise the government on all matters of management. British Columbia is unique in that its supply of standing timber differs from any asset of any other province, and so we would have to rely on our own resources in conducting a bureau of forestry."

Many Demands

Passing to the fiscal policy of the government, Mr. McBride said that it would be good politics for the politician to promise that if given control of the treasury he would give back the taxes to the municipalities. The government must go slow. It was true that there was a surplus, but this was due to an unusually happy demand for Crown lands and timber. Great pressure had been brought to bear on the government by cities and rural municipalities, but it was hardly fair to the province to meet these demands. Reckless indulgence in a policy of this kind would spell ruin. The government had a tremendous task in the Northern part of British Columbia, to build trails, roads, schools, and to meet all the needs of the enormous population that was bound to be in that region in a few years. Parliament must be prepared to meet this, and even if there was a surplus, it would be expended in the northern district in a few months.

As soon as the Minister of Public Works had had an opportunity of conferring with the honorable gentlemen opposite the estimates for the year would be presented. They would be this year, as in the past, fair and just. That statement that had been made regarding starving Liberal constituencies was wrong. The leader of the Opposition had heard so long the tuneful voice of the member for Delta, that he had come to the same opinion as that gentleman. The government had been compelled during the past twelve months to ask the Lieutenant-Governor to pass special warrants, and when these were brought in, the members in the Opposition would see that the Liberal constituencies had received much more liberal treatment than the others.

Here Mr. Macdonald arose to say that there may have been some method in this. Mr. McBride replied that in a province so strongly Conservative, no government would expose itself in this way. Then he took up the matter of the beautifying of Victoria. His remarks on this head have been quoted above.

The Mining Situation

Regarding the mineral tax, Mr. McBride confessed that five years ago the government had promised to look into this matter. He admitted that the tax was a burden, but this description would apply equally well to any other species of taxation. He would hail with delight any other scheme that would meet the case. It was a problem the solution of which must be looked for in the dim and distant future. Perhaps his honorable friend might help with a suggestion.

He was sorry to hear the pessimistic views of the opposition on the mining situation. The mining operations of the province were on a sound basis, and they were in careful hands. There was no lack of confidence in the situation either at home or abroad. Reviewing the latest finds and developments in mining, Mr. McBride declared that these things would be impossible if the tax scared people away. The government was extremely optimistic and had every reason to believe that 1909 would be a banner year in mining.

As for the administration of the liquor laws, he did not agree with Mr. Macdonald. While licenses in the unorganized districts had been in charge of the attorney-general the latter had looked to Mr. Hussey for advice in every case. The result of the change had been the destroying of twenty-five licenses, the majority of which had been held by Conservatives. There was absolutely no politics in the administration of this branch, and the result had been distinct improvement in the hotel accommodation of British Columbia.

Mr. McBride stated that he regretted very much to hear that civil servants in the employ of the provincial administration had been taking part in elections. He wanted a clean civil service. He could recount with pain instances of Dominion civil servants taking part in politics. He was sorry to hear of the case of the government agent in Kootenay. Since Mr. Wright took over the office at Nelson there had been a capital administration, and no complaints. It was true that for many years he had been in politics and so perhaps in the heat of the election his enthusiasm had led him in.

The Canadian Northern

In taking up the question of railway construction, Mr. McBride cited the railways at present under construction in the province. He quoted Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's remark that the day for railway subsidies in British Columbia had gone by. He stated that he had been trying for some time to interest the Canadian Northern in British Columbia. He was endeavoring to enter into a fair and equitable arrangement with that road that would at no distant date bring it into the province. Regarding the Grand Trunk Pacific he was glad to be able to tell the House that one hundred miles would be in operation next summer. The corporation had in consideration the letting of further contracts. He welcomed the road, although he had not welcomed the rash and unbusinesslike policy pursued by the Dominion government. He announced that since the House met an arrangement had been reached regarding terminals and papers would be laid on the table as soon as possible.

In conclusion, Mr. McBride paid a touching tribute to the late Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere.

Before adjournment James H. Hawthornthwaite, M.E.P., Socialist member for Nanaimo, was introduced to the speaker by his Socialist confederates, Messrs. McInnes and Williams.

W. R. ROSS WILL BE CONSERVATIVE WHIP

Conservative Majority in Caucus at Parliament Buildings Last Night

A caucus of the Conservative majority in the local house was held in the parliament buildings last evening. It was fully attended, and judging from the remarks let fall afterwards it was a most harmonious and enthusiastic affair. One important matter was there settled, the appointment of the party whip for the session. W. R. Ross, K.C., M.P.P. for Fernie, has been chosen for that important position, while Henry B. Thomson, M.P.P. for Victoria, will be deputy whip.

The secrets of the caucus are well guarded, and nothing was given out last night as to what had transpired. It is known, however, that several of the more important government measures were discussed and met with a favorable reception from the rank and file, many of whom learned of their provisions for the first time. The chief measure was the new Water Clauses bill, providing for the irrigation problem as it presents itself as a result of the changed conditions in the drier sections of the province. This is a matter which has been occupying the attention of the government in general, and the chief commissioner of lands and works in particular, for a long time. It received special attention at the irrigation congress held at Vernon during the summer, which Mr. Fulton attended, and where the experiences of other provinces and states were considered. The advice of many experts has been taken, including that of Prof. Carpenter, the famous Colorado irrigation engineer.

Licensing Clubs.

The attorney-general also explained the provisions of his new bill for the licensing of clubs, an outline of which has already been given in these columns. Another measure brought in by the attorney-general was one for the consolidation of the statutes, which have not been revised since they were taken in hand in 1897 by the late Chief Justice Davie and R. T. Elliott. Since

treasury; but when it comes to projects for the development of the country, the claims of Victoria and Vancouver Island are at least equal to those of any other locality. This observation is not made in any critical spirit. Indeed to criticize a general statement, like that made by Mr. McBride, would be unreasonable. All we are doing today is to indicate to Mr. McBride that, while cordially approving of the announced policy of the government so far as the principle involved is concerned, that policy must, in our humble judgment, be acceptable to the people of this city and this Island, not be confined to railway construction on the Mainland. We congratulate Mr. McBride upon his determination to take hold of this matter. British Columbia needs all the railways it can get, and while we do not undertake to say in advance that we shall support whatever line of action he may decide upon, we do heartily applaud his determination to take action. The province is in splendid condition to undertake a policy of development. We do not say that action has been too long delayed, because we think it was wise to wait until the financial position of British Columbia and the general conditions of the business would warrant the belief that the construction of another transcontinental line through the province could be secured on terms that can be justified. But whatever difference of opinion there may be upon this point, there will be none, we think, upon the wisdom of the conclusion reached by Mr. McBride, namely, to enter upon negotiations with the Canadian Northern to secure its early extension to the coast.

Thursday, January 28, 1909

LIVELY DEBATE IS LOOKED FOR TODAY

Attorney-General and Member For Delta Will Join in Battle

The sole legislation brought before the legislature yesterday was a bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Tatlow, having for its aim the amendment of the Horticultural Boards Act. This bill, which looks to a readjustment of the divisions under the jurisdiction of the horticultural boards of the province, was taken up by the House, and passed its first reading.

The major portion of yesterday's sitting was devoted to debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, that golden opportunity for the member with the grievance. Evidently grievances are numerous this session from the energy with which the representatives of the people rise to debate on the speech from the throne, which means to debate on everything in general.

A wave of interest passed across the legislative chamber when John Oliver (Delta) moved adjournment of the debate, for that meant that Mr. Oliver would be the opening speaker today, and that things would be interesting. When Hon. Mr. Bowser arose to second the motion, the interest grew and magnified. Today's debate, with Messrs. Bowser and Oliver on the floor, will probably be the most interesting feature that this session has as yet presented.

At the opening of the sitting the following petitions were presented:

By Mr. Thomson—From the corporation of the City of Victoria, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the "Victoria Waterworks Act, 1873," and amending acts.

By Mr. Schofield—From E. V. Bodwell and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Goat River Water, Power and Light company, limited.

By Dr. Kergin—From M. King and H. B. Robertson, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Prince Rupert and Port Simpson Railway company.

By Dr. Kergin—From E. M. Tracksell and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Graham Island Railway company.

The following petitions were received:

From the Coldstream Estate Company, Limited, and the White Valley Irrigation and Power company, for leave to introduce a private bill for amalgamation and confirmation of their powers.

From W. K. Houston and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway company.

From the City of Vancouver for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the city's Corporate act.

From John Hopp, for leave to introduce a private bill to consolidate certain placer mining holdings and water rights.

From D. C. Corbin and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Flathead Valley Rail-

way company.

From Malcolm B. King and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Meadow Creek Logging Railway company.

Mr. Tatlow presented a bill intitled "An Act to Amend the Horticultural Board Act." This bill was introduced and read a first time.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was renewed. A. E. McPhillips, K. C., M.P. (Islands) opening for the government side. In referring to the various clauses in the speech he mentioned in connection with the death of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere and the Quebec Tercentenary, the great influence the French-Canadian had upon the destinies of Canada. He spoke of the great pioneers who were responsible for the opening up of the west, and notably Simon Fraser whose centenary was observed last autumn.

The leader of the Opposition had, Mr. McPhillips said, referred rather flippantly to the statement he had attributed to the Premier that the province was bankrupt in 1903. The Premier had never made this statement. He had said that when the present administration came into power the credit of the province was so crippled that extraordinary measures had to be adopted to rehabilitate it. Any one familiar with the circumstances was aware that the government had gone about this in a business like way.

Mr. McPhillips agreed with the Premier as to the advisability of granting a longer tenure in the case of timber leases. It was expedient to take measures to prevent the trusts, whose influence had proved so disastrous in the United States, from gaining a similar foothold here, but if it was possible to make the leases longer it should be done. He was pleased to hear the reports of the members from Greenwood and Skeena with regard to the administration of the liquor laws in the north. Although he believed that the administration of the law should be as rigid and precise as possible. If a man were found to have sold liquor to an intoxicated man several times he should be forever deprived of his license.

The Pre-Emption Problem.

With reference to the alleged discrimination in favor of speculators in the Nechaco and Bulkley valleys, he thought that the government of the day and the Conservative party was hardly to be criticized on its conduct of that region. In 1903 Mr. McPhillips himself had gone through the district with the Premier and Mr. Fulton and had found large tracts of land under reserve. Mr. Fulton had discussed the matter with people in the district, and on his return to Victoria had cancelled the reserves. The Opposition speakers had said that settlers had gone in and found that the land on which they settled had been reserved by somebody else. But the government could not at this early date be criticised on this score. In his own interest the settler should not go into a country until it had been opened up by survey, the building of roads, etc. When this had been done the government would be in a position to give full information as to the available lands. These men who venture now into those regions were not bona fide settlers but in reality speculators, who wished to get hold of some land and hold it until it had increased in value. The leader of the Opposition forgot that he might have applied his mind more successfully to the pioneer settlers of Vancouver Island.

"If I remember well" said Mr. McPhillips, "the leader's voice was heard in the interests of the capitalists rather than on behalf of the settlers."

The government was to be commended for what it had done with regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in this province. If the government had not been alive to the interests of the province, Prince Rupert would have been built on Digby Island, and the province would not be quarter owner in a city destined to be among the greatest in the country.

As for the Alaska-Yukon Exposition, the Leader of the Opposition seemed to think that a special effort should be made by the government to secure representation at that event. The province had been under heavy burdens, and was not getting its full due from the federal government. The exposition was to be national in character, and the great share of the burden should be borne by the dominion.

Referring, in conclusion to the fiscal policy of the administration, Mr. McPhillips stated that the government had reduced taxes year by year, and he saw no reason why, by the increasing exploitation of its natural resources, taxation should not be reduced to the vanishing point finally.

The Socialist Version.

John McInnis, M.P.P. (Grand Forks), came into the debate on behalf of the Socialist minority. He had heard, he said, a great deal of talk about the prosperity of the province and concluded that if a person told the same story often enough he would end by believing it himself. Capital had cut down the wage of the working man, and so was enabled to show greater profits, but this did not spell prosperity to the people generally. The Premier had explained the surplus as due to abnormal conditions. It was due to the alienation of natural resources. For every dollar that went into the provincial treasury many assets were alienated. The government had small reason to throw bouquets at itself when the capitalists of the United

States were coming in here and plundering everything as they had done in their own country.

"What does this great development amount to?" asked the Socialist member. "Today the province has a small population and big rewards. Later there will be a larger population and smaller rewards. We should not be in such feverish haste to alienate our resources. The race is not going to die out in this generation, and there should be something left for the people who are to come after us."

The solidarity of the Empire had been referred to by several speakers, and was very gratifying, but a question of much greater importance was the growing solidarity among the people of the world, who were coming more and more to realize their duty to one another as brothers. As for the movement to nationalize the Quebec battlefields, which had been referred to in the speech from the Throne, the Socialist party was opposed to any such thing. The issues had been dead for centuries, and should not be resurrected.

In seconding the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, the second member for Victoria had complained of the price of coal in Victoria. If coal was too high the people of Victoria should burn wood. The coal mines of Vancouver Island were owned by certain corporations, to which certain rights had been given. They were well within these rights in getting as much as they could for their product. As for the land laws, Mr. McInnis was in a great measure in accord with the Leader of the Opposition. If men had the courage to go to carve out homes for themselves in the unbroken wilderness the government should give them 160 acres each without demanding a cent for payment.

"I note that there was no reference to labor in the speech," said the speaker. "For that reason, we do not need to look for a provincial election this summer. If there were to be elections, there would be ample mention of the dignity of labor, and so forth."

Mr. McInnis closed with a fervent appeal for an act for the compensation of workmen rendered helpless while engaged in industries in the province.

H. C. Brewster, M.P.P. (Alberni) followed. He took exception to the suggestion made by Mr. Davey (Victoria) that the taxes on income and personal property should be abolished.

The people who bore the brunt in the days of stress were the agriculturalists and if the province was now overburdened with wealth these should get the preference. He demanded that something be done to remedy the evils resulting from agricultural lands having been granted under timber leases. He said that all the shore of Quatsino sound was held under pulp concessions and timber leases.

Wages of Mine-Workers

Mr. Brewster again brought up the question of the necessity for an act to secure mine-workers their wages. He knew of several cases where American capitalists had left their workmen unpaid when a mine had given out, the miners not coming under the lien act. He further intimated that he would ask for an appropriation of \$50,000 this session for Alberni.

Speaking of the alleged "land grab" in the Nechaco and Bulkley valleys, Mr. Brewster stated that he had seen letters between one of the surveyors in the employ of the government, and a Seattle capitalist, which incriminated the surveyor. The Seattle man had been informed that there were 27 square miles of black soil in a certain district, while the government report showed that only five per cent. of the soil was fit for agriculture.

W. R. Ross, M.P.P. (Fernie) was the next speaker. He dealt more particularly with the Fernie fire, telling of the heroism of the citizens in rebuilding their city, of the prompt aid rendered by outside cities, the province, and the world in general, and the methods employed in distributing the relief fund. There were at present as many permanent buildings existing as there had been before the fire, and 700 homes had been rebuilt. Concrete and brick were being used in rebuilding, and within two years Fernie would be a greater city than before.

John Jardine, M.P.P. (Esquimalt) terminated the debate for the day. He said that he regretted exceedingly the action of the premier in refusing government aid towards the beautification of the city of Victoria. He did not think the government could do anything that would be more pleasing to the people of Victoria and to the people of British Columbia generally than to take some action in this matter. He thought that at least the government should expend a small sum in the rehabilitation of the monument to Sir James Douglas, seeing that the colonial governor had given the land to the province for the buildings.

Before adjournment Stuart Henderson, M.P.P. (Yale) moved that the name of G. R. Naden, M.P.P. (Greenwood) should be added to the mining committee, and that of G. W. Munro, M.P.P. (Chilliwack) to the committee on agricultural affairs.

HORTICULTURAL BOARD WILL BE CONSTITUTED

There will be a Member From Each of the Four Chief Fruit Districts

The increasing importance of the industry of horticulture is well exemplified by a short bill introduced yesterday by Capt. Tatlow, the minister of agriculture. It comes in the form of an amendment to the Horticultural Board act and provides for a permanent and representative board of horticulture.

The act only contains two sections, the essential part of the latter being here reproduced:

Section 2 of chapter 94 of the Revised Statutes, 1897, being the Horticultural Board act, and amendments are hereby repealed, and the following section is substituted therefor:

"2. There is hereby created a provincial board of horticulture, to consist of three ex-officio members, namely: the minister of agriculture, the deputy minister of agriculture (who shall act as secretary of the board), the chief inspector of fruit pests (who shall act for the province at large), and four members who shall be appointed by the lieutenant-governor-in-council, one from each of the horticultural districts which are hereby created, to wit:

"(1). The first district shall comprise the provincial electoral districts and portions of provincial electoral districts embraced in Vancouver Island and the adjacent Islands;

"(2). The second district shall comprise the portion of the provincial electoral district of Comox, situate on the mainland, the provincial electoral district of Richmond, Dewdney, Delta, Chilliwack, Lillooet, Skeena and Cariboo and the city of Vancouver;

"(3). The third district shall comprise the provincial electoral districts of Kamloops, Yale, Similkameen and Okanagan and the city of Nelson;

"(4). The fourth district shall comprise the provincial electoral districts of Revelstoke, Columbia, Kaslo, Slokan, Greenwood, Grand Forks, Ymir, Cranbrook and Fernie, and the city of New Westminster."

INCREASES ASKED FOR IN APPROPRIATIONS

The Spending Departments Will Likely Ask for More Money This Year

Capt. Tatlow is understood to have a large surplus this year, and members from every corner of the house appear to have designs on it, not to mention many well meaning persons who are not favored with seats in the legislature. From present appearances, however, there appears to be ample accommodation for it, no matter how ample its proportions may seem to be and it is known that the government contemplate larger appropriations this year in many respects, notably in the department of works.

Other departments, however, will also want a finger in the pie. The estimates from the Provincial Secretary's office for instance, will in several items be larger than last year. For example there will be a substantial appropriation for the commencement of the construction of the Provincial asylum at Coquitlam, plans for which have been recently approved. Then the hospital grant will be larger this year, though the increase is more apparent than real as this time it will be for twelve months. Last session owing to the change in the fiscal year, the estimates only covered nine months.

It is not likely that the government will take over the Sanatorium at Tranquille as requested to by the Union of Municipalities, at any rate at this time, but it is possible that the grant may be somewhat increased.

Another increase will be in the vote for the civil service employees. This year they will be graded according to the civil service bill introduced at the last session, and this will mean advance in a number of cases. In the past the executive has been pestered every session by requests for advance in salary from civil servants, whether presented in person, by letter or by the local member. From now on, however, there will be none of this. The advance in the rates of pay will be uniform and will occur automatically as the individual proceeds from one class to another. The increase this year is the result of a certain amount of necessary levelling up, which will not recur.

MR. OLIVER'S LUMBER.

Like Artemus Ward's kangaroo, Mr. John Oliver is "an amoozin' critter." He carries, in his own estimation, more conscientious pressure to the square inch than the law allows, and he is eternally blowing it off. But he never was funnier than yesterday, when he attacked the government for parting with land, the timber on which was worth \$100,000 an acre, and quoting Mr. Sutton as authority. What Mr. Sutton said was that the land carried 100,000 superficial feet to the acre, and this at a very liberal figure would certainly not be worth more than \$100 standing. To multiply the actual value by 1,000 was a mere trifle to the honorable member for Delta. Mr. Sutton corrected the error in the report of his speech on the day following its publication, but if no correction had been made, one might have supposed that so conscientious a gentleman as Mr. Oliver would have endeavored to see whether or not Mr. Sutton could have been correct. Lumber worth \$100,000 to the acre would have to stand so thick and tall that an acre would contain 100,000,000 superficial feet. To put 100,000,000 feet of lumber on an acre, it would have to be piled about 200 feet high, if our figures are correct. They may be a little astray; but if the financial critic of the Opposition will take his pencil and a piece of paper he can figure out for himself just how close the trees would have to stand together and how tall they would have to be to yield the estimated quantity which he charges the government with having recklessly alienated. As an example of conscientious treatment of public matters, our friend from the Delta has all the rest of mankind "beaten to a frazzle."

Saturday, January 30, 1909

GOVERNMENT IS ASKED TO BUILD A BRIDGE

Deputations From Vancouver and North Vancouver Interview Ministers

The deputations representing the city councils of Vancouver and North Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Trade, who are seeking for a provincial grant in aid of a joint traffic bridge across the Second Narrows had an extended interview with the government yesterday. The ministers present included the Premier and Messrs. Carter Cotton, Young, Tatlow and Bowser, while the deputations were headed by Mayor Douglass of Vancouver, Mayor May of North Vancouver, Reeve McNaught of the district of North Vancouver, District Engineer Donald Cameron and Reeve Byrne of Burnaby, E. H. Heaps, president of the Vancouver Board of Trade, and D. G. Dick, president of the North Vancouver body were also present with other members of their respective boards.

The project was outlined by Mayor Douglass, who stated that the government was asked to give \$250,000 towards the bridge. The Dominion government had placed \$200,000 on the estimates for the bridge, which would leave about \$200,000 to be provided by the neighboring municipalities. He explained that there were two alternatives. A high level bridge without a draw would cost \$650,000, while a low level bridge with a draw would be some \$50,000 less.

The speaker went on to expatiate on the necessity of such a bridge which, it was claimed, would be of immense benefit to the mainland as well as to the cities directly interested, as it would give immediate access to the north. Some of the big railway companies were figuring on such a bridge, but even if they did build one, it would only be a railway bridge. Eventually a road traffic bridge would have to be built, and if a joint traffic bridge were not constructed in the first place it would mean a second bridge, at much greater expense and an additional hindrance to navigation.

Mr. Carter Cotton enquired about the Dominion subvention, asking if it was certain whether that sum would actually be forthcoming. He remarked that former experience went to indicate that the Dominion government would not give any money in aid of a provincial project. There appeared to be some doubt who was intended to benefit by the subsidy which had been voted.

Premier McBride expressed disapproval of the plan suggested. If the Dominion and provincial governments and the two municipalities built the bridge there would be a fourfold partnership, which would be unworkable in practice. To this Mr. Heaps remarked that it was the consensus of opinion that the government should own the bridge entirely.

Reference was made to the New Westminster bridge concerning which Capt. Tatlow said that that bridge had earned \$25,000 during the past

year, of which the Great Northern had contributed some \$15,000, an amount which this year would probably be increased to \$20,000.

Mayor Douglass thought that the government might build the whole bridge as an investment. The money could be borrowed at four per cent, and the tolls would more than pay for the interest on the cost of the bridge and the expense of upkeep. It appears from remarks let fall by the deputation that Vancouverites have other and ambitious views as well in the direction of local transportation, one of these being a tunnel under Burrard Inlet.

After hearing all that was to be said in support of the project and reading the petitions, bearing 3,000 signatures, which were presented, the deputations were told to go and find out just how the matter stood with regard to the Dominion subsidy of \$200,000, as it would make a great difference if that money were available in the event of the bridge being built by the province. The deputation then withdrew.

ABLE VINDICATION OF GOVERNMENT

Attorney-General Bowser Announces Land Policy of Government

In a speech that occupied practically the entire sitting of the Legislature yesterday afternoon Attorney-General Bowser replied categorically to all the criticisms brought against the government this session by Opposition members, and outlined the policy of the administration in clear and concise terms. It was a hall storm of concrete facts, under which the Opposition members saw their carefully prepared arguments fade away and disappear.

The member for Delta, who occupied the previous sitting by an attack on the Attorney-General, was answered. Each clause Mr. Oliver had dealt with was taken up, torn to shreds and thrown aside.

Regarding the charge brought by the Opposition that the Crown lands are being handed over in large blocks to speculators, Mr. Bowser brought in positive proof that in this province more than seven million acres of Crown lands are strictly reserved for the pre-emptor.

Again, the matter of the transfer of the administration of the liquor laws in the unorganized districts to his department, the Attorney General made out a convincing case for the government. He showed by statistics that the change has worked marvels in the way of reform. In matters of a purely political nature Mr. Bowser also turned a heavy broadside on his opponents, dealing practically with the charges brought against him by Duncan Ross regarding the 1907 elections.

The other speaker yesterday was the member for Okanagan, who put up a strong plea for railway construction in the province. In this regard Mr. Ellison stated that the government should see to it that in any arrangements made between the government and the Canadian Northern it should be stipulated that Victoria was to be the terminus in British Columbia.

A Tribute to Victoria

"Victoria" he declared, "is the most beautiful place in the Dominion today, and the capital city of the province. There is no danger for Vancouver. That city is well on the way, and is bound to be one of the greatest cities in Canada. But why should not Victoria get some advantages? I hope that both the Dominion and Provincial governments will take a hand in aiding the development of this island. Why, Mr. Speaker, over this week fifty guests were turned away from the Empress hotel. I predict that this hotel will be only the forerunner of the great hotels of Victoria in the future."

It had been expected that the debate on the consideration of the Speech from the Throne would end yesterday, but it will continue at Monday's session. Parker Williams, M.P.P. (Newcastle), one of the Socialist contingent will open on that day.

John Oliver was the first man on the floor at the opening yesterday. On a question of privilege he informed the House that last session he had received many literary efforts on the part of some unknown individual, and the thing had started again this session. He would hand over to the Speaker the last such missive he had received, and hereafter he would read the contributions to the House.

"Campaign Speeches"

The attorney-general opened the debate by declaring that he did not feel it necessary to offer any apology for joining in the debate. It was his duty as a minister of the crown to give an account of what had been done since last session. The honorable member for Delta had blamed him for not speaking last session, and thus making Mr. Oliver lose an opportunity of delivering one of his many speeches. Had he known of this last session, the attorney-general said, he would certainly have addressed the House, in order to afford the member from Delta some pleasure.

"What is the real reason of this bitter speech directed against myself and the honorable minister of lands and works?" asked Mr. Bowser. "The

Opposition think that the provincial elections will fall this year, and they take this opportunity of delivering campaign speeches before the legislature. I took it as a signal honor to be singled out by the honorable member for Delta as I was yesterday. Indeed, I feel now that my political life has not been in vain."

The attorney-general remarked that a Liberal love-feast had been held in this city a few days ago, and that, according to the report of the same given in the Victoria Times, the Liberal members had delivered the same speeches they had inflicted upon the House, taking up the same arguments, from the liquor licenses to the road bosses. He read an extract from the speech delivered by the member from Delta to the effect that if the Liberal party did its duty there was no reason why it should not give an account of itself at the next elections, even if it was unable to remove from office the corrupt administration now in power. This, he remarked, did not sound very optimistic. The member for Chilliwack had rendered the "doxology" at the meeting, speaking of in confidence the Liberal party had in its leader, the member for Rossland.

"Methinks the lady doth protest too much," quoted the speaker. The loyalty of the Liberal party to its leader was not so certain. The "late but not lamented" Duncan Ross had given ground for a different view in a speech delivered by him after the elections in Yale-Cariboo. "As a friend and not as a critic," said Mr. Ross, on that occasion, "I must warn the Liberal party that its undoing began when it joined with the McBride government on the questions of Better Terms and Oriental exclusion." Mr. Ross had advised the Liberals to get "out of the McBride bandwagon." This might serve as a sidelight on the alleged loyalty of the party to its leader.

Railway Construction

Referring to the speech made by the Liberal leader at the present session, the attorney-general characterized it as an able and dignified effort. Mr. Macdonald had, however, complained of the absence of any suggestion of railway legislation in the speech from the throne. The policy of this government had been of such sound and businesslike nature that there was no need to delve into the treasury in order to encourage railways to come to the province. It was widely recognized that the provincial affairs were on a sound basis, immigration was pouring in, and the railways were extending their lines without the expenditure of a dollar by the province. The Attorney-General reviewed the railway construction of the period since 1903, finding it to reach a total of 500 miles, as follows:

E. & N. 24 1/2 miles, from Wellington to French Creek; Great Northern, 14 miles, New Westminster to Vancouver; Great Northern, 25 miles, Victoria Terminal, New Westminster to Blaine; Cloverdale to Sumas, 36 miles; C. P. R., Nicola branch, 51 miles; Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern, 95 miles in Boundary district; Great Northern, 65 miles, in south east Kootenay; Grand Forks to Phoenix, 15 miles; C. P. R., 30 miles, Yank to Kingsgate; Kootenay Central, 20 1/2 miles; C. P. R., Vancouver to New Westminster, 8 miles.

In addition to this the B. C. Electric was now building a line fifty miles in length from New Westminster to Chilliwack, and the early construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific in this province had been encouraged by the government. What better railway policy could the government have than that?

Passing to the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition as to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition, the Attorney-General said that no doubt money would be well spent by the province in this affair if it could go deeply enough into it it would be a good advertisement for the province. But the exposition was a national matter. It should be dealt with by the national government, at Ottawa. If the province undertook the matter it would mean that the government would have to guarantee a quarter of a million dollars to properly represent the province. The opening up of the new industries in the north needed this money more. The government dealt with the public funds as its members would with their own money, and they felt that they could spend the funds to better advantage in developing the northern part of the province than the Seattle exposition.

Civil Service Charges.

As for the charge that the civil service was partisan, it was the first time the Attorney-General had heard such a statement. He thought that the Leader of the Opposition was measuring the government's corn by his own bushel. Because the Liberal civil service was corrupt, he thought the Conservative civil service must be also. The government accorded to every civil servant the right to cast an intelligent ballot as he pleased. The charges came down to this, that a few road bosses might have exercised some influence in the localities in which they were working. An Order-in-Council had been passed forbidding civil servants taking any part in elections. In New Westminster a civil servant who had stood for a municipal office had been ordered to give up political affairs.

Mr. Macdonald: "When was that Order-in-Council passed?"

Mr. Bowser: "In the time of the Semlin-Cotton administration, but it was never enforced until our time." (Laughter from the Opposition benches.)

Had there ever been anything more

disgusting in this province than the editorials in the Liberal press after the Dominion election, asked the speaker. The Victoria Times had stated that the province might not look for anything more from Ottawa now that a Cabinet Minister had been defeated. If this principle were to be carried out, instead of exercising an untrammelled franchise, the elector would cast about to find which party was to be elected, and then vote for the candidate of that party. The member, who was supposed to represent Greenwood, but who really lived at Prince Rupert, had referred in his speech to the need for police protection on the Boundary. He had referred to the sad case at Midway, where a citizen had been shot by a burglar, who escaped into the United States. According to that member, the result had been considerable excitement in the Boundary country. The government had at that time decided to give the Boundary a police district of its own, and so one was established with headquarters at Greenwood.

"I relate this," said Mr. Bowser, "to let the honorable member for Greenwood know what has been happening in his district during the past six months."

The honorable member for Cariboo had stated that the courts were so partisan that on the eve of the elections men had been brought up and had been fined or imprisoned until they would consent to vote for the Conservative candidate. If the gentleman would furnish the name of a justice of the peace or a provincial police official who was guilty of such a thing, the Attorney-General would see that he received due punishment after investigation.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite: "Would you deal in the same way with employers of labor?"

Mr. Bowser: "I do not control the employers of labor."

The accusation that during the recess the members of the government had made political tours throughout the province was next dealt with. Mr. Bowser did not know that it was a crime for the Ministers to travel and get acquainted with the people of the country and its resources, and to meet with their officials and see whether the affairs of the departments were being well carried on. The ministers had everywhere been met with receptions such as no Premier and no Ministers had ever been granted before. So popular was the ministry that in many cases Liberal aldermen and mayors presided at the banquets tendered them. They had visited the Queen Charlotte Islands, where there was not a man

on the voting list, so it could hardly be called a political tour.

Liquor Licenses.

Now the attorney-general to "that much-voiced question, liquor licenses." When the amendment had been brought down at last session, transferring the administration of the liquor laws in the unorganized districts to the attorney-general's department, the Opposition members had declared that the aim of the attorney-general was to get more power, by getting the hotels in his hands. The Opposition never considered the fact that the hotels of the province might be better administered. The results of the government's policy had been clearly shown in the last eighteen months. The member for Rossland, had showed that we ought to go back to the old system of licensing boards. Some of the old commissioners were bad, and some good, but in any case many of them had no means of knowing about the various localities which might ask for licenses. The attorney-general had thought that he could control the situation better and make it cheaper as far as his department was concerned.

Before the attorney-general's department had taken over the licenses, the old board had issued three licenses in Prince Rupert. So it might be seen that the action was not taken too soon. The licenses were at once cancelled. Similar instances had been found in other parts of the north. The same policy had been extended to the line of the G.T.P., and it would never have been extended by the local board. This was also true of the Queen Charlotte Islands, and of all the unorganized districts. The first thing ascertained by the department in dealing with an application was whether a hotel was needed in the locality. The member for Delta had stated that the first inquiry was as to whether the applicant was a Liberal or a Conservative. This was absolutely false.

Here Mr. Oliver interrupted to say that his words had been misconstrued.

"Mr. Hussey and I are not temperance cranks," continued Mr. Bowser. "We are only trying to do what we think fair and in the best interests of the province. In the past eighteen months only six hotel licenses have been issued in the entire province. If I were running my department for political purposes do you think the number would be so small? Of these six, three were granted by the old licensing committees, and we let them go on. So we granted only three. Does any temperance man want better record than that? We have in that time refused 73 applications for hotel licenses. Instead of issuing licenses for a year, as the former policy was, we issue them for six month periods. This gives us a better power of regulation. Of the applications for renewal of old licenses we have cancelled twenty-five. I may say that the only adverse criticism we have received in this has come from members on this side of the House."

Mr. Bowser cited several cases where prominent Conservatives, officers of local Conservative organizations had

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Victoria Daily Times

VICTORIA, B. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1909.

LEGISLATURE OPENED TO-DAY

HIS HONOR'S SPEECH IS A SHORT ONE

Little Forecast Given to Legis- lation That May Be Introduced.

The legislature was formally opened this afternoon with the usual ceremony. An overcast sky took away somewhat from the scene and prevented some who would otherwise have turned out and taken part in the function from doing so.

The scene, however, in the chamber was as usual one of brilliancy. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor read the speech, which was a short one. He was attended by his aide-de-camp Capt. B. R. Tyrwhitt Drake, the naval and military officers and his secretaries, Messrs. Muskett and Bromley. The speech follows:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It affords me much pleasure, in meeting you at the opening of another session, to be able to congratulate you upon the prosperity which has prevailed throughout the province during the past year, and the indications of continual progress which are manifest on every hand.

The almost complete destruction of Fernie by fire, though it caused serious loss, served to awaken the indomitable energy and enterprise of the people of the province, and resulted in the speedy rebuilding of the city on a more substantial scale. My government took prompt measures for the relief of the municipality and individual sufferers, and you will be asked to approve of such action.

Messages of sympathy were received from His Majesty the King and His Excellency the Governor-General; and from various parts of Canada, as well as from Great Britain, Australia and the United States, came assistance and sympathy for the sufferers.

The Tercentenary celebration of the founding of Quebec, and the Centenary of Fraser's overland journey to the Pacific and discovery of the Fraser river, were two notable events of the past year. At the former it was my privilege to represent British Columbia and to donate, on behalf of the province, a substantial sum to the fund for the preservation and nationalization of the Quebec battlefields. My government was also called upon to assist in the very successful celebration of the Elton Fraser Centenary at New Westminster.

It is my sad duty to refer to the death of my esteemed and distinguished predecessor in office, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, whose demise was regarded throughout the Dominion as a national loss. His amiability, courtesy and kindness in private life, and his sterling qualities as a public man, won for him the love and respect of all classes, and his memory will long be cherished by Canadians.

I have again to congratulate the horticulturists of the province on the remarkable success they have achieved with British Columbia fruit at the exhibitions in Great Britain. The Minister of Finance and Agriculture, who assisted in the work this year, is also to be congratulated on the favorable impression made by him upon the press and public of the Motherland. I must also express my gratification in the fact that British Columbia fruit-growers won several thousand dollars in prizes at the Spokane apple show, where the fruit was in competition with the principal fruit-growing states of the Union.

The rapid development of the province and the extension of settlement in new districts, necessitating the construction of roads, trails and bridges, the establishment of new schools and the surveying of large areas of agricultural lands, have rendered extraordinary expenditure imperative during the recess. You will, therefore, be asked to confirm certain disbursements made under the authority of special warrant.

The negotiations between my government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, respecting the laws

site of Prince Rupert have been concluded, and the work of surveying, subdividing and laying out the new city is proceeding satisfactorily.

In consequence of the rapidly increasing demand for water for irrigation and power purposes, coincident with the expansion of the fruit-growing industry, you will be asked to consider a bill for the more effectual and equitable distribution of water required to meet the new conditions.

The act passed at the last session, providing for the creation of a department of works, has been put in force, and a minister of works appointed. It is confidently expected that the new arrangement will be found effective in expediting the public service in connection with the public lands and the carrying out of public works.

The public accounts for the past financial year will be at once submitted for your consideration, as well as the estimates for the coming year.

In leaving you to your deliberations, I have every confidence that they will result in promoting the welfare and prosperity of the province.

A good number of the members reached the city last night. The remainder came over this afternoon in time to be present at the opening.

The attendance of ladies and their escorts was large, the ceremony being quite in keeping with the occasion. At 2 o'clock the ladies' gallery was opened and soon it was filled to overflowing. On the floor of the House the extra seats provided were well filled, quite a number being present from points outside of Victoria.

In the chamber itself the hanging of red curtains on the walls for the improving of the acoustic properties added warmth to the appearance of the room. The test of the curtains will follow when the House gets down to business. J. H. Hawthornthwaite, the Socialist, it is said, is well satisfied with the color and is, moreover, pleased to see the speaker on a dias covered with the Socialist colors.

This evening the Lieut.-Governor will give an official dinner at Government House. To it are invited Premier McBride and other members of the local government, J. A. Macdonald, the leader of the opposition; Hon. W. Templeman, members of the Canadian House of Commons and the Senate, Chief Justice Hunter and members of the Full court, the Bishop of Columbia, Col. Holmes, D. O. C., and Capt. Parry, R. N.

DOING GOOD WORK ON G. T. P. LINE

G. R. Naden Corrects Impres- sion That Little is Being Done.

G. R. Naden, M. P. P. for Greenwood, is in the city for the session. Although representing the upper country constituency, Mr. Naden is at present a resident of Prince Rupert, he having moved to the new city some time ago.

Speaking of Prince Rupert, he says that people do not generally understand the large amount of work which is being done up there. On the hundred miles of railway under construction the work is being rushed very fast, and it is his opinion that by this time next year the rails will be laid on most of it.

The idea, says Mr. Naden, has got abroad that there is little activity shown in the work. This is a mistake. The contractors are handling a lot of stuff and making a good showing.

In company with Mrs. Naden, Mr. Naden is making his headquarters at the Driford hotel.

The Attorney-General of British Columbia is a gentleman who loves power. He is gradually gathering into his own hands not only the enforcement of the laws passed by the legislature but the right of declaring when, where and how the laws shall be in effect. Such arbitrary powers would be dangerous in the hands of any man; in the hands of Mr. Bowser they are a menace to the constitutional rights of the public.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1909.

GOVERNOR OPENS THIRD SESSION

IT MAY BE LAST OF THE PRESENT LEGISLATURE

Opposition Leader and Sup- porters Ready for Their Duty.

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 21st.

The two entries in the Legislative Stakes got off to a good start this afternoon. Lieut.-Governor Dunsmuir acted as starter. Government appeared to be the favorite and nosed ahead after passing the gate. Opposition kept close, however, and being believed by many to be the better of the two, is looked to do some pretty work in what is likely to be the last heat of the race.

The grand stand was crowded. To drop the simile, the attendance was as large as usual, although the weather was none of the pleasantest outside. All the galleries were filled and every seat on the floor of the chamber was occupied. The rich red hangings on the walls, put up in the effort to improve the acoustics, added to the appearance of the legislative hall.

Until the governor and his escort arrived the scene could not be described as brilliant. A well-dressed assemblage it was which was grouped about the rows of members' desks, but unfortunately it was not a day for bright hued toilettes and only an occasional splash of color enlivened the scene. On the part of the sterner sex there was the scarlet of Bishop Ferris's gown and the heavy gold lace on the consular uniform of Japan's representative, Mr. C. Yada, which were the only variation from the sober everyday dress of those present.

Sharp to the minute of three the Premier and his five colleagues entered. Hon. Thomas Taylor, re-elected for Revelstoke after his acceptance of office, strictly speaking, should not have been in his place until after having been formally introduced, but no one noticed the irregularity.

J. A. Macdonald, K.C., (Rossland), was followed in by John Oliver (Delta), Dr. J. H. Kirw (Cranbrook), the Liberal whip; C. W. Munro (Chilliwack), Geo. R. Naden (Greenwood), John Jardine (Esquimalt), Harlan C. Brewster (Alberni), Dr. W. T. Kergin (Skema), Dr. G. A. B. Hall (Nelson), Harry Jones (Cariboo), and John M. Yorston (Cariboo). The leader of the opposition was never in better fighting trim, and his supporters are equally ready for the fray. The country can look to them to give the closest scrutiny to every proposal of the government, and by searching and intelligent criticism, to do their utmost to perfect the legislation which the House is asked to enact.

None of the Socialist members were present, so avoided being conspicuous by any repetition of discourtesy to the governor. J. H. Hawthornthwaite, who has been re-elected by the Nanaimo constituency, was about the building after the ceremony was over.

Upon the arrival of His Honor at the buildings he was received with a general salute by the guard of honor, drawn from the Fifth Regiment C. G. A., which was under command of Capt. W. M. Winsby, with subaltern Lieuts. H. H. Woolston and T. D. Veitch. The guard consisted of four sergeants, four corporals, and 66 gunners with the band and buglers. The guard presented a very soldierly appearance on parade.

His Honor's escort was a large one, including most of the naval and military officers stationed here. He was attended by Captain B. H. T. Drake, A.D.C., and E. J. S. Muskett, his secretary. The escort formed a glowing lane of color from the foot of the throne to the entrance, Lt.-Col. John A. Hall, of the Fifth Regiment, C. G. A., and Commander Parry at the head of either line.

A detail of city police, under the command of Chief Langley himself, with Sergeants Redgrave and Carson, looked after the keeping of everything in order about the entrance to the chamber. In their smart new uniforms, cut according to the British pattern, the body made a fine appearance as

they marched to and from the buildings.

Just before the governor's entrance, Speaker Eberts came in and took his seat for a moment, vacating it to give

place to His Honor. The speech from the throne, which was published in yesterday's issue, was short and the Lieutenant-Governor's duty was soon over.

After His Honor and the escort had retired, Speaker Eberts resumed the chair, the mace was laid on the table and prayers were read by the Bishop of Columbia.

The speaker announced, as year after year speakers in British assemblies have done, that he had obtained a copy of the speech "to prevent mistakes." But the House did not, as none of the sister-parliaments do, pay any attention to the fact that the crown had graciously made known the causes upon which they had been summoned, "to treat, do, act and conclude." It had to assert its right to meet and legislate irrespective of the summons from his Majesty's representative.

This is done in various ways in different legislatures. In the Federal House it is accomplished by the introduction by the Premier of an act respecting the administration of oaths of office before the speaker announces that he has secured a copy of the speech. The bill is a fictitious one, is never printed, and is never heard of again until re-introduced the next session. Here some small matters of routine are transacted and a genuine bill is introduced, generally by the attorney-general.

Following up the rule the Premier moved that the votes and proceedings of the House be printed after having been perused by the speaker, and that no person but such as he should appoint should presume to print them. This was ordered.

Standing committees were ordered on standing orders and private bills, on public accounts, on printing, on railways, on mining, on agriculture, and on municipal matters.

The House also declared, as it does annually, on motion of the Premier, that if it should appear that any person had been elected or endeavored to be elected to that body by bribery or other corrupt practices, the House would "proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices."

Attorney-General Bowser introduced a bill to amend the Magistrates' Act. The object of it is to have magistrates forward a quarterly return of convictions and fines to the attorney-general, as well as to the provincial secretary.

All these matters being satisfactorily disposed of, Premier McBride moved that the speech be taken into consideration to-morrow afternoon.

The minister of finance presented the public accounts for the year 1907-8, a summary of which will be found in another column, and the minister of education presented the public schools report and the first report on the operation of the free text book branch.

Hon. Dr. Young, as provincial secretary, laid on the table the papers relating to federal action on the immigration act and the Hudson's Bay Pacific act of last session.

The memorandum of Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, minister of justice, on which the governor-in-council acted, recommends that the immigration act be reserved for further report, and says of the act to incorporate the Hudson's Bay Pacific railway:

"By this act the company is incorporated to lay out, construct and operate a line of railway from the western to the eastern boundary of the province. It is questionable whether it is competent to the provincial legislature to authorize such a work, since the legislative authority of a province does not extend to works connecting two provinces or extending beyond the limits of the province. The undersigned does not, however, on that account, recommend disallowance. The undersigned is of opinion that these statutes, other than the said chapter 23, may be left to such operation as they may have, and he recommends that a copy of this report, if approved, be transmitted to the lieutenant-governor for the information of his government."

The House then adjourned at 3.25 p. m.

Pitt Meadows Public district, tract No. 1, sinking fund account	200 00
Registrar Supreme Court (sec. 56, Land Clauses Consolidation Act)	322 50
Gold bar account (bullion deposit from assay office)	1,019 97
Dykings debentures, accrued interest on investments	735 00
Deposits under "Plans Cancellation Act"	520 00
	511,861 765 47

FREE BOOKS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MINISTER PRESENTS THE FIRST REPORT

Experiment is Pronounced a Success by Officer in Charge

In the legislature yesterday, the first report of the free text book branch of the educational department was presented by the minister of education. The report is signed by David Wilson, officer in charge.

The report says: "In ordering the necessary books and other school supplies for free distribution, great care has been exercised so as to secure the lowest possible prices; no contracts were entered into at any time. The total expenditure of the free text book branch of the education department to December 31st, 1908, was \$23,794.63, made up as follows: Books, labels, etc., \$17,327.61; Union Jacks, \$1,783; freight, labor, drayage, etc., \$1,919.83 distribution (freight, boxes, cartage, etc.) \$1,076.80; salaries of staff of three, \$1,688.05. Total, \$23,794.63.

"On the books received to December 31st, 1908, the branch, however, still owes \$1,231.67. The cost, therefore, to December 31st, 1908, is \$25,026.35. From this amount the sum of \$1,783, paid for Union Jacks, must be deducted in order to get the true cost of free text books to December 31st, 1908, viz: \$23,243.55. As nearly one-half the second term's requisitions were filled before the close of the past calendar year, it is probable that the outlay for the succeeding six months will not exceed \$7,000 in addition to what has already been spent and guaranteed. Nor does it seem likely that during the next school year the demand for bound books will be so great, since the supply at present in use should, with the exception of primers, last for several years. Of course, additional shipments will require as in the past to be sent out frequently, as books are filled (as in the case of copy books and scribblers), are destroyed, lost, worn out or burned by order of the medical health officer, and as the number of schools and school children increases. All this only proves again that it is the initial step which costs; the succeeding stages usually prove less expensive.

"As the people of the province collectively are the principals in the purchase and distribution of these free text-books for the use of their children, it is proper that they should learn whether or not this experiment has been of advantage to them financially. It has already been stated that the free text book branch of the education department distributed during the past six months text books and supplies which would have cost the parents, at prevailing retail prices, the sum of \$27,247.25. To place these books in the hands of the public school children through the medium of the free text book branch required an outlay of \$20,084.13, made up as follows: Text books (laid down cost), \$17,319.34; distribution, freight, etc., \$1,076.80; distribution, salaries of staff, \$1,688.05. Total, \$20,084.13. The net profit on the half year's business is therefore \$7,263.06, and the percentage of profit 33.1."

The history of the change is described in the report:

"The adoption of a free text-book system is a natural outcome of free schools. Already several provinces of the Dominion of Canada have adopted such a system and are furnishing the pupils of their schools, free of charge, with all or nearly all the books required for the common school course. In the province of Alberta, the school books supplied by the education department become the property of the children who receive them. The province of New Brunswick has taken steps to place school books in the hands of pupils at cost price to the parents. But last year, when British Columbia decided to supply free text books, it chose a middle course or plan of lending the books to the pupils on certain conditions, a printed copy of which is pasted inside the front cover of each text book. The free text books supplied to each school in British Columbia thus form a lending library, a book being charged to a pupil who received and marked off when returned.

"With the first shipment of books to any school, a teacher's record is always supplied for the purpose of enabling the teacher to keep an account of the number and names of books received as well as of their disposition. To secure a strict account with this import-

ant requirement of the lending system, a post card was in November last addressed to each teacher in the province whose school had drawn free text books, inquiring, among other things, if the proper entries of all receipts and disbursements had been made as required. It may also be added that before the first requisition for school-books made by any trustee board was honored at the free text book branch, the members of that board were required to sign an agreement undertaking to provide suitable accommodation (book case or book cases) for all free text books and supplies furnished by the education department; and further to see that the teachers employed by them fulfill all the duties with regard to free text books and that he or they keep a proper record of all these books.

"The free text book branch of the education department of this province was opened in the basement of the Parliament buildings on July 1st, 1908, but much work of a preparatory nature had necessarily to be done before that date. The ordering of books, the furnishing of suitable quarters, the preparation of circulars, requisitions, receipts, agreements, record books, etc., occupied a good deal of time. On May 27th, 1908, explanatory circulars with blank requisitions and forms of agreement were mailed to all the school boards of the province, informing them of the recent decision of the education department to supply the public schools of the province (except high schools), free of charge, with certain text books and school requisites and pointing out that full directions with other particulars were printed on back of accompanying requisition forms for preparing a requisition which would be honored, within certain limits, at the free text book branch.

"As far as I can determine, all the common and graded schools of the province, with perhaps two or three exceptions, have taken advantage of the offer of free text books made by the education department. The Provincial Normal school was also supplied from this branch. From July 1st, 1908, to December 31st, 1908, 729 requisitions were filled by the free text book branch. Of these, 489 were for the first term, 237 for the second term, two for school inspectors and one for the education department of Nova Scotia. In order to give samples of British Columbia text books, the 489 first term requisitions represent the needs of 410 public schools. In order to distribute all the supplies called for by the 729 public school requisitions referred to, it was necessary to ship 569 cases and about 530 parcels. The total weight of the shipments was over 90,000 pounds. In the majority of instances these supplies were forwarded to their destination by freight as the cheapest mode of carriage, although both express and post were also employed. The sum of \$35.72 in stamps (drawn from the general fund) was expended for the last-named service. It is satisfactory to be able to state that, as far as known all the shipments for the first term reached their respective destinations in good condition, although seven receipts are still outstanding. It may be explained that with every shipment of books a receipt form, which includes a list of the text books forwarded to a particular school, is sent to the secretary of the board, with the request that the contents of boxes or parcels be checked with list and with copy of requisition, and that the receipt form be then promptly returned, after having been signed and dated. All this appears very simple, but to secure the return of some 480 receipts cost the free text book branch several hundred letters of request and many duplicate receipts.

"The 729 requisitions just referred to called for the distribution of the following: 30,979 primers and readers; 19,465 arithmetics; 25,668 copy-books; 108,466 scribblers; 410 Union Jacks; 808 teacher's records; 100 principal's records. The items are: 5,590 first primers; 4,510 supplementary primers; 4,339 second primers; 4,008 first readers; 4,031 second readers; 4,234 third readers; 4,177 fourth readers; 3,697 arithmetics (first book); 7,237 arithmetics (second book); 2,541 arithmetics (third book); 6,117 copy-books (No. 1); 5,996 copy-books (No. 2); 5,659 copy-books (No. 4); 4,567 copy-books (No. 5); 4,247 copy-books (No. 6); 5,817 copy-books (No. 8); 4,376 copy-books (No. 9); 19,327 scribblers (No. 1); 52,838 scribblers (No. 2); 21,305 scribblers (No. 3); 14,999 scribblers (No. 4). If the parents of the thirty-three thousand school children throughout the province had purchased the text books called for by the 729 school requisitions at the prevailing retail prices, it would have meant an outlay for them of \$27,247.25. The stock of books on hand, December 31st, 1908, would at similar prices retail for \$5,026.25.

"In dealing with the various requests for free text books, the utmost care has been exercised by me in order to give each school what it appeared to need, as well as what it was entitled to according to the enrolment by grades entered on requisition form presented to the free text book branch. It was necessary also freely to exercise the right to question requisitions and even to decline to fill them, except in part, when they appeared to be excessive. Some criticism may have been passed upon the officer in charge for exercising this right, but it seems to me better, if any one must, to commit a fault on the side of reasonable economy than on that of careless generosity. For instance, when a school of 38 pupils, not 30 of whom are fit to use a text book in arithmetic, asks for 36 of these text books, after having been supplied with 28, it seems proper to question such a requisition. And this is only one of many cases of a somewhat similar, though not nearly so unreasonable, a character. To have honored every requisition in full would have proved a somewhat expensive and fruitless course."

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SCHOOL POPULATION INCREASING RAPIDLY

Much More Spent on Education, Especially by Districts.

That the population of school age in the province is increasing so rapidly as to make necessary much larger expenditure in that direction is plain from the report presented yesterday by the minister of education. It appears that in the last school year, ending on June 30th, there was an enrolment in all the colleges and schools of 33,314—17,182 boys and 16,132 girls. This is 3,275 more than in the preceding year, which in turn had an increase of 4,517 to record.

In the graded city schools the total enrollment was 18,930—9,786 boys and 9,144 girls—and the actual daily attendance was 14,148. There were 6,071 pupils in rural municipality schools and 6,752 in rural and assisted schools. The teaching staff numbered 816, an increase of ten per cent, over 1906-7.

The total cost of education last school year was \$1,220,509.85, of which the school districts raised \$675,438.25 and the provincial exchequer contributed \$544,671.60. This outlay is 40 per cent greater than in the year before, the increase being for the most part in the amount raised by districts.

OPPOSITION READY FOR THE SESSION

First Caucus Held Last Evening After Adjournment of House.

The first opposition caucus of the session was held after the House rose yesterday afternoon. C. W. Munro (Chilliwack) presided, and all the members in town were present. A general talk took place regarding the work of the session and matters which it is intended to deal with.

The prevailing note was optimistic, every member on the opposition side being satisfied with the present outlook for the party. During the session the government may expect to have their legislation watched carefully, and they will be called to account for several of their administrative acts.

In their leader, J. A. Macdonald, K. C., member for Rossland, the rank and file have the utmost confidence, and under his skilful guidance, and aided by his searching and logical criticism, they will force the issues between the two parties from the start.

Mr. Macdonald will speak on the reply to the speech from the throne on Monday.

The provincial public accounts show a handsome surplus for the past financial year. The increase in revenue is principally due to rapid growth of the timber industry and increased contributions from the federal government, which goes to demonstrate a fact for which the Times has always contended, that given a progressive policy of development by the Dominion government and wise, economic internal administration, the resources of British Columbia are so rich and varied that there need be no necessity for the province maintaining a posture of mendicancy before the central power at Ottawa.

CITY LIBERALS GREET LEADER

J. A. MACDONALD AND COLLEAGUES SPEAK

Rousing Gathering Last Night — Plans for Future Discussed.

In the breasts of the three hundred Liberals who gathered in the rooms of the Victoria Liberal Association last night on the occasion of the quarterly meeting, there was a common determination to wipe out the recent defeats suffered by the party of the people in British Columbia; to look after the work of organization, to cleanse and perfect the lists as far as possible and to carry on an educational propaganda among the electorate, secure in the conviction that right principles must prevail.

There was some reference to reasons for the turn of affairs in the late federal elections but not a word of despondency. The attitude of the party, as evidenced in those present, was that of men who know they are right and are determined that right shall be victorious. It is the sort of attitude that convinces an opponent of the certainty of coming defeat. That the same feeling which animates the party here is general in its ranks throughout the province was made plain by the Liberal members of the legislature. All of them who are in the city were present at the meeting and brought words of encouragement.

The leader of the party, J. A. Macdonald, K. C., member for Rossland, was given a welcome which spoke of the loyalty and esteem which he commands. Mr. Macdonald touched on several points in regard to organization and expressed his thorough conviction that it only required attention to these to enable the Liberal party to regain what it has lost.

Revising the Lists.
R. B. McMicking presided over the meeting and around him were grouped J. A. Macdonald, K. C.; John Oliver, member for Delta and president of the provincial association; Dr. J. H. King (Cranbrook), John Jardine (Esquimalt), H. C. Brewster (Alberni), C. W. Munro (Chilliwack), John M. Yorston and Harry Jones (Carlbec), G. R. Naden (Greenwood), Dr. W. T. Kergin (Skeena), Dr. G. A. B. Hall (Nelson).

At the outset of the meeting an unusually large number of applications for admission were passed.

W. E. Ditchburn brought up the question of the city voters' lists. From the experience gained in the late election he declared that there were 2,900 names of people of whom no track could be got and 450 of these were of dead men. The others were largely fictitious and were put down as at lower town hotels. The registrar of voters was perfectly honest and impartial, and because of this was loath to strike any name off unless the owner was sworn to as dead or left the city. This was a very hard thing to do, besides being very expensive, if the government did not intend to cancel the lists and have new ones made there should be some machinery provided for cleansing the lists, and the members of the opposition might devise some means. If a notice was sent to the address of a man objected to and no reply came it should be construed against that name, and the registrar of voters compelled to strike it off. Commissioners should not be allowed to keep lists made up by them more than 48 hours. Mr. Ditchburn mentioned that since November, 1907, there had been 813 Liberal names put on the lists in the city.

W. E. Laird suggested that in the registration of deaths the full name should be given. Too often the name of a man was familiarly known by his registered and it was impossible to identify a name on the list as that of the same man.

James Bell believed that the voters themselves had a duty. The man who would not go and register of his own accord was not worth having, and when he did register voluntarily there was no need to fear he would change his allegiance.

President McMicking welcomed the visiting members on behalf of the association. Liberals had always been in the forefront since the days of Magna Charta, he said, and to them the people owed all the reforms which had been brought about. Liberalism meant popular government, while Conservatism meant the direct opposite, the holding of everything for the few government.

for the few. There was nothing to induce a man to change from his allegiance to Liberalism. It was beyond him to understand any man once in the ranks and conversant with Liberal principles altering his political faith, but it was easy to comprehend why a Conservative should change.

John Oliver, of Delta.

John Oliver said he was glad to get down among a gathering of such fellow Liberals after sitting all day facing so many Conservatives that one wondered sometimes if any Liberals were left in Victoria. He could have no doubt of the existence of a strong Liberal electorate in the capital when he saw so many present and such a live association. Liberals had much to regret at the action of the people in the recent federal election. The people had been to a certain extent deluded, but the fault was that Liberals of British Columbia had not done their duty to the province of British Columbia. A few members in the legislature were practically

(Continued on page 14)

CITY LIBERALS

GREET LEADER

(Continued from page 13)

helpless without the enthusiastic support of the rank and file to back them up.

Referring to the cleaning up of the lists, Mr. Oliver said it was not a matter of legislation, but of men with the courage of their convictions to see that the lists were cleaned between the time they were posted and the final revision. An excellent thing to do would be to advertise the list of names objected to and the reason. If the party did its duty there was no reason why next summer, or whenever the elections come, it should not give a good account of itself even if it did not remove from power the worst government the province had had.

That afternoon Mr. Davey had been praising the government for what was really the adoption of a small portion of the Liberal policy, proposed to the government two years ago and voted down by every Conservative. The government could not live through another election unless it adopted the Liberal policy to a larger extent. The government boasted of a surplus, but how was that acquired? Principally, outside the increase in the Dominion subsidy, by the granting of immense areas of our natural resources to speculators. There had been more timber alienated last year than could be manufactured in two hundred years, and all under license to be cut in the next twenty-one years.

Wasteful Conservative Policies.

The result of such a policy was not only the waste of our timber, but that the government and timber grantees worked hand-in-hand, the government amending the laws so as to favor these men. The same unwise policy was adopted in regard to the land and settlers being turned away because they found the best of the land in the hands of speculators and held at exorbitant prices. Recently a local Conservative had sold a block of land in the Nechaco valley and 53,000 acres were still held at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30 an acre. Were these the conditions that would build up British Columbia and put the province where it ought to stand. The policy of the Liberal party, on the other hand, was, the land for the actual settler. (Cheers.) Railway corporations were still casting a lustful eye on British Columbia's resources, and if the present government was left in power much longer the province would have nothing left.

Victoria, like every other city, found itself in need of more money to carry out its necessary works, and country districts wanted money for roads. The Liberal policy was to give to the municipalities the personal property tax now levied by the government. Was this a policy worth fighting for (Applause.)

There was a Conservative convention in the city, as he believed to receive instructions and get a cut-and-dried policy. Liberals were too democratic to accept a ready-made policy. Referring to the report from Ottawa that Hon. Wm. Templeman will run in Comox-Atlin, Mr. Oliver said:

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier has confidence in him and is not willing to take away British Columbia's cabinet minister. He should be returned by acclamation, but if the Conservatives oppose him the people should turn out and give him an overwhelming majority." (Cheers.)

Loyalty to the Leader.

C. W. Munro, like his colleague, expressed his delight at seeing that Liberalism was still very much alive in Victoria and that, as he humorously put it, there were so many people whom he had been mistaking in the

streets for Tories. He had been bitterly disappointed in the recent defeat of Hon. William Templeman, a man whom he had learned to respect and admire. The rank and file must not forget, as they seemed to have forgotten here, that Liberalism was opposed by an industrious and unscrupulous enemy, working quietly and stealthily. The representatives of the people could not do everything; the people themselves must do their part and one of the first things was to watch carefully the lists.

The circumstances transpiring were enough to discourage a heart of iron and Mr. Munro wanted Mr. Macdonald to feel that he had not only the loyal confidence and support of his party but their appreciation of what a man in his hours of discouragement and discomfiture. One had, however, only to look at the splendid results of Liberal rule elsewhere to be assured that the people of this province would decide before long to place their affairs in the hands of the party of honesty and progress.

Leader Well Received.

J. A. Macdonald was given a most hearty reception when he rose to speak. He referred to some of the plain truths which had been uttered by preceding speakers and said these were necessary to be told if the party was going to win against the forces in power now. One thing he appreciated, and it made his position in the Liberal party a pleasant one notwithstanding reverses, and that was the loyalty of such men as Mr. Munro, which was the loyalty of every man in the legislature on the Liberal side. (Cheers.) It was not so much a tribute to himself as to his position. ("And you too," said a listener.) They were loyal to the party in being loyal to him. He was sure the people in their constituencies were just as loyal and that the same spirit which gave them a victory on February 2, 1907, would animate them again and spread to other constituencies as well.

The leader voiced the general disappointment felt in the interior over the Victoria defeat and the effect it had on the deferred elections in Yale-Cariboo and Kootenay, where the Liberal party had already a hard fight on their hands considering the forces arrayed against them by the McBride government and the methods used. One of the difficulties was that in Kootenay the Liberals had against them a daily paper going into Liberal homes and telling of alleged scandals which they had no means of contradicting except on the platform.

Need For Organization.

The greatest need to-day was re-organization along many lines, and when this was effected the party would be in a position to regain what it had lost. At the same time, Mr. Macdonald said, he did not know that the Conservatives were so much better organized than the Liberals, and they certainly had not the enthusiasm and loyalty in the ranks which the opposition could boast of. The most serious thing the Liberal party had to fight against was the fact that every government employee throughout the province was an all-the-year election agent for the government.

There was need for a revision of the lists, which were in a deplorable condition at present, and the individual members of the party must see to the perfecting of those in their own districts. This meant hard and faithful work. Every Liberal should make it his business to get another Liberal on the list, and this should be done at once to be in readiness for a possible election this summer.

In answer to a suggestion from the audience that another thing the Liberal party was up against was the use of money by the Conservative workers, Mr. Macdonald said, amid cheers:

"I would rather be all my life in opposition, and in opposition honestly, than be on the government benches with bought votes. These are Liberal principles and we can afford to be in opposition with these because we know such principles must win in the end."

Mr. Macdonald expressed his intention of meeting the city Liberals again during the session to discuss the interests of the party.

How the Tories Work.

H. C. Brewster (Alberni) devoted some attention to questions of organization and to consideration of forces employed by the government. Every possible agency was being made use of in the Conservative interest. Last session's license law amendments meant simply that every saloon man was in the hands of the government to be used as a weapon against opposition candidates. The road bosses were government boosters, and the spending of road money was so directed as to do the most good for the Conservative party.

The situation in the province was that it had become a question whether the people were to be governed by their representatives or by order in council, and the men who abrogated to themselves a right to put the screws on business men and compel them to vote Tory or be ruined. Speaking of the

coming election in Comox-Atlin, Mr. Brewster said that there was no question of the Alberni election of the riding giving the minister of inland revenue an overwhelming majority. Every man on the west coast knew they had Mr. Templeman to thank largely for what had been done for the improvement of navigation on that coast.

Land Policy Excludes Settlers.

J. M. Yorston gave Victorians a rub about the weather by telling them of reading at 150-Mile House in the Times of schools suspended, pipes frozen and the thermometer 7 above, while at the moment it was 52 below outside "and no business suspended, either," added the junior member for the Cariboo.

Living on the Cariboo as he does, Mr. Yorston was able to tell the meeting something about the land conditions up north. Although hundreds of settlers are facing the difficulties of going in, the land is tied up by speculators. Government engineers were staking out land for private speculators as well as doing their official work, making money both ways. The people of the Cariboo believed in the northern country, but the policy of the present government had made it impossible for actual settlers to get lands.

Mr. Yorston added his testimony to the necessity for looking after the lists vigilantly, and to the way in which public servants are acting as Conservative election agents.

All Should Work.

G. R. Naden told a little story to illustrate the value of personal effort. Let every Liberal depend on himself for the success of the party, while all working in organized harmony, and there would be a Liberal government in office across James Bay before long.

Harry Jones, a popular member with both sides of the House, kept the audience alternately laughing and

thinking hard with his shrewd, humorous observations on the value of hard work in an election and the failings of the government.

Dr. Hall excused himself from doing more than expressing his pleasure at being present and his agreement with the opinions of his colleagues.

John Jardine appealed for a more enlightened policy in regard to land and timber in the interests of the province. Such could not be expected from the Conservatives, and the people had to look to the other side for it. The McBride government Mr. Jardine condemned as one of the most corrupt that had ever cursed the province.

Every Agency Used.

Dr. King felt it was timely for a Liberal rally, in view of the fact that for two days the town seemed to have been in the hands of the Conservatives, and the Liberals had been twitted with their recent defeats. It would be well for the party to consider what the causes of those defeats were. As to the province in general there was no doubt that it was in large measure due to the great and insidious influence of the local government, while in the rural constituencies there was the work of every government employee and official steadily directed to the advancement of the government's interests, even though it might inconvenience settlers and

practically blackmail and coerce business men.

Dr. King earnestly advised the local workers to get to work on the lists and cleanse them, no matter how much labor it might involve.

Principles Must Prevail.

Dr. Kerin considered that everything said that evening to the Liberals of Victoria applied to the party throughout the province, and should be heard by them all. In spite of the present position of the party in British Columbia there was great cause for hopefulness, and there was no doubt that the principles of Liberalism must prevail. The first great need for a party seeking to get into power was to have a right policy. Those who followed the course of the leader of the opposition during the last two sessions would find a policy worth supporting. Next it was desirable that this policy should be made known to the people, especially to that large body of the electorate which was neither Liberal nor Conservative. With this must be efficient organization. Given all these and there was no reason why the Liberals should not get into power, where their principles and policy would keep them for a long time.

H. A. Munn spoke on the need for and value of organization, and applied some of the ideas given to the development league to political organization.

Maxwell Muir emphasized the neces-

sity for education of the people in Liberal principles.

More Workers Than Voters.

Mr. Macdonald spoke again, briefly reviewing some of the matters mentioned. The whole machinery of the provincial government was used against the people having a free voice in choosing their representatives, and in some cases voters in a district were told that unless the ballot box showed

a Conservative majority works, which they urgently needed and on which a start was made just before election, would not go on. So well were the public servants organized in support of the government that in one constituency at last election there were more Conservative workers than there were voters.

Mr. Macdonald reiterated his belief in a triumphant result for the Liberal party if every member of it did his share.

Before the meeting closed a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the members of the legislature for their attendance, on motion of R. L. Drury, seconded by H. A. Munn.

OPEN DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

H. G. PARSON MOVER;
F. DAVEY, SECONDER

John Oliver Asks for Information Regarding Prince Rupert Townsite.

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 22.

The Legislature is taking it easy at the outset, like similar bodies everywhere. This afternoon it sat for forty-five minutes, but it made a start on the work before it, which is very little so far. Before anything else can be taken up in detail the speech from the throne has to be disposed of by the adoption of a reply. This was moved yesterday and seconded by supporters of the government, who followed time-honored lines in their speeches. To the Kootenay country fell the honor of having one of its members move that a reply be sent to His Honor, and one of the capital's representatives seconded the motion.

Both gentlemen made good speeches, whatever may be thought of the policy they support, and the opposition joined as heartily in the applause which they got, as did the government members. H. G. Parson, the member for Golden, did not make a long speech, contenting himself with a general review of conditions as outlined in the words of His Honor yesterday. Frederick Davey, second member for Victoria, went a little further, suggesting legislation for the protection of forests and the reduction, if not abolition, of the personal property and income tax. Seeing that these sources produced a revenue of over \$37,000 in the last fiscal year and are likely to go on in an increasing ratio, it remains to be seen what weight his words and influence have with the government.

From the Liberal side the government was reminded that the people are entitled to full information regarding the arrangements made between the province and the Grand Trunk Pacific in connection with the Prince Rupert townsite. The premier recognized the justice of the demand by promising to consult his colleagues and bring down what papers there are.

A marked improvement is noticeable in the galleries in the acoustic properties of the chamber since the walls were hung with draperies. How it may be in the conversational debate of the committee of the whole, cannot be told until later.

Two of the Socialist members were in their places yesterday, Parker Williams and John McInnes. On the Conservative side J. F. Garden was present, completing the Vancouver delegation.

There was some little delay in opening the House, owing to the premier being detained at the luncheon of the Island development convention. It was ten minutes to three before Speaker Eberts took the chair. Prayers were read by Rev. Canon Beaulieu.

H. G. Parsons Moves Address.

Mr. Parson expressed his sense of the honor of moving the address, and asked the indulgence of his fellow-members during his first speech in the House. He was sure all would be gratified at the references to the prosperity of the province contained in the speech. The people at large would not fail to give the present government a fair share of the credit for the improved state of affairs. General sympathy was felt for the destruction caused by the fire at Fernie, and gratitude was due to the people of the other provinces and elsewhere for their ready assistance.

The death of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere was much regretted throughout the province, where the late lieutenant-governor was esteemed for his high qualities, and the expressions of regret in the speech from the throne would be re-echoed by every citizen of British Columbia.

In regard to proposed legislation to aid irrigation, Mr. Parson said that such enterprises were likely to be carried on much more energetically than before as a result. He congratulated the government on the creation of a

separate departments of public works, and considered that in the appointment of Mr. Taylor to the new portfolio, the government had acted wisely. There were many very necessary public works with which he hoped the new minister would deal.

Wealth of Columbia District.

Speaking of his own district, Mr. Parson said that with the almost immediate construction of the Kootenay Central railway, the development of that district was likely to astonish everybody. The valley from Golden southward to the Crow's Nest Pass was one of the most beautiful and fertile in British Columbia, with a healthful climate, fish and game in abundance, and offering homes to thousands. It was a splendid fruit-growing country, and when it began to be filled with orchards the member for Okanagan would have to bestir the people of his district in real earnest.

Mr. Parson concluded by moving the adoption of the address, which he read. This is really the speech from the throne turned around, so as to express the pleasure and gratification and satisfaction and everything else of the House at the various statements.

Seconded by F. Davey.

Mr. Davey said he rose with a good deal of diffidence to address the House, but his task had been lightened by the eloquent speech of the mover. It seemed a work of supererogation to add to what Mr. Parson had said. All must feel proud and grateful that their province had experienced such a bountiful year, while they must regret that there had been such wide destruction of life and property in the Fernie district. It was not a stretch of imagination to ascribe the prosperity of the province in some degree to the wise and stable government which the province had enjoyed for some years and apparently was destined to enjoy for many years to come. The people looked to the Conservative party to furnish them with honest and efficient administration.

The smile which spread over John Oliver's face at this was worth going miles to see.

Mr. Davey went on to say that the affairs of the province since last session appeared to have been conducted in a very exemplary manner and almost beyond the reach of censure or even of criticism. It would tax the ingenuity of the member for Delta (John Oliver) to find a grievance on which to hang an attack upon the government.

A broader and more sardonic smile from the member for Delta should have warned the other side that this was a vain expectation.

The Income Tax.

"In view of the surplus and the rapidly developing resources of the province," Mr. Davey went on, "I hope the finance minister will be able to promise us a reduction or even an abolition of those unpopular and vexatious taxes on personal property and income. I would remind the government that the income tax has always been regarded by chancellors of the exchequer as an exceptional imposition for times of

emergency or danger; a war tax, as it has been called. I do not think the present condition of this country offers a justification for its being levied any longer."

The progress in the agricultural and fruit-growing industries were described by Mr. Davey as phenomenal. British Columbia fruit was always successful in winning prizes. Hon. Mr. Tatlow's speeches while in the Old Country were referred to as having awakened great interest in this province and having been invariably spoken of by the press with approval. Mr. Davey mentioned the recent trial shipment of fruit sent to China, hoping it would prove a success and that another market for British Columbia fruit would be found there.

The Price of Coal.

It was gratifying, said Mr. Davey, that the public lands were being taken up by bona-fide settlers to a large extent. The arrangement between the government and the Grand Trunk Pacific were worthy of much commendation, and it was to be hoped that the efforts of the company and the government would result in the establishment of a model town, from a commercial, residential, sanitary and artistic point of view. The mining industry of the province was in a state of great activity. Although the value showed a falling off of two million dollars, owing to the fall in the price of copper, the tonnage would be found to be about the same. It was a pleasing fact that the coal mined in the vicinity of Puget Sound was able to more than hold its own with the product of the state of Washington. But why should the people of Victoria be charged \$7 a ton for coal which could be sold in Seattle after paying an import duty of 67 cents a ton, freight and all other charges, for very much less?

The result of the first year's operation of the free text book scheme, Mr. Davey considered, was such as to fully justify the government's action. In regard to forestry he recommended the adoption of means which would prevent the continued depletion of our forests, and avoid a repetition of the state of affairs across the line, where timber was as valuable as diamonds.

The License Law.

Mr. Davey declared that there had been a great improvement in the administration of the license law, and that temperance advocates and right-minded people welcomed the refusal of 65 new licenses and the cancellation of 22 during the year, as well as the decision to grant no license in Prince Rupert. In his determination to have the law enforced strictly and impartially, the attorney-general was adamant, Mr. Davey declared. The licensing of social clubs was highly desirable, as they unfairly interfered with the legitimate trade and in some cases afforded, maybe, a cloak for intemperance and vice.

The Conservative government did not pose as a temperance one, but its actions showed that it was not controlled by the liquor trade. Before closing, Mr. Davey paid a tribute to Hon. Thos. Taylor's abilities and advised him to get out and gain first-hand knowledge of all public works required.

The debate was adjourned on motion of the leader of the opposition.

Mr. Bowser's bill to amend the Magistrate's Act was read a second time, and will next be considered in committee of the whole.

Prince Rupert Townsite.

John Oliver, before the House adjourned, asked the government for a statement in regard to Prince Rupert townsite.

"So far as we are able to advise the House the government will be able to bring down on Monday copies of what papers are on file of information to members," replied the premier. "I will consult with my colleagues."

At 3:35 p. m. the House rose until Monday.

LOCAL OPTION.

Petitions Being Presented to Members of House—Draft Bill Goes to Government.

Rev. Dr. Spencer, superintendent of local option for the province, is in the city completing arrangements for the presentation of the petitions asking for a local option law. These petitions have been signed by not less than about twenty-five thousand persons. The petition to the government will be presented by the deputation to be appointed shortly to meet the council. Those sent to the members contain many thousands of names. Dr. Spencer presented Hon. Mr. Bowser with some from Vancouver with upwards of eight thousand signatures with Mayor Douglas' name heading the list. Hon. R. McBride received a petition from Victoria with about thirty-five hundred names upon it. The other forty members have or will receive from their own constituencies similar lists. In many districts, Dr. Spencer reports, 90 per cent of those canvassed signed. From all over the province, he says, comes the news of a strong sentiment in favor of local option, and the men at the head of the movement are business men, professional and working men.

The C. P. R. wreck has probably buried some lists from places known to have sent them. The superintendent is well satisfied with the result of the very short campaign.

Dr. Spencer has presented the draft of the local option bill to the premier. By it every municipality and district in British Columbia would be given the right to say yes or nay on the question of the liquor traffic.

The Legislative Press Gallery met to organize for the session yesterday afternoon. The officers elected were: Honorary president, Hon. Richard McBride; president, William Blakemore, Victoria; secretary, James Morton, the News-Advertiser, Vancouver. It is the intention of the gallery to wait upon Speaker Eberts on Monday in reference to securing a room for the members of the press to do their work in.

The attorney-general, it is understood, will shortly introduce a bill dealing with the regulation of private clubs. There are some sixteen of these in Victoria, and in the absence of any power under the license laws the police are unable to deal with the drinking which goes on in them. Several of the clubs are held to be really only saloons in disguise, and the attorney-general promised some time ago to deal with these this session.

The Liberal representatives in the provincial legislature appear to be in the very finest fettle for the encounter with the cohorts of the McBride government during the session which commenced this week. There was nothing in the remarks made at the Liberal meeting held last evening to indicate that the speakers are not well prepared not only to meet the Premier's followers in debate in the House, but in conflict upon the hustings. Every habitue of the legislative hall knows that all the debating talent is confined to the opposition side. We admit Mr. Bowser; but the Attorney-General is an "orator," not a debater. He has a lofty scorn for "mere discussion."

At the meeting of the Liberal-Conservative association yesterday afternoon the following officers were elected: R. L. Borden, K. C., M. P., and the Hon. Richard McBride, K. C., M. P. P., honorary presidents; C. M. Woodworth of Vancouver, president; Robert F. Green of Victoria, first vice-president; W. W. Foster, of Revelstoke, second vice-president; W. M. McKay of Vancouver was re-elected secretary, and H. H. Watson of Vancouver treasurer. Members of the ex-

ecutive—E. E. Leeson, Victoria; J. J. Miller, Vancouver; W. N. McCarty, New Westminster; J. P. Shaw, Yale-Cariboo; Capt. Armstrong, Kootenay; A. E. Planta, Nanaimo; and Frank Dockrill, Comox-Atlin.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1909.

J. A. MACDONALD ON THE ADDRESS

LEADER DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

John Oliver Has a Thirst for Information Which Must Be Satisfied.

The speech of the leader of the opposition on the address is the chief feature of interest in the House this afternoon. J. A. Macdonald is making an important speech, dealing thoroughly with the record of the government and its many shortcomings. The premier is likely to follow him. A number of members are preparing to speak in the course of the debate, which will last for some days.

The Conservatives will meet in caucus this evening. One of the matters to come up is the selection of a whip to replace Hon. Thomas Taylor. H. B. Thomson, of Victoria, seems to be the favorite, but others spoken of are Dr. McGuire, of Vancouver, and J. H. Schofield, of Trail.

John Oliver has been at work preparing questions for the government and motions for papers which should be brought down. He wants copies of all correspondence, agreements, etc., between the government and the G. T. P. and the G. T. P. Town & Development Company, and also copies of the judgments in Bowser Act cases.

Mr. Oliver also wants a return made of copies of regulations issued by the government under the "British Columbia Fisheries Act"; also showing the names of officials appointed under authority of said act; the length of service of each official; the rate and the amount of pay of each official; the travelling expenses or other allowances of each official; the names of firms obtaining licenses, and the amounts paid in each case; the number of licenses issued to an individual fisherman, and

the amounts collected; the names of persons proceeded against for infractions of the Fisheries Act and Regulations; the offence charged in each case; the results of prosecution in each case; the amount of cost in each case; by whom such costs were paid; names of prosecuting attorney in each case; the amount of fees paid to prosecuting attorney in each case; the amount, if any, still due to prosecuting attorney in each case; the travelling and other expenses of prosecuting attorney in each case; the total amount received from issue of licenses, and the total expenditure in connection with the enforcement of the act.

Mr. Oliver has also a batch of questions for the minister of public works as to the amounts expended in Delta and Dewdney districts during the present fiscal year, and against what votes the work was charged; whether Alex. Crutchank, of Chilliwack, was employed to do any work in Coquitlam dyking district in 1908, and what authority the government had for making the expenditure; and how much tolls were collected for the use of the New Westminster bridge last year, together with the government's intentions as to acceding to the wishes of the people by discontinuing the imposition of tolls.

CONSERVATIVES HELD SMOKING CONCERT

Delegates to Convention Are Entertained With Speech and Song.

The delegates to the Conservative convention were last night entertained to a smoking concert in the Duck block. The programme included speeches and songs, while cigars and refreshments were also provided. It was, however, particularly noticeable that outside of the delegates very few Victorians were present, and even some of the delegates were conspicuous by their absence. W. H. Price occupied the chair.

Hon. Richard McBride was the first speaker. He expressed his pride at being able to take part at such a time in a gathering of that sort. The results of the recent elections showed the value of organization, in Nanaimo constituency he felt sure that if they had been better organized and had had more faith in the candidate they would have won. In Comox-Atlan the situation could safely be left to the constituency, whose duty it was to decide whether or not to precipitate a contest. There were many things to be considered, and much patience was needed with the people in that constituency in order to come to a wise decision. The election of Martin Burrell and A. S. Bodeve in the upper country, the premier ascribed wholly to the perfect organization and the unanimity on the part of the Conservatives. There were differences among the members of the party, but when an election came on they sank these in the face of the common foe. This was the reason they were able to make such a good showing.

The premier then spoke of his tour through the upper country, and paid tributes each in their turns to his colleagues. He mentioned Capt. Tatlow, Dr. Young, Hon. F. J. Fulton, and

"Coming to the warhorses of Vancouver, my old chum Billy Bowser. (A voice, 'Napoleon.') Yes, Napoleon. He is looked upon as responsible for most of the legislation before the House last session. (A voice, 'All of it.') Yes, all of it. Mr. Bowser made a trip to the East in company with Mr. Borden, and in following his movements I realized that the man was big enough and broad enough to stand with the best men in the country."

Bouquets were also handed out to the president of the council, and the new member of the government, Hon. Mr. Taylor. Speaker Eberts also came in for his share of praise, and in concluding Mr. McBride said he thought they had a governing body that would compare favorably with any in Canada. They also had a good opposition and "Long may they wave," exclaimed the premier, "on the opposition benches."

Hon. W. J. Bowser then made one of his characteristic orations. He regretted that the result of the elections had been against them throughout Canada. He noticed, however, that in the places where he had had the honor of addressing the electorate they had all returned Conservative candidates. He was of opinion that the leader of the opposition, Mr. Borden, was in need of stronger lieutenants, and there was a feeling in the East that their own Mr. McBride should be the man to support Mr. Borden in the Dominion House.

A. E. McPhillips, and C. M. Woodward each gave interesting addresses before the gathering adjourned.

POLITICS OF THE TWO PARTIES CONTRASTED

Opposition Leader States Clearly Liberal Position in Regard to Timber and Mines—Scores McBride Government for Its Errors.

In a clear-cut and statesmanlike speech J. A. Macdonald, the leader of the opposition, yesterday afternoon in the legislature outlined the Liberal policy on the great questions which interest British Columbians. Following him came the premier, with a statement of the government policy on the same matters. The people thus have the two policies presented to them side by side and can have no difficulty in deciding which one is the more likely to lead to the development of the province and of its natural resources.

Mr. Macdonald gave the House and the country a trenchant criticism of the government's shortcomings and of the manner in which its treatment of the forests and mineral resources of the province is retarding development.

The Liberal policy in regard to timber is contained in the following amendment to the Crown Lands act proposed last year and voted down by the government and their Socialist allies:

"Provided that the holder of any special timber license in good standing shall, within eighteen months next after the passing of any act, have the right, upon compliance with the terms and conditions of this act with regard to the renewal of license, to obtain a license renewable from year to year on compliance with the provisions of this act, and with the further provision that it shall be lawful for the lieutenant-governor in council from time to time to make such regulations with regard to the manner of cutting and the preservation of the timber covered by such license as the lieutenant-governor in council may think fit, and further, that whenever in the opinion of the lieutenant-governor in council the lands covered by the license shall be required for agricultural purposes, it shall be lawful for the lieutenant-governor in council, after giving to the licensee sufficient notice to enable him to remove the timber covered by his license, to refuse a further renewal of the said license."

The McBride policy is that the present laws are perfect, with possibly an extension of the time-limit.

For the protection of the mineral interests the Liberals some years ago proposed that the mineral tax be reduced to as nearly as possible a basis of net profit; that not only freight and treatment but the payroll in producing the ore should be deducted from its taxable value.

Mr. McBride thinks the tax does not hurt the miner, but the latter has a different opinion.

In the administration of the liquor license law in unorganized territory the Liberal party thinks the people should have some voice as to granting or withholding licenses, but the McBride government insists that the attorney-general should retain the control given him by the last change in the law.

There is no doubt where the Liberal party stands in opposition to civil servants participating in elections. Yesterday Premier McBride took the same stand in theory but intimated that the government would forgive Conservative public servants whose zeal and enthusiasm led them into making a "mistake."

In regard to the co-operation of the government in the beautifying of Victoria the Liberal party believes in it, while Premier McBride, who professes to be such a friend of the city he represents, says it is a luxury he will not countenance.

The personal property tax the Liberal party would return to the municipalities, which are none too rich; Premier McBride thinks the municipalities get enough.

Such in brief are a few of the contrasts which were offered to-day.

Mr. Macdonald was warmly cheered on rising to speak and his utterances were closely followed.

Troubles of a Premier.

I thought I should have had the pleasure of congratulating the new minister of public works, who has had that distinction conferred upon him by the premier, but I see the honorable gentleman is not in his place. However, I do desire even in his absence to say that we on this side of the House are very glad to extend our congratulations. It is true, the premier

has had a difficult task to perform in selecting a minister to fill this portfolio. There were other gentlemen whom I have no doubt the premier desired to offer the portfolio to, but after ten months of careful consideration he has apparently found it impossible to induce these other gentlemen to accept a position in his government notwithstanding that one or two of them represent most important constituencies in this province.

It was felt in the upper country that the gentleman who represents in this House the constituency of Okanagan (Price-Ellison), one of the largest and perhaps the most rapidly-growing rural constituency in the province, had some claim upon the recognition of his leader in connection with this matter. But I have no doubt that after more or less consideration the member for Okanagan has found it impossible to devote his time and energies to a greater extent than he does at present, to the public service. The member for Revelstoke—(Hon. Thomas Taylor), has found it possible to sacrifice his own personal interests, and accept the portfolio which has been tendered to him.

The Late Governor.

The speech refers appropriately to the lamented death of the late lieutenant-governor of the province, Sir Henri Joly de Loebner. I think it can be truly said of that gentleman that he endeared himself, during his term of office in this province, to the whole people of British Columbia, without respect to class or party. (Hear, hear.) I beg, Mr. Speaker, to join in the expressions of regret which we find in His Honor's speech. On behalf of myself and the members on this side, I reiterate the expression of our sincere regret at the death of that distinguished man.

The Tercentenary.

The growth of Canada of recent years has been two-sided. We have grown in material wealth, in population, in education, in the arts and sciences. Our vast plains are being settled. We are not tilling in the jungle, we are encroaching upon rough nature everywhere—on the prairies, in the forests and in the veins of the mountains. We are awake and up and doing in the pursuit of the modern god.

The Tercentenary, however, is the expression of another kind of growth, a growth in Canadian sentiment, as essential as it is elevating to the upbuilding of a lasting community. That event served to call attention in a signal manner, not only to the growth of national sentiment in Canada, but to the fact that the two great races, which once divided over the spoil of a continent, are now one in the ownership and the government of the northern half of that continent for which they formerly contended, and under one flag and under the British constitution are working, not merely in harmony but as one people having one nationality and that Canadian under the British crown—not as an appendage but one of a family of nations. (Applause.)

A proud Canadian sentiment is not inimical to the empire, but is the best tribute which we can pay to the greatness of the mother country and to the freedom and justice of our own, and to the institutions which we have inherited from her.

Simon Fraser Centenary.

Reference too has been made to a great pioneer in this part of Canada, Simon Fraser. This touches us as British Columbians nearer home. Simon Fraser was one of the pathfinders of Great Britain in the new world. It was by the efforts of such as he that the Empire of Britain has been extended so widely over the globe, and that the foundation, the fortunate and timely foundation, was laid for those claims which afterwards, in the face of rival claims, ripened into a declaration of British sovereignty over this portion of the Pacific slope. (Cheers.)

"Nor can I pass over the reference to the calamity which befel the city of Fernie. That city went down to destruction in a manner which appalled the people of this province—but only for a moment. The response which was made by every city, town and hamlet to the

cry for help was prompt and generous, and we must not forget that the good people of the adjoining republic were no less prompt and generous in their aid.

The embers were still burning in Fernie, when the shout went up from the people of Fernie: The King is dead, long live the King, and a new and better city is now rising from the ashes.

A Meagre Speech.

The speech is perhaps even more meagre on the present occasion than in the past. Perhaps it is true, it is

only a perfunctory thing at best, but it seems to me it is the duty of the government to see that it at least outlines work for the session. The only legislation foreshadowed is that in regard to irrigation in the dry belt of British Columbia. That is a most important subject to a large section of British Columbia, and one which I am glad to see the government is at last taking up and dealing with at this season, along, I have no doubt, broad and generous lines.

We have on this side long recognized the deplorable conditions of what is known as the Water-Courses Act, which, because it is so very voluminous and full on certain points, is recognized as one that the layman who has to deal with questions affecting irrigation is unable to understand in its provisions, I think it will be endorsed by the lawyers of the House when I say that even lawyers have found it impossible to give a reasonable meaning to the sections relating to the conservation and storing of water.

I propose to leave the discussion of the irrigation problem until that bill is brought before the house, when I trust we will have a full discussion, and I can assure my hon. friend that we shall assist in making it a workable measure, and one which will do the greatest good to the largest number in the province. (Hear, hear.)

Covering Up Tracks.

The prosperity of the province has been referred to and I am glad to endorse what has been said as to the commercial situation of British Columbia at present. We have been enjoying in the last few years exceptional prosperity, and even when the banks to the south of us were unable to pay out money for the commercial uses of the people, Canadians were able to get money and to carry on business, while British Columbia enjoyed a measure of prosperity far in advance of other provinces. The causes of that prosperity I need not discuss to-day. My friend who seconded the address (Mr. Davey) has attributed the prosperity we now enjoy to the present government. He suggests they have done everything they could to bring that about; that that prosperity is the natural result of the actions of the government, and he defies even my hon. friend from Delta to find anything to charge against that government.

It may be that the premier has succeeded in covering up his tracks so well that even the member for Delta will not be able to uncover them. But when I consider what his government has performed since 1903 I think perhaps some others of us who are not so hasty in criticising the government as the member for Delta will be able to point out that the hon. gentleman, since taking office, has been able to do nothing of first-class importance for the country. (Hear, hear.) He has never lost an opportunity of declaring that he has done the very best that could be done for the people.

He claims that he rescued the province from bankruptcy in 1903 and 1904. I will not admit—and I think the vast majority of the people in British Columbia will not admit—that this province was on the brink of bankruptcy in 1903 or that the statesmanship, or so-called statesmanship of my honorable friend and his finance minister, was responsible for placing the finances of British Columbia in their flourishing condition to-day. I admit that British Columbia is in a most favorable condition in regard to revenue and expenditure, but that revenue has been obtained from increased taxation of the people and from natural resources of the province. So far as the revenue from natural resources is concerned I think that is the proper source from which British Columbia should obtain its revenue and not from an increase of taxes. (Hear, hear.)

Unjust Timber Laws.

But the manner in which that revenue is obtained from natural resources is a most important question for this legislature. The legislation of the government along the line of timber licenses and laws, I think it will be admitted—even by the premier, I was going to say, but I cannot expect an admission of that kind from him—but it is admitted in the province generally that the timber laws as changed by the present government have brought about a condition of affairs which requires most careful consideration from the legislature to-day. Take the question of timber licenses alone. We have six and a half million acres expiring in

about twenty-one years. We have these men paying annually \$140 per square mile for the timber on the coast and \$112 per square mile in the interior. This payment year by year goes into the coffers of the government and yet if the licensees are going to realize for the expenditure they are making they must take off the cream of the timber within the limit of their licenses.

Now what is the effect going to be upon the timber of our province. I submit the effect will be the timber will be slaughtered by the holders of these licenses within the term of them. It is only human nature that people holding valuable assets should realize on them, and that human nature is as strong in lumbermen and millmen as any one else.

What is the government prepared to do with regard to the situation it has brought about? Before it changed the law the lumberman had a license from year to year. It is true it was one which might be cancelled by the chief commissioner and was therefore most defective. But so long as a holder conducted himself there was no danger that any chief commissioner would dare to cancel his license. That was changed, and perhaps the holders were to blame, first to five years and then to sixteen, which would bring it up to twenty-one years. The result now is the license expires at the end of a limited period and lumbermen either have to lose or take off the timber in that period. Are the people of British Columbia prepared to have their timber slaughtered? Do the lumbermen and millmen regard the situation as satisfactory from their standpoint? So far as they are concerned they are entitled

to protection, but the protection of the license holder is not the only thing to be considered by this legislature. We have to consider it and the interest of the province as well.

The Opposition Policy.

The policy of the Liberal party, as I mentioned last session, is to grant these licenses in perpetuity, but make them renewable from year to year upon conditions which were set forth in our proposed amendment, conditions of conservation and protection, which would permit the land required for agricultural purposes to be obtained, cut out of the timber licenses, and place greater power in the hands of the lieutenant-governor-in-council to act in the interests of the lumbermen and the people. So long as we can realize enough revenue from our forests the government will not need to increase, as this government has, the taxes upon farmers and others, but we will have sufficient revenue to carry on business. I have no doubt the lumbermen and people of the province will make their voice heard in no uncertain way in this regard when they have an opportunity to tell my hon. friend what their sentiments are with regard to the forest resources of British Columbia. (Applause.)

In the previous sessions a great deal was said in regard to the fiscal policy of the government, but I find the premier's colleague from Victoria does not seem to be satisfied with it. He says he thinks the tax on personal property and income ought to be removed or readjusted. I think I remember the finance minister making the statement on the floor that the most equitable kind of tax which could be levied on the people was a tax upon income. Yet we find the seconder of the address does not agree with this; he thinks the income tax iniquitous and that the personal property tax should be removed.

Personal Property Tax.

Now I agree that the tax on personal property should be readjusted. We advocated last year and earlier that the tax should go to the municipalities. Municipalities unfortunately find it impossible to get sufficient revenue to carry on their affairs. I notice it is found in my own and it is, I believe, the same in others, that the revenue from land tax, liquor licenses and other similar sources at the command of municipalities is insufficient to meet their requirements. So if there is to be any change made in the personal property tax I think the sentiment from one end of the province to the other will be that the change that should be made is the diversion of this tax from the provincial into the municipal treasuries. I hope the government will this session pass an amendment which will effect this and enable the municipalities to augment their income and carry on their business more efficiently than now. (Applause.)

Beautifying Victoria.

It has been repeatedly urged in this city that something should be done in the way of a contribution by the government to the beautification of Victoria. I find no hint in the speeches to the government policy on that matter, but I trust that my hon. friend will see to it that he does something for this project. During the recent Dominion election a great deal was said as to what the Liberal candidate in this constituency had done or had not done for Victoria. But what has my hon. friend done? If he does not propose to do something in the way I have suggested what does he propose to do?

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There is a revenue tax of \$3 on every male inhabitant which goes into the provincial treasury. Those who pay it are mostly taxpayers in the municipalities. I believe the tax is perfectly legitimate, although some people do not agree with me. I believe it reaches those who are not reached otherwise, but I do not think that the man paying the land tax or otherwise contributing to the provincial revenue should pay this poll tax. It is not done in Ontario or elsewhere. It is a good tax so far as it goes on those who do not pay any other species of dues, but it should be readjusted, and when readjusted, whatever tax is paid should go into the coffers of the municipality, and not to the province.

After all we have a growing revenue. I understand at the present time the finance minister claims a surplus of something like a million and a half. There is no reason why we should hoard up these surpluses, and, when there are roads, bridges and other works to be built by local bodies, no reason why we should leave these without all the help we can give them. The claims of the municipalities should be recognized, and when we have a growing revenue they are justified in coming to us and asking for better terms. Surely the hon. gentleman will not deny better terms, the gentleman who has made better terms a by-word in every household in British Columbia, and made it echo into every other province; he will not deny to the municipalities those better terms which our resources enables this government to give.

The Mineral Tax.

Then the question of the mineral tax, a burning one for several years, has not been dealt with in the speech. In 1903 or 1904 my hon. friend made a promise to deal with it, but although he promised, and that promise was backed up by the finance minister on the floor of this House, it was not dealt with, and the mineral tax remains the same inequitable tax, and is likely to remain so as long as this government is in over. How are our mineral resources showing? The mineral output has shown a decrease, and if you analyze them—as I am not prepared at this moment to do without a further study of the public accounts and the mineralogist's report—though the reports show a slight increase over the year before, there is a decrease when you compare the prices realized before. The total tonnage of one or two Boundary mines, the most important of this province, has gone steadily down the last three or four years.

No encouragement has been given to struggling miners—and there are many of them in this province. I can assure the premier—by this government—no encouragement has been given by the federal parliament in the lead bounty, but no encouragement whatever from this government, even in the way of removing this iniquitous mineral tax, and what should be the greatest industry of the province is gradually languishing under the do-nothing policy of the premier.

Railway Development.

My hon. friend's government has said nothing about railways. Now the railway situation in British Columbia is not any too satisfactory at the present time. Three or four years ago, going back to ancient history, ancient so far as the life of this government is concerned, the premier did think it necessary to extend railways into the interior of British Columbia. But he has done nothing. The railway laws places in the hands of the government a pull with the railways, but unfortunately it was a pull with existing corporations, and no attempt was made to deal with new companies which would open up the interior. What has the government done in regard to the Kootenay Central or the line running to the north of this island? Does the premier propose to do anything about a line between the main lines of the C. P. R. and G. T. P.? Is there anything he has to suggest, and if so, why was it not suggested in the speech, to lead people to believe that the resources we have north of the C. P. R. line will be developed, or that this island, with all its riches, of which we have heard so much in the last few days, will be developed in the northern part of it?

I undertook two or three years ago to show what railroad connection had done for the province, and that two-thirds of our revenue was being derived from two portions developed by railways, the Kootenay and Boundary country and the southern portion of this island, districts generously dealt with in the past in the matter of railways. I pointed out shortly that this was sufficient encouragement to the government to encourage railway development elsewhere.

It does not mean that we are giving away our assets when we encourage railways by a guarantee of bonds or by a cash bonus where the province can give one. It simply means we are lending our assistance to railways to run through a country which will not pay the companies, but where railway connections will pay the settler and the province. These grants and similar offers of assistance have made Canada in the past twelve years what we find her to-day in the great western plains.

If it was not for such encouragement to railways where would the West have been? If we look at our own prosperity the greater part of it is due to the encouragement which other provinces and the Dominion government have shown railways.

License Laws and Bureaucracy.

Another matter not referred to in the speech—I suppose my hon. friend does not propose to deal with it this session—is the act passed last session which placed the administration of the liquor license law practically in the hands of the attorney-general, in unorganized territory. It was pointed out at the time that was a dangerous power to place in the hands of any one man or government. The people desire to have a say in the liquor question. They do not desire it to be in the hands of any government or attorney-general. But it is the policy of the government, bureaucratic and not representative, to take into their own hands every means that will give them power over the people that come within their laws. We find from end to end of the province that the holder of a license must knuckle down to the government, or risk the loss of his license. There is the power placed in the hands of the government to compel those holding licenses to become members of the Conservative party, or, if the law remains till next election, when the Liberals will be in power, supporters of the Liberal party. I say this is wrong. It is not a question of supporting the government party or keeping quiet, but a question of leaving every man to his political freedom. But how can any man, depending on the attorney-general or the government, be an independent and free-minded elector. My hon. friend may say: "Give us instances." I do not care whether there are instances or not, but instances can be given. Unquestionably this power has been abused, and abused during the past year, but whether it is or not, I am not taking that ground so much as the principle of taking away from the people in the locality affected the right of dealing with the licensing of the sale of liquor. I trust my hon. friend will say his government will do something this session, if not placing them back where they were as far as regards unorganized territory.

Fairness to All Ridings.

I trust my hon. friend will take into very favorable consideration the distribution of appropriations for public works. It was pointed out last session that those constituencies which dared to return opponents of the government were punished in this matter. It was pointed out, and could not be denied—though when the estimates were finally passed it was a little better—the appropriations in constituencies which returned opponents of the government were only half those given in the other cases.

What kind of a way is that to deal with the money of the province? Is it not a disgrace to the government of the province when we can point out with truth that when a constituency exercised its franchise independently and fearlessly and elected opponents of the government, they were punished by being denied their proper share of the public funds. It is true we shamed the government into making larger appropriations, but even as the estimates were finally passed there is no question but the amount given to constituencies, which returned Liberal members, were shamelessly less than given to the others. I trust this year the premier will rise superior to this policy and will recognize his duty to the province as a whole, exercising his high office in no partisan spirit but in the spirit of a statesman, dealing fairly with the whole people.

Civil Servants in Politics.

I want to refer to the manner in which a certain portion of the public service of this province has been debauched in being made party agents. I do not accuse all of being of this character, because there are some, thank heaven, who are not—and if the premier does not know it I will tell him now, so that he can discipline those gentlemen who have been abusing the power placed in their hands to political ends. We found these gentlemen going about, not only in provincial but Dominion election, and using the moneys placed at their disposal to work to compel men to vote for the Conservative candidates. This was the case in Kootenay and in Yale-Cariboo. With regard to the other constituencies I am not in a position to speak, but I am for these, especially for Kootenay. I am told, on good authority, and am sorry to have to believe it—if the premier can show me that it is not so I will believe him—that the government agent, for instance at Nelson, a gentleman at one time a member of this House, has been going about that constituency during the whole time of the federal campaign and has been telling the farmers and settlers in small centres where government work was being carried out that unless the ballot-box at that poll showed a majority for the government candidate the work at that place would stop immediately. (Shame.)

Shocking State of Affairs.

That story has come to me from half a dozen different localities. That has been going on right along. The question whether a road would go along here or there or not depended upon whether or not the ballot-box showed a satisfactory result. If that is true it shows a most shocking state of affairs in certain branches of the civil service in this province. I have mentioned the name of one gentleman. I could mention the names of two or three others said to be in the same position. The government agent in my own district is above reproach. He would disdain to do a thing of that kind, and there are other government agents of that kind in British Columbia, but unfortunately there are government agents of the class I have designated, using public office and public funds of this province for the advancement of the Conservative party.

I recall that at our last election we heard a great deal about interference of Ottawa. I am prepared to say, and I know what I am saying, that there was no interference from Ottawa in that election. But while there was none on the part of the Dominion government in 1903 there was the grossest interference on the part of the local Conservative party in the last federal campaign.

Elections Should Be Independent.

I, for one, think that elections for the Dominion and local houses should be kept separate. (Hear, hear.) Their interests do not coincide. I think the province will do well to confine itself to provincial issues. I do not think it advisable or expedient for Dominion politicians to mix in elections in this province. The premier does not believe with one who believes that the Dominion may take part in provincial elections, but where is he when a Dominion contest is on? We find him out using all the patronage and influence of his government and all his own prestige for his own political party. I trust my honorable friend will see that the civil service is looked after for the personal manner in which it has been going on, in the hope that it will not be found that patronage and power will be used to defeat the will of the people at the polls. (Hear, hear.)

The Settlers' Rights.

A matter of which the speech takes no notice, albeit it is of the utmost importance, is that of the settlers versus the speculator. The land laws of the province apparently have been passed and manipulated for no other purpose but that of not permitting settlement, but of allowing favored individuals to get rich quickly. Let us take the contrast of the Northwest and the way the lands of this province have been parcelled out. This government is not to blame more than former ones but it is a wrong course, and the sooner we demand that it place valuable lands at the disposal of the settler and not of the speculator, of a man who will become a taxpayer and revenue producer, the better for the taxpayer at large, even if we do not realize a cent out of the original pre-emption. (Hear, hear.) Whether in the wet belt or the dry belt, the settler who clears the land earns every cent he pays for the land. But what do we find? That in the Bulkley and Nechaco valleys the land is plastered with scrip; that the bona fide settler, going in there at great expense and trouble over the Cariboo road, finds that every foot of valuable arable land is plastered with scrip or sold to a speculator. The settlers have been driven out, and they say that if this is the way we are going to treat them and deal with their lands, they do not want our lands. The government talk of reserves, but it would have been more to the point if they had placed their reserves on the land before the speculators got in their stakes. The contribution the actual settlers would make to the treasury is of more importance than any paltry sum we could get from the speculator.

High Fruit Land Values.

We have had a sample of government reserve in fruit lands put up for sale at Creston. It may work out well in the long run but how was it there? We advocated cutting up the land into small holdings and parceling it out to the settler, but I do not think from \$10 and \$15 up to \$30 an acre for land on which they are about to settle is a fair price. I understand the average price at that sale was about \$30 an acre. I say that is too much to charge people who come into British Columbia to settle. (Hear, hear.) If we get the settler we can afford to give him the land. That is not the policy which has built up the western plains. Twenty-four million acres have been taken up by settlers and not one single acre sold. That policy has inured to the benefit of the whole of Canada and immensely to that of the people of British Columbia, to the fruit-growers and lumbermen, giving them a market which they would not have otherwise had. Our prosperity in British Columbia is largely due to that colonization policy on the western prairies. This government would do well to take a leaf out

of that book, the men who form a large proportion of every community, pay a large proportion of the taxes and produce the best results should be given all the advantages any pioneers should get. (Applause.)

The Seattle Exhibition.

One more omission I notice in the speech. There is about to be held the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exhibition in Seattle, which will inure largely to the benefit of the mines, timber and fruit lands of this province, because if we exhibit these products there there is no doubt but the excellency of our exhibit will attract people from neighboring republics here. I should have been glad to see the government recognizing the importance of this exhibition to this province by being prepared to give some reasonable grant towards its success. I hope our honorable friends, the government will take it up yet and make a grant commensurate with the importance to British Columbia of that exhibit. (Hear, hear.)

I recognize the fact that at best the speech is merely a perfunctory attempt, and in the manner in which it was prepared this year it is especially so, but we will have other opportunities to deal with the matters I have touched on this afternoon and be in a better position to point out the needs of the province and matters on which the government has earned criticism.

Let me assure the House and my honorable friends on the other side that in all matters which make for the welfare of British Columbia we on this side will sink all questions of partizanship and politics, and give our hearty support to all things which we think are in the interests of the province as a whole.

Prolonged applause greeted the leader as he sat down, and soon after the leader of the government made a reply, as reported in another column.

NO MONEY FOR BEAUTIFICATION

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ASSIST

Premier McBride Makes Statement During Debate on Address.

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 25.

The leaders were heard from to-day on the address, J. A. Macdonald speaking for a little over an hour, and Premier McBride for about half as long again. The speech of the leader of the opposition will be found on another page. It was one of his best efforts and dealt comprehensively with the political issues of the province. He was followed point by point by the premier, who is not as much at home in a set speech on the floor of the House as he is on the stump.

There was not a large gathering of listeners in the galleries and the leader of the government had few of his supporters behind him as he spoke.

Victoria will be interested in the references to the Tasse scheme for the beautification of the city. Mr. Macdonald endorsed it and approved of a government grant, but Premier McBride turned it down cold.

Just before the House adjourned the re-appearance of the Socialist leader took place. The certificate of his election had been read at the opening of the sitting. Mr. Hawthornthwaite slipped into his seat quietly at the last minute and then advanced between Parker Williams, of Newcastle, and John McInnis, of Grand Forks. He evidently did not relish the parade but it had to be gone through. His sponsors appeared to be aware there was a form of words for such an occasion, but did not know them, and so "the honorable gentleman's right to take his seat" was not claimed. All three advanced to the foot of the speaker's dais, bowed, the speaker murmured and acknowledgment and the trio moved off with an air of relief that it was over.

Mark Eagleson, the veteran of the Cariboo road, was in his place yesterday and was warmly welcomed by his colleagues. The only member of the opposition side yet to arrive is Stuart Henderson (Yale), who is detained up country on legal business.

The Premier's Reply.

Premier McBride congratulated the leader of the opposition on his promise to offer assistance in perfecting legislation and promised to take him at his word. He hoped for more support from the other side than in days gone by, not that he desired to criticize but that he thought the opposition might easily give more assistance to the government.

As to the speech, the government had tried to comprise in it all matters on which it thought reference might come from the representative of the crown. It had congratulated the member

Columbia (Mr. Parson) for the splendid manner in which he had moved the address in reply. His colleague from Victoria (Mr. Davey) had grappled with questions of more than passing moment in a manner which did him credit.

Dealing with Mr. Macdonald's reference to the filling of the new portfolio, the premier denied that he had ever been importuned by or on behalf of any gentleman, but had always exercised his own unbiassed choice. He had ever been favored in the supporters who sat behind him and there was nothing but the very best of relationship between himself and them. Of the Quebec and Simon Fraser celebrations, the premier spoke eloquently and thanked the leader of the opposition for his remarks in regard to the latter.

A hearty tribute was paid to the pluck and energy of the people of Fernie and the untiring efforts of its member (W. R. Ross) and all its public men, as a result of which there was growing up to-day what would be, before the first anniversary of the fire, the best, cleanest and most substantially built town in the west.

Water Clauses Act.

It did not follow, the premier said, that because the speech did not mention all the subjects of coming legislation it fell short of the functions of a speech from the throne. The revision of the Water Clauses Act he could assure the House, would be undertaken with care, and efforts would be made, while affecting no existing records, to secure for lands in the dry belt a more equitable and more reasonable supply of water. The bill would be presented in the next day or two, and ample time would be given for its perusal before it was taken up. Criticism and assistance from the opposition side in the passage of this bill would be welcomed. Here was a golden opportunity for the members opposite to redeem their past remissness in this regard.

The premier declared himself unable to understand what was meant by a speculator in timber lands. Everyone in British Columbia was more or less a speculator, and no one who had anything to sell and saw an opportunity to turn over a little money could be blamed. As compared with the Dominion, the premier asserted, the public interest had more protection from the present timber laws of British Columbia than from those of the Dominion. With an extension of the time of lease these laws would be perfect. Such an extension had been urged by business bodies and the government had the matter under consideration with a view to the adoption of some comprehensive law that would meet the case acceptably and fully. The government was aware of the importance of conserving our timber resources and would endeavor to secure the best expert opinion in the world, but meanwhile did not think any great harm would be caused by a delay of six or twelve or eighteen months.

A Bureau of Forestry.

The chief commissioner of lands had now in mind the establishment of a forestry bureau, which would take over the work of fire-rangin, timber scaling, and so forth. There would have to be a skilled man at its head as chief forester. This was a scheme which all should favor. The government had placed a reserve on the timber of the province which would prevent the alienation of any further area. The great demand for lumber had only come a few months before this reserve was made and the government, therefore, could not be accused of neglect.

The premier thought the country was getting back in one way or another a fair proportion of the revenue paid into the province. If the government had listened to all the requests for returning to the municipalities the personal property tax and other revenues, the province would not only have a surplus but would be in a fair way to be insolvent. There was a great demand on the government for public works in the unorganized districts and it could not afford to surrender any of its revenue.

Kind to the Liberals.

In defence of the government against Mr. Macdonald's charge that opposition constituencies were being starved, the premier said:

"I can assure my friends opposite the estimates will in the future as in the past be fair and equitable. I do not think we can be accused of following such an unfair and pernicious system as to starve opposition constituencies. (Ironical opposition laughter.) My friend from Cranbrook wanted a trunk road and I think he will find a very willing ear to the needs of a trunk road or more adequate roads in Cranbrook. I would be the last man in the world to say that a Liberal constituency should be treated unfairly. Why should we treat them so?"

"That is what we want to know," was the reply supplied by John Oliver.

"We have tried to do the fair and honest thing," continued the premier, "to give a square deal and nothing more. In reason you could not ask for more than that. If anything, the government has erred on the side of the Liberal constituencies." (Laughter.)

The premier was going on to say that during the recess the governor had to be asked for warrants to enable some necessary road works to be carried on

when Mr. Macdonald remarked that it was strange the use of lieutenant-governor's warrants for this purpose happened about election time, as in 1903, 1907 and last fall.

A Convenient Coincidence.

"I imagine that simply happened to

be a coincidence," was the explanation of the premier, an explanation at which he and his colleagues had to laugh. When the merriment subsided he continued: "I assure by hon. friend there was nothing of the kind he suggests. Knowing the strength of Conservatism in British Columbia it would be absurd to do anything questionable." (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. McBride did not see that the mineral tax worked any burden on the miner. The government had looked into the matter but found it was not expedient to make any change. While he would welcome any better system he feared it was far in the distant future. If the leader of the opposition could offer a solution of the problem he would be pleased to hear it.

"He suggested a plan four or five years ago, as you will find in the records, if you have forgotten what it was," said Mr. Macdonald.

The premier said he remembered all about it and was satisfied it would not do. It was dead and buried now, anyway.

"You buried it yourself," reminded the opposition leader.

"And it is beyond resurrection, too," Mr. McBride retorted. Of the mineral situation generally, he continued, the outlook was most optimistic.

Forgives Officials' "Mistakes."

The premier resented the charge of political manipulation of liquor licenses in unorganized districts. He said the attorney-general relied entirely on Superintendent Hussey, and as a result of the first year's operation of the new system twenty-five licenses had been destroyed, most of them held by Conservatives; "another evidence of the earnest desire of the government to administer the law without respect to political considerations," added the premier, to the great amusement of the opposition.

Of civil service interference in elections the premier said he would be sorry to think any servant of the government so acted, as he was strongly opposed to such a practice, and his government had tried to give the province a clean civil service. Of Mr. Wright nothing but the best reports had been made since he took office as gold commissioner at Nelson.

"It may be that in the heat of an election campaign his enthusiasm for the oil cause secured the better of his judgment, but we are all apt to make mistakes and must be forgiven. Mr. Wright was a strong partisan of the Conservative party when in politics, and may possibly have made a mistake."

Canadian Northern Negotiations.

In regard to railway matters the premier mentioned some of the railway works under way in the province, and of the Canadian Northern plans said:

"The government will welcome any fair and equitable arrangement that will bring the Canadian Northern into this province. It is a thoroughly Canadian system, controlled by Canadians; it has done a great deal for the farmers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and may readily do a great deal for British Columbia. In negotiating with them we want to be able to submit an arrangement that will meet with the commendation of the whole country and consistent with the policy of the government. Assistance will be necessary and we want to see that the interests and rights of the province are conserved."

Mr. McBride expressed his pleasure at the substantial progress of the G. T. P. He had the information from officials that 100 miles would be in operation by summer and that the letting of further tenders for the Pacific section are under consideration.

Nothing for Victoria.

Premier McBride said he cordially concurred in what the leader of the opposition had said about the beautification of Victoria, but wanted to know why the latter had not spoken years sooner. What he had himself to say on the practical side of the subject was contained in these words:

"Just as soon as the finances of British Columbia will allow this government to indulge in a policy for the beautification of the city of Victoria I am going to be the first man to embrace the opportunity. But when will that time come? How can I, when I know the difficulties caused by the lack of roads and bridges and trails where settlers are going in, consistently indulge in a policy of luxury here and pass the needs of these other people over? I would rather lose my position as member for Victoria to-morrow than keep it by spending money for a luxury when I know it was absolutely necessary to spend it on public works for the building up of British Columbia. When the time comes for the people of Victoria to hear from me I will not hesitate to tell them so."

The premier concluded his speech with a graceful tribute to the late lieutenant-governor as a man and an administrator.

G. R. Naden (Greenwood) secured the floor for to-morrow afternoon, and after J. H. Hawthornthwaite had introduced himself the House rose at half-past five.

A REBUFF FOR VICTORIA.

The necessity for the construction of roads and trails throughout the province is so imperative that Premier McBride, in a special sense the representative of Victoria, spurns with disdain the idea of the legislature contributing one cent to any scheme for the "beautification" of the capital. Yet the urgency of the demand for the construction of roads and trails did not preclude the government from spending very many hundreds of thousands of dollars in the erection of public buildings in other cities of the province, in some of which the accommodation was already ample. And some of these institutions, as the Times has already pointed out, in any other province of Canada, would have been erected and maintained at the capital of the province. The remarks of the Premier, delivered with particular emphasis, simply demonstrate how absolutely he is in the hands of his "good friend and colleague, Billy Bowser." There was even a note of defiance in his voice which might by his political opponents be interpreted as meaning that the Premier regretted he had gone so far as to forego the right of demanding "free" water from the city "he has the

great honor of representing in this Legislature."

Mr. J. A. Macdonald, the leader of the opposition, made a convincing and logical speech on the address in which he frankly espoused the cause of the capital and exposed the corrupt manner in which the government has entrenched itself in power. Mr. Macdonald's speech will be found in another page of this issue, and we can vouch for the fact that the reader who diligently peruses it will occupy his time to advantage.

SPECIAL GRANTS ON ELECTION EVE

MONEY OBTAINED ON GOVERNOR'S WARRANTS

**Expenditure on One Sum of
\$200,000 Not Yet Ac-
counted for.**

The comment of the leader of the provincial opposition the other day as to the issue of governor's warrants for special expenditures on the eve of elections, gains additional point from the statement of these warrants brought down by the finance minister. The statement covers eight months, during which time thirteen warrants were obtained by the government for a total amount of \$709,750. Of this sum the expenditure of \$299,558.39 has been accounted for so far.

A very suspicious item is one of \$200,000, for which a warrant was obtained on October 27th, the day after the federal elections in all but the constituencies of Yale-Cariboo and Kootenay. The ostensible service was "public works," but not a cent of the expenditure made under that warrant has been accounted for yet.

On October 6th a sum of \$50,000 was obtained for public works by special warrant, and all of the money was expended, doubtless where it would do most good—for Conservative candidates. There were two warrants obtained while the election was pending for "miscellaneous purposes," one for \$21,000 on September 21st and the other

for \$3,000 on October 13th. Both sums were spent in full.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow's statement was as follows, giving the service, amount of warrant and amount expended:

Date	Service	Amount of Warrant	Amount Expended
July 30	Hospitals and charities	\$ 15,000	\$ 11,000.00
June 22	Education	15,000	15,000.00
Sept. 3	"	10,000	6,028.13
May 14	Pub. Wks.	5,000	5,000.00
Oct. 6	"	50,000	50,000.00
Oct. 27	"	200,000
Dec. 28	"	109,000	44,900.00
Dec. 28	"	197,750	96,383.50
Dec. 28	"	75,000	38,345.90
May 21	Mis.	10,000	10,000.00
Sept. 21	"	10,000	10,000.00
Oct. 13	"	3,000	3,000.00
Dec. 28	"	10,000	10,000.00

Total \$709,750 \$299,558.39

Debate on the address. The debate on the address in the legislature is hardly likely to be finished to-day. There are several more speakers to be heard, on both sides. The attorney-general is slated to wind up the debate for the government, and John Oliver will sum up on the Liberal side. Mr. Oliver will make an important speech and is expected to have some criticisms of particular features of the McBride government record, which all the ingenuity of its members will not be able to answer.

PUBLIC MONEY BEING WASTED

USED TO FURTHER THE INTERESTS OF TORIES

**Excellent Speeches by North
County Members in the
Legislature.**

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 26. The north country had a show in the House this afternoon, when three members living in it spoke on the address. All had the same need to express on behalf of the constituencies, whether seaboard or inland—roads and trails to facilitate transportation and railway communication to enable those settling in the fertile valleys to market their produce.

The land policy of the McBride government was roundly condemned by G. R. Naden, Dr. Kergin and John Yorston, who were able to tell the House from intercourse with intending settlers and personal knowledge of the condi-

tions on the ground how settlement is being retarded through the blanketing of large areas by speculators and the lack of reliable information for prospective settlers in the places where one would naturally expect to find it, the crown lands department here and its agencies through the province. As a result people who come from the east or from across the line prepared to settle here as agriculturists are leaving again in disgust, and needless to say they will not be the best sort of immigration agents for British Columbia.

Some interesting facts in regard to the way public money is spent, or mis-spent, on works were given by John Yorston, and also of the manner in which constituencies returning opposition members are treated. From his own constituency, Cariboo, he gave instances of the lack of management and waste of money in building roads. Mr. Yorston's speech was listened to with the utmost interest and close attention. There must be many similar cases to those he cited in other parts of the province.

It is a matter of some significance, as showing that the Liberal policies are those which appeal to the people, that in spite of punishment by small appropriations constituencies which need roads and trails and bridges—such as Cariboo, Skeena, Lillooet and Yale—dare to send Liberal members to the legislature. It is equally noteworthy as against the McBride mining policy that mining centres like Rossland, Cranbrook, Greenwood, Nelson, Alberni, Nanaimo, Newcastle and Grand Forks return either Liberal or Socialist members.

The fourth speaker of the afternoon was Cowichan's representative, W. H. Hayward, who asked the government for encouragement for the farming interests, especially for poultry-risers and fruit-growers. Although a Conservative, Mr. Hayward does not think the government is fair to the farmer in the operation of the school act. He wants power given to have everyone else in rural municipalities taxed for school purposes.

The Liberal side of the House was rounded off this afternoon by the arrival of Stuart Henderson, member for Yale.

Prayers were read at the opening of the sitting by Rev. W. Leslie Clay, following which a number of petitions were presented praying for the passing of private bills. One of these, presented by John Jardine, covered the incorporation of the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Company.

Greenwood's Member.
G. R. Naden (Greenwood), who resumed the debate on the address, noticed that all previous speakers had wandered far from the text of the speech from the throne, but he did not wonder at this, for it would be as difficult to get up a real live debate on the subject matter of the speech as it was reported to be to get a drink of whiskey in Prince Rupert.

Congratulating Revelstoke and Hon. Thomas Taylor on that gentleman's promotion, Mr. Naden said the people of British Columbia would not cavil at the extra expense for a new minister, if it only enabled the chief commissioner of lands to have a little more time to put his department into shape so as to be prepared, or even half-prepared, to furnish information to settlers who wanted to get on the land. For years it had been impossible for any intending settler to get any information from the government, from the chief commissioner down, as to where he could go to get land for pre-emption.

Speaking of his constituency, Mr. Naden stated that general business was better than a year ago. He urged upon the attorney-general that better police protection should be given along the boundary line. There had been a series of burglaries, culminating in the murder of a leading citizen of Midway, but none of the parties had ever been brought to justice.

Works for Votes.

Mr. Naden welcomed Mr. McBride's statement that a square deal would be given all constituencies in the matter of appropriations and told the premier he would take him at his word. However, he wanted at the same time to draw attention to another practice of the government, that of doing works for purely partisan reasons as well as withholding works. The Kettle river bridge was an instance of a work carried out to conserve the votes of the district to the Conservative party. So far as it was any practical benefit it might almost as well be at the north pole.

Discussing the administration of the license law, Mr. Naden said he did not wonder that most of the twenty-five licenses cut off were held by Conservatives. It was not because of any fairness on the government's part but because it was difficult to find a hotelman or saloon-keeper in the unorganized districts who dared to own himself a Liberal.

Affairs at Prince Rupert.

For the last six months Mr. Naden has lived at Prince Rupert, and he devoted some attention to matters affecting the new townsite. He commended

the government for refusing to allow the townsite to be put on the market last fall, and for refusing to give liquor licenses, which latter was a distinct benefit. The people of the new town hoped the government would stay by this policy until such time as the town was incorporated. He would have a petition to present in a few days dealing with this matter and that of incorporation generally.

Mr. Naden thought that before allowing any lots to be put on the market the government should insist on some at least of the streets being planked and sidewalks put down, and some attention paid to sewerage. It was reported that the government was putting up money for the G. T. F. for these things. In regard to liquor, he mentioned that it was alleged from time to time that a good deal of liquor was being sold in Prince Rupert and that some government officials were conniving at it. As a resident it was only fair to say that this was not so, and that the government agent and chief constable had been honestly endeavoring to see that the law was carried out.

Government Film-flammed.

But if there was some little to give the government credit for, said Mr. Naden, it must be said that in making its choice of its portion of the townsite the government had been film-flammed. On the water-front one portion of 1,500 feet in length was possibly the very best part of the water-front, but the other pieces chosen by the government would be inaccessible and useless for years. The same was true in regard to the portions of the townsite back from the water-front.

Incorporation, to be of effect by proclamation, is what the people are petitioning for, so that they will be able to deal with conditions when the rush commences. Mr. Naden advised the creation of an eight-room school before the lots are put on the market.

Speaking of the Liberal charges of interference in the Dominion election by provincial officials, the member for Greenwood said that the premier, far from meeting them, had slid from under the criticism in his usual adroit way. The government agent in Greenwood was above reproach, but the majority of the civil servants were not only election agents during campaigns, but all the year. They went around with a pocketful of applications for registrations. Their time was largely spent looking up voters for the Conservative candidate.

A Dastardly Act.

"The Conservative party is remarkable for last-moment crimes against its opponents and the electorate," said Mr. Naden in conclusion. "There is the dastardly alteration in the Colonist of a telegram from the leader of the federal opposition, which could not be overtaken until after the election. I read the Colonist this morning and see what they had to say about that. To most people, indeed, it would seem that paper should feel pretty bad about adding to a telegram, but it has no excuse to offer. I congratulate the Conservative party in British Columbia on having a newspaper which will stop at nothing in order to win an election." (Applause.)

Member for Skeena.

Dr. W. T. Kergin (Skeena), said the timber and mining interests were of the greatest value to the province and the people would welcome the policy for which the Liberal party stood. The previous speaker, who was a member of the Prince Rupert Board of Trade, had spoken well in regard to conditions there, and for himself he endorsed all Mr. Naden had said. He would support the petition of the townspeople for incorporation. When the rush took place after the townsite was on the market it was desirable that the people on the ground would have power to deal with such matters as sewerage, water, etc. It was desired that a bill be adopted granting incorporation, to be brought into force by proclamation, but not before June 1st.

Dr. Kergin joined himself with Mr. Naden in his satisfaction at the condition of affairs in Prince Rupert without license. It was hoped that none would be granted until the town was incorporated, but it was desired by the people that in incorporating them they be given the right to decide whether or not they should have license.

Game for Queen Charlotte Group.

The placing of deer upon Queen Charlotte Islands was advocated by Dr. Kergin last year, but nothing has yet been done by the government. He renewed his appeal and hoped the government would accomplish something this year. The islands were eminently fit for game, because of the absence of wolves. It had been proven since last session that caribou lived on the islands, but of a smaller breed on account of inbreeding. The government should place a few mainland caribou on the islands in order to improve the present stock.

Dr. Kergin pointed out to the government the absolute necessity for surveys being made of some of the rich and fertile valleys in the Skeena district, of Porcher Island and parts of

Queen Charlotte Islands. Vancouver Island had been spoken of as a treasure island, and it undoubtedly was so, he said, but none the less were Graham Island and Moresby Island treasure islands. Prospectors were busy on them looking for minerals and it was to be desired that good government surveys be made of them at once.

Bona Fide Settler Not Encouraged.

The member for Skeena had the same complaint to make as others in regard to the manner in which agricultural lands in the Nechaco valley and other sections of the province had been handed over to speculators, so that the bona fide settler was confronted with the necessity of paying an exorbitant price to the government's friends or giving up the idea of settling. Almost invariably the men who had gone in at much expense and some hardship to become pioneer farmers in that part of the country turned back in disgust and would have nothing more to do with British Columbia lands. In addition to this it was practically impossible to get any information from the department of lands as to what lands were available for settlement. It was time the whole administration of the land laws was put on a business footing, and the country would expect this now that the department had been divided and the chief commissioner had only the lands end to look after.

Aid for Agriculture.

W. H. Hayward (Cowichan), congratulated the government, among other things, upon the appointment of Mr. Palmer as deputy minister of agriculture. He trusted the finance minister would make large appropriations for the purposes of agriculture, including the salaries of first-class men at the head of each department of farm industry. Nothing would help the province more than a prosperous agricultural community, but a great deal remained to be done to help that class. Former governments had done a great deal for dairy products, and it was for this government to take equally energetic steps for the development of poultry and fruit industries, especially as to marketing these. When it was remembered that \$300,000 worth of eggs were marketed last year it could be seen what an immense source of wealth might be worked up there.

The government should place a man in the Northwest to look after the interests of the farmers, to keep in touch with the markets and advise the producers of British Columbia. It was reported that a great deal of low grade fruit was being dumped into the prairie provinces from Oregon and Washington, and labelled as British Columbian. This was contrary to the Fruit Marks Act and should be looked into.

Cowichan's Timber Wealth.

Mr. Hayward claimed that his constituency possessed a greater quantity of timber than any other in the province, and stated that a recent cruise of lands in the E. & N. grant showed a total of four and a half billion feet around Cowichan lake.

The application of the school act as it affected the farmer, Mr. Hayward denounced as most unfair and unjust, practically the whole cost of education, he said, fell on the farmer, while the children of other classes and of non-British citizens got the benefit. He felt that to remedy what he considered a rank injustice the professional man, the store-keeper, the real estate speculator and everyone else should pay a fair share of the cost of the schools. The law should give municipalities power to tax real estate, personal property, income or anything else for school purposes alone.

Mr. Hayward's only complaint against the license laws was that there was need for an inspection and analysis of the liquors sold in the province. If any were found adulterated he would fine for the first offence and cancel the license for the next. Good liquor in moderation would not hurt anyone, but some of the stuff sold over bars should not be allowed to be there.

Junior Member for Cariboo.

John M. Yorston (Cariboo), after expressing congratulation to Mr. Taylor, spoke of the value of irrigation to large sections of the province. In Cariboo, he said, were great areas of arable land which could be brought under cultivation by means of irrigation. But more important to his constituency than irrigation was the question of transportation. The addition to the cultivated lands through irrigation would be no use if the products could not be brought to a market. There were thousands of bushels of wheat which could not be sold because it could not be brought to market. In the cellars of the farmers were potatoes of the finest quality which would be very welcome just now in Victoria. It was to be hoped, then, that the government would provide better means of transport.

Taking up the land question Mr. Yorston said that hundreds of good settlers were turning back in disgust when they found the conditions of affairs. He had heard from several men in the Nechaco valley and in the Cowichan country that they could not

any land and were not going to stay in British Columbia. Even when men got pre-emption it was often only to find after some months that someone else had a prior record. One man had spent \$1,500 on his pre-emption before he found this out. In another case, where a man had a genuine prior claim to a piece of land which a particular friend of some members of the government wanted it cost him \$1,000 to assert his claim. A land record office was greatly needed in that country.

How Money Is Spent.

Mr. Yorston gave some facts as to the way public money is spent in the country. In his riding the appropriation last year was some \$6,000. To administer this there were two road superintendents at \$150 a month each with a general superintendent and the government agent over them and a Conservative committee to boss the whole lot. A foreigner put the matter well the other day when, in answer to a question as to why he did not see the superintendent about a piece of work, he said: "Why, he has no more say than I have about it; in fact, he has not as much, for I say a lot and he dare not say a word or he will lose his job."

Coming down to concrete instances Mr. Yorston told of roads which had cost exorbitant sums, and of the ease with which \$300 or \$1,000 could be got by government supporters. He told of one particular case, that of the road from Quessnel to the Nechaco valley.

There was no survey made; a man was put in charge of the work who knew nothing about handling men, and the work went muddling on. When the foreman wanted to get a direction for the road, in the absence of a surveyor he would send a man up a tree to report what looked the most promising way to run!

Rough and Ready Road Work.

"It's a fact, I can assure you," remarked Mr. Yorston in answer to the look of surprise which spread over members' faces.

In the end the people got a road which had an eighteen per cent. grade in places, and the best description of it was that it was a good trail spoiled. "When we want a road we want a good one or none at all," declared Mr. Yorston.

To get along this road required some wonderful feats in the way of pulling and hauling, and it was out of the question to carry a heavy load. It was such a remarkable bit of road work that an amateur photographer took several pictures of it and of scenes along it. He sent these to a photographer at Quessnel to be developed but the photographer was a good Conservative and that was the last of those very inconvenient pictures. (Laughter.)

Conservative Pettiness.

To illustrate one of the ways in which the Cariboo constituency is being punished for electing himself and Harry Jones, Mr. Yorston told of the Quessnel school. The present building is perfectly inadequate and quite unsuited for this weather. A year ago the trustees decided to ask the government to put up a new one and Mr. Yorston came down to see about it. But the Conservatives in Cariboo put party before everything and fought against the new building sooner than that he should have any credit for it. One way and another action had been put off and Quessnel was still without the school accommodation it urgently needed.

Mr. Yorston closed with a word of congratulation to Hon. Thomas Taylor upon his promotion to office.

A. E. McPhillips, K.C. (The Islands), moved the adjournment of the debate.

Licensing of Clubs.

The attorney-general presented his bill for the licensing of clubs to sell liquor, on which the House went into committee formally, with Price Ellison in the chair.

The bill forbids the sale or supplying of any intoxicating liquors by any society, association or club, existing or hereafter formed, whether incorporated or not, unless a license has been issued, the fee for which is \$100. The licenses are to be issued by the superintendent of provincial police upon application, accompanied by the consent of the attorney-general in writing—as the act reads this must be in the writing of that minister—and remain in force to the end of the calendar year. The provisions of the license law not expressly applicable to such societies or clubs are not to apply, which presumably excludes them from the operation of the regulation as to hours.

The premises and books are to be open to the superintendent of police, or anyone authorized by him in writing, at all times. A license may be cancelled by the attorney-general at any time when it is made to appear to him that the organization, its officers, members or servants, are not conducting it in a proper manner. A penalty not exceeding \$100, with three months

in default of payment in the case of individuals, is provided. organization which is prohibited in any way from selling or supplying liquor to members, nor to any organization formed under the Benevolent Societies' act.

The attorney-general also brought down the bill to provide for the revision and consolidation of the statutes, which stands for second reading.

The House adjourned at 4:30 p. m.

The McBride government issued within a few months special warrants to the amount of over three-quarters of a million dollars. In that way the administration proves its contempt for legislative safeguards. If the federal government at Ottawa spent as much proportionately it would be the subject of extraordinary criticism not only in Canada, but in Great Britain. But the Ottawa government has some regard for constitutional practices. Of course the last half of the year 1909 called for exceptional expenditures in British Columbia. The public will probably hear more of these extraordinary expenditures later on in the session.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1909.

HOW SETTLERS ARE WELCOMED POLICY OF B. C. DOES NOT TEND TO GROWTH

A Hint to the Premier Regarding Condition of Douglas Memorial.

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 27.

Five speakers were heard in the debate on the address this afternoon, representing the three political parties in the House. A. E. McPhillips and W. R. Ross spoke for the government side. Mr. McPhillips reiterated his condemnation of one of the roorbacks which was used in the federal campaign, the reproduction from the Orange Sentinel of an appeal to Protestants to vote against the Liberal chief and party. He claimed that the circulation of this dodger was not done by the Conservative party, but he admitted that members of the party were responsible for it.

Fernie's member brought most encouraging reports from that place of the plucky manner in which its people faced the rebuilding of their homes and business places. Mr. Ross stated that there were as many business premises now built as there were before the fire, and all of a material and construction which would enable the city to successfully fight such a fire if one should ever recur.

H. C. Brewster, who represents the West Coast constituency of Alberni, made an excellent speech both as to the matter and manner. He gave the House a very optimistic account of the prosperity of his riding, despite laws which handicap agriculturist and miner and lumberman.

A rather curious circumstance was brought to light by Mr. Brewster. In reporting on the Mud River country the surveyor employed by the department of lands, Templeton, reported that of something over 17,000 acres, only 500 acres were of any agricultural value. In a prospectus issued by one K. McKay, a Seattle man, appears a letter from Templeton stating that he has surveyed twenty-seven square miles (the same area) all magnificent farming country. It would look as if an explanation was due from this man, either as to why he reported as he did to the government, if his letter to McKay tells the truth, or why he misrepresented facts which he gained as a paid servant of the province, if his report on file in the department is an accurate statement of those facts.

John Jardine brought to the attention of the government once more the unsanitary conditions of portions of Esquimalt and the failure of the provincial health department to act in the matter. Mr. Jardine regretted the decision of the government to do nothing for the beautification of Victoria, and implored the premier to at least have the decency to rescue the Douglas shaft from the hole in the ground in which it now stands. The erection of a fitting statue of the first governor of British Columbia was a work, he thought, which the whole province would applaud.

Prayers were read this afternoon by Rev. W. Leslie Clay.

Routine Business.

On motion of Stuart Henderson the name of G. R. Naden was added to the committee on mining, and that of C. W. Munro to the committees on municipal matters and agriculture.

H. B. Thomson (Victoria) presented the necessary petition from the city of Victoria, asking for leave to introduce a bill to amend the Victoria Waterworks Act of 1873. This is the legislation desired by the city to empower the development of electric power in connection with its Sooke lake water supply.

J. H. Schofield (Ymir) presented a petition, asking for an act of incorporation for the Goat River Water, Power & Light Co.

Dr. Kergin (Skeena) presented petitions for leave to introduce bills incorporating the Prince Rupert & Port Simpson Railway Company, and the Graham Island Railway Company.

Mr. McPhillips Resumes Debate.

A. E. McPhillips (The Islands) spoke at the outset of his speech of the eminently practical address of the member for Columbia (Mr. Parson), and the attention paid by the second member for Victoria (Mr. Davey) to the constructive legislation of the government. Since it took office in 1903 the acts of the Conservative government had been such as to properly conserve the national resources of the province, properly to exploit and develop those resources, and had brought about a condition not thought of in the days of stress when the government took office.

An eloquent reference was made to the character of the late Sir Henri Joly, and was followed by a brief resume of the early history of Canada, commemorated at the Quebec centenary. Without the west, Mr. McPhillips said, Canada could not be as great as it has become. In the opening up of the west the work could never be forgotten of La Verandrye a century and a half ago, of such a pioneer and discoverer as Simon Fraser, and of Lewis and Clark in Oregon. A testimony was paid by the speaker to the loyalty of the French-Canadians all through the history of the country.

Condemns Religious Appeals.

Dealing apparently with the Orange circular which was distributed through the country in the federal election, Mr. McPhillips remarked that he had always tried during his public life to deal with matters political on a broad plane, holding that there should be no differences between Canadians because of race or creed, that all should unite to work for the upbuilding of their common country. But in the last Dominion election some misguided persons, not at the instance of either political party, introduced such a disturbing element.

"We have no room in Canada for the bigot," declared Mr. McPhillips, "no more room for the bigot than for the assassin who strikes in the dark."

The hon. gentleman went on to say that it was not through the agency of the Conservative party that such questions were raised in Victoria during the election; on the contrary, the party had suffered because of the misguided efforts of some of its members, who thought these efforts would be an element of success in the campaign.

Mr. McPhillips thought the license laws were being fairly administered and that complaints made on the other side were far-fetched. At the same time he stood for rigid enforcement of the law, and he would punish severely liquor dealers who sold to intoxicated men. Nothing was more criminal, he said, and if not for the first offense, for a second he would deprive a man of the right to a license for all time. He did not think the attorney-general would administer the law with an eye to party interests, and as far the participation of civil servants in elections, he was satisfied that the premier would see that no "mistakes" were made in future.

Settlers Should Hold Back.

As a reply to the Liberal criticism that lands in the Nechaco and Bulkley valleys were closed to the bona fide settler, Mr. McPhillips admitted that it was unfortunate that men should find that lands had been pre-empted, and he sincerely regretted this. At the same time he thought that so early in the history of the north country the government could not be blamed. It was not in the interest of the settlers that they should go into that country too soon. The country should be surveyed first, the nature of its soil should be found out, and when transportation facilities were better and markets obtainable then the government would be able to give full information to intending settlers. Mr. McPhillips accused the leader of the opposition of not being mindful in former days of the rights of the pioneer settlers of Vancouver Island.

Mr. McPhillips favored a liberal grant towards the participation of British Columbia in the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exhibition and the making of the best possible display of the varied resources of British Columbia and the rest of

Canada by the provincial and Dominion governments.

Not Deserving of Bouquets.

John McInnis (Grand Forks) invited the premier, while in a frame of mind, to treat opposition constituencies fairly, to visit the Kettle River valley and other parts of his constituency and see how reasonable public works could develop it. The worst he could wish the premier and his colleagues was that their conversion would not last. He did not think the government need throw bouquets at itself because of any growing revenue from natural resources. For every dollar of revenue from this source very many more dollars worth of public property was alienated. Today United States capitalists, having plundered the natural resources of that country, were coming over to British Columbia and gobbling up lands, forests and minerals so as to continue their plundering.

The third of the Socialist trio declared that the Socialists of Canada were opposed to the nationalization of the battlefields of Quebec. The issues decided there had been dead and buried for long years, and his party saw no good reason why they should be resurrected again to recall unpleasant memories. Instead of glorifying brute force as an ideal we should have something better.

Wants Less Pomp.

If the pomp and state incident to the opening of the House could be boiled down to the same size as the speech from the throne, Mr. McInnis said, it would be pleasing to him at least. He noticed no reference in the speech to labor matters, and from this he concluded that there would be no election this year. Had it been intended by the government to appeal to the people next summer there would be fitting references in the speech to labor, to the dignity of the worker, and so forth, in order to serve the ends of the government and try to make them square with the workingman.

Mr. McInnis demanded that the government at once introduce legislation to provide for compensation out of the public funds for workmen hurt in the mines or elsewhere. At Revelstoke it had been discovered by the premier that the main difference between the Conservative and Liberal parties was that the former was the party of the workingman. The premier now had a chance to show whether his discovery was a genuine one or whether the difference was one for election purposes only.

The Claims of Alberni.

H. C. Brewster (Alberni) apologized for taking part in the debate when probably members were getting tired of it, but the importance of his constituency demanded that its representative should be heard. He congratulated Hon. Thomas Taylor on his elevation to the cabinet and hoped for an improvement in both the departments of lands and works as a result of their separation. He had also congratulated the mover and seconder on making so much out of a meagre speech from the throne. Many things they had said which could not be borne out by facts, while every item of vital importance to the province had been carefully avoided by both gentlemen and by the premier. Had it not been for the admirable speech of the leader of the opposition it was to be doubted whether any of these vital issues would have been brought before the House at all at this stage.

In the matter of a readjustment of the personal property and income taxes Mr. Brewster recalled his proposal to exempt the first \$1,000 worth of improvements on agricultural lands. His object was, he said, to encourage settlers to make improvements, so that when necessary increase of taxation came these people would not roll their blankets up and depart but would have to stand by their farms and help to bear the burden of taxation. The government would not consider that proposition. Now when the government was getting in so much money that it could think of a readjustment, the farming class should be considered and given a greater measure of relief than others.

Troubles of Settlers.

Mr. Brewster devoted some attention to the difficulties attending the acquisition of land by bona fide settlers, and the desirability of the government taking steps to re-take possession of agricultural lands that were taken up by timber licensees when gobbling up everything in the shape of timber. There were many such areas on the Island as well as on the mainland which could be re-acquired without inconvenience to timbermen and would be available for settlement. This was a serious matter, especially on the West Coast.

A case now receiving attention by the land department was instanced. Genuine settlers came from the old country, practically half round the world, to locate on the island advertised over there by the government as a treasure island. They brought their families, one man with four children now attending school at Quatsino. They selected certain lands at Quatsino, made

application to pre-empt, and pre-emption records were granted. The surprise of these people, used to British government fairplay, could be imagined when they were told that the land could not be taken up, that it was reverted land, and that they must return the pre-emption records to the office at Alberni and get off the land.

The settlers undertook to find out what the cause was and it was finally practically arranged that they could purchase under the act, but when they came to complete the purchase it was found that, unknown to the department, the tax sale at the time of its reversion was improperly advertised and the government could not even sell the land. These people liked the island, its climate and everything else and did not want to leave but when a spot for them to settle on was looked for none could be found.

Waterfront Pre-empted.

"We find that practically the whole waterfront of the west coast is taken up in pulp and timber concessions, and the settler whom we spend ink and paper and officials' salaries to get here is squeezed out," said Mr. Brewster. "If the division of the department is going to give the chief commissioner time to attend to these matters, most important if we are ever to get settlers into British Columbia, then the government was wise in creating separate departments."

The member for Alberni had a word to say as to political manipulation of the license law. Hotelmen knew, and the public knew too, that unless a license-holder walked straight politically he would have to come to Victoria and interview the attorney-general; all knew what that meant later on. In the matter of free text-books he said he had not known that the Conservatives were in the habit of bodily lifting planks of the Liberal platform.

Mining on Texada Island.

"I had the pleasure recently of visiting every section of my constituency except the extreme northern end," continued Mr. Brewster. "I visited Texada Island and am pleased to report that in mining there has not been so much activity since Van Anda days. I went down 1,030 feet into the Marble Bay mine, through a body of ore of excellent quality and becoming richer as it goes down. There are also the Raven, Malespina and other good mines. But while up there I found that the refusal of the government last session to allow the passage of the bill I presented, and have again on the paper this session, has been the cause of great hardship. I pointed out last session that the Lien act does not apply to mines, and that even did it apply it would be of very little value in many cases. There were three cases last year where American capitalists, or supposed capitalists, went in and had work carried on till the vein or their money pinched out and then disappeared, doing the miner out of his wages. The feeling on the west coast is that the miner should be given at least as much protection as the carpenter or sailor or anyone else." (Hear, hear.)

Many Roads Needed.

Roads and other public works are needed there, the hon. gentleman said, and he had been glad to hear the premier's statement that all the constituencies were going to get their fair share of appropriations. A road from the old iron mine down to below Raven Bay was needed and to get that a considerable expenditure would have to be made. Alberni would need an appropriation of not less than \$50,000 this year. Last year a vote of \$10,450 had been made and during recess the government had agreed with his claims to the extent of making a grant of \$5,000 extra. By roads and trails alone could the interior be reached and exploited, and the people looked for assistance in doing this.

The water reserves in Alberni needed attention, and it was to be hoped that the government would consider that the 300 inches promised to be reserved was not sufficient. The people looked for a reserve which would give Alberni the privilege of developing her own resources with the power at hand and not be compelled to purchase from companies which had been allowed to gobble up all the water privileges.

Road Money Wasted.

Mr. Brewster said there were many instances of waste of money on road work. At one place on one of the main thoroughfares between Nanaimo and Alberni the man who was road foreman, while away working on the C. P. R., leaves a young lad, and as a result the road was blocked for five days with fallen timber lately, there being no one but this lad to take charge. This was not a proper method of handling road work. North of Nanaimo the construction of the C. P. R. had broken up the roads and in many cases they had not been replaced in the same condition as before. In one case complaint was made to the government agent about the grade, over which farmers could not draw heavy loads but he practically refused to do anything. On application an engineer was sent up and it was understood the C. P. R. was to do something. If

the promises of the company were carried out the road would be fair but nothing had been done yet.

Contradictory Reports.

"One would think," said Mr. Brewster in concluding, "that the member for The Islands wished to warn settlers away until the speculator got all he wanted. I have a couple of reports before me which I think this House should have some information about. A surveyor named Templeton, who made the survey of the Mud River country, writes to K. McKay, of Seattle, to say that he has been over twenty-seven square miles of that district, and he goes on to say that the whole section is a rich, black soil and a magnificent farming district. This K. McKay, some sort of a land-grabber, is offering this land at from \$3.50 to \$5 an acre and wants 50 cents an acre down.

"I went into the department and to my surprise found that Templeton, this surveyor sent up as a government employee, reports to the department that in a little over 17,000 acres there was only about 500 acres that would be of any value at all for agricultural purposes. If this man is still in the employ of the government surely the chief commissioner should find out why, when he reports to the government that only three per cent of this land is any value agriculturally, he writes to some land grabber on the other side of the line that it is the most valuable land in the country.

"Unless the man going in on the land is protected we might as well give up the idea of making a decent district out of the west coast of Vancouver Island." (Applause.)

The Resurrection of Fernie.

W. R. Ross, K. C. (Fernie), joined with others in congratulating Messrs. Parsons and Davey. Coming from the scene of the disaster of last summer, where inside three hours four or five million dollars worth of property was destroyed and 5,000 people rendered homeless, he expressed the heartfelt gratitude of his townsmen to the town of Cranbrook for receiving the refugees, to all who had rendered them assistance and to the government for the manner in which it met the circumstances.

A committee consisting of the mayor and ten of the leading citizens had been appointed to deal with the relief funds and all who had contributed could rest assured the money would be wisely administered. There had been some \$112,000 subscribed, now deposited in bank and only paid out by cheque on the order of a finance committee consisting of the ex-mayor and the three local bank managers. The accounts were being audited monthly.

Rebuilding had been going on since the fire and to-day there were as many permanent buildings in the city as on the day of the fire, seven hundred homes had been rebuilt and the business centre re-established in a permanent and substantial way. Within the next year, and certainly within two years, there would be a new and a better Fernie, the whole due to the pluck and energy of the people whom he had the privilege of representing. (Applause.)

The Member For Esquimalt.

John Jardine (Esquimalt), referring to the Fernie fire, thought the government of British Columbia, out of its overflowing treasury, might have contributed more than \$10,000 to the relief of the people who were sufferers in that catastrophe.

An omission he noticed in the speech was one in reference to a matter the attorney-general had promised last session to attend to. Mr. Bowser had promised to arrange a plan which would enable the constabulary of the province to overtake the perpetrator of a series of crimes and expected that by the time the House met again he would be able to announce that a scheme had been matured. It was a most unfortunate feature of this affair that the people had not yet, after spending much money on an expedition, any knowledge of the whereabouts of the attorney-general's personal friend, Gun-a-Noot. (Laughter.)

Mr. Jardine regretted also that there was no reference in the address to matters affecting labor. An eight-hour day was a very desirable thing, although everyone but himself and the Socialists voted against it, and he hoped the member for Nanaimo (J. H. Hawthornthwaite), would reintroduce his bill of last session.

Regarding road works, Mr. Jardine exonerated the men working on those in his constituency from any blame, for only 25 per cent of the expenditure being for the benefit of the people. The fault was with the deputy commissioner of works, the engineer in charge. There had been a pile of rock alongside the Esquimalt road, part of which was being broken by hand, a most remarkable way to do things in this age of go-ahead methods.

Unsanitary Conditions.

In spite of frequent representations to the premier and executive, there had been no relief yet in the matter of the unsanitary condition of Esquimalt road and Head street. The conditions were very bad, the sewage oozing out

on these streets, and affording a breeding place for disease germs. At the turn of the road, within two or three hundred yards of Work Point barracks—and this also illustrated the unsatisfactory way in which works were carried out—where a culvert and retaining walls had been constructed in such a way that the road would be much narrower than before, a hole had been left in the centre and people were allowed to dump their refuse in. People living in proximity to this place were driven out of their homes by the smell and there had been two or three cases of diphtheria. At the suggestion of the premier he had asked the chief sanitary officer for a report, but none had been made yet. A very small sum would provide means of relief.

The Douglas Memorial.

"I regret the decision of the premier as to the beautification of the capital," said Mr. Jardine. "But I have a word to say in this connection which the premier will hear. The land on which this building stands was a gift from Sir James Douglas, and a small shaft stands in front as a memorial to him. It is a source of grief to me every time I pass it to see that the pedestal is sunk below the roadway, that moss is growing over the stone, and that no care is taken of it—it is unwet, unworried and unsung. I have it on the word of a leading architect that for a sum of \$50 the shaft could be raised to the grade of the street.

"I do not think the government could do anything which would better satisfy the people of Victoria and of British Columbia than to erect a fitting monument to Sir James Douglas in this, the scene of his great services as first governor of this territory." (Applause.)

Development of South Coast.

The material prosperity of the Esquimalt districts their member reported to be of the brightest. A railway company was now seeking incorporation, which would open up the Sooke & Otter Point districts, which he considered were two of the most desirable in British Columbia. When opened up they would be found capable of growing as fine fruit and of as delicate kinds as in any other part of the province. The inner harbor at Sooke, with the expenditure of a little money by the Dominion government, would accommodate a large amount of business. It was of the utmost importance, then, that the House pass the bill to incorporate the company which sought to build a line to Barkley Sound and give it all the powers it asked.

The adjournment of the debate was moved by John Oliver (Delta).

The Horticultural Board.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow, minister of agricultural, introduced a bill to enlarge the horticultural board, which for many years has consisted of the minister, the deputy minister and one representative from each of three districts. Hereafter there are to be three ex-officio members—the minister, the deputy of agriculture, who is to act as secretary, and the chief inspector of fruit pests, who is to act for the whole province—and four members to be appointed by the government.

The first district includes Vancouver Island and adjacent islands. The second takes in Vancouver, Richmond, Dewdney, Delta, Chilliwack, Lillooet, Skeena, Comox and Cariboo. The third comprises the electoral districts of Kamloops, Yale, Similkameen, Okanagan and Nelson. In the fourth are Revelstoke, Columbia, Kaslo, Slokan, Greenwood, Grand Forks, Ymir, Cranbrook, Fernie and New Westminster.

A Question of Privilege.

Before the House rose at half-past five Parker Williams had a question to bring up. As a member of the committee appointed last session to revise the rules of the House he complained that by the sending out of a draft copy by the clerk of the House the other members were being ignored. He objected to doing business that way, and was not inclined to serve any longer.

Mr. Speaker Eberts explained that as the members of the committee lived far removed he and Mr. Fell had gone over the rules and he had instructed Mr. Fell to mail copies of the draft to the other members so that they would have them when they gathered for the session.

John Oliver, who is the best authority in the House on procedure, commended the step taken. The Speaker and clerk had been amply justified in acting as they did, considering the convenience of the committee and the fact that this was only a draft for their consideration.

Questions Answered.

John Oliver (Delta), asked:
1. What roads or bridges were repaired in Delta districts during the present fiscal year?
2. What was the amount expended on each road or bridge, and under what foreman?
3. In what month was the work done in each case?
Hon. Mr. Fulton replied as follows:
Brown road, \$12, in July.

Coast Meridian road, \$237.50, under W. Figg & C. B. McKenzie.
Hjorth road, \$191.25, in October.
Johnston road, \$152.85, in September under J. Johnston.
Yale Trunk road, \$9,069.20, between July and October, under G. L. Blair, C. W. McCallum and R. D. McKenzie.
Canoe Pass bridge, \$25,378.80, between July and October, under W. A. Willis-croft.

Mr. Oliver asked:
1. What moneys have been expended in Dewdney riding during the present fiscal year?
2. For what purpose was such expenditure made?

Hon. Mr. Fulton replied as follows:
1. \$37,335.81.
2. To construct and maintain public roads, streets, bridges, wharves and ferry.

A third question Mr. Oliver put was as follows:

1. What amount of money was collected by way of tolls for the use of the government bridge at New Westminster during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1908?

2. Who were the toll collectors employed, and what amount was paid to each collector during the same period?

3. Is it the intention of the government to accede to the wishes of the people of the New Westminster city and district by discontinuing the imposition of tolls for the use of the New Westminster bridge?

4. Had any agreement been made between the government and the B. C. Electric Railway Company for the use of the New Westminster bridge?

5. If so, will the government cause copies of such agreement to be laid before the House for its information, forthwith?

Hon. Mr. Fulton's reply was:
1. \$25,702.60, including \$15.00 rental from the V. Y. & E. Railway Company.
2. G. Hargreaves, \$900; C. Eagles,

\$720; E. Oddy, \$720; T. Anderson, \$720; W. Kingsley, \$18; T. Dorniny, \$92.50.
3. The government is prepared to make reductions in the tolls from time to time as the traffic increases.
4. Yes.
5. Yes.

MANY QUESTIONS WAIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT

Opposition Members Want Information as to Expenditures.

There are a number of questions awaiting the government as soon as the debate on the address is concluded. This afternoon will see the debate finished by John Oliver, from the opposition side, and Attorney-General Bowser.

Dr. Kerwin intends to ask the attorney-general on Monday if the commission of Robert L. McIntosh, of Prince Rupert, as stipendiary magistrate, has been cancelled, and if so for what cause. He will also ask the finance minister the amount collected from timber royalties and timber licenses from Skeena district in the fiscal years ending June 30th, 1907 and 1908.

Mr. Oliver has given notice of several questions he wishes to have answered. To-morrow he will ask how many new liquor licenses were issued last year, and also what amounts of the \$25,378 spent on Canoe Pass bridge were for labor and material. On Monday he will ask the commissioner of works what the beach road in Cowichan cost to construct; what it has cost yearly to repair since then; how many miles of road each of the five road foremen in South Cowichan have to maintain, and how many men each employs; how many men Reid employed, and at what wages in 1907 and 1908, and how much a year it costs the government to gravel the roads in Reid's division.

Mr. Oliver also wants to know what amounts were paid to C. W. Gamble, works department engineer, during 1907-8 and during the six months ending December 31st last, and for what purpose in each case.

The city bill which H. B. Thomson will introduce relating to the Victoria water works, proposes, besides giving the city power to develop and sell power, that the revenue from the system shall be paid into a fund apart from the general revenue, and shall not be applicable to ordinary civic expenditure unless a two-thirds vote of the council decides to so apply any surplus. It is to be provided that the indebtedness for water works purposes shall not be included as part of the civic indebtedness authorized under the Municipal Clauses Act, and shall be secured by the system and its revenue.

ABUSES OF THE "ROYAL WARRANT."

As we understand the fundamental principles of constitutional government, it is the duty of parliament to jealously maintain control of the revenues of the country as well as to pass laws for the government of the country. In British Columbia alone of all the British possessions, apparently, the executive is superior in power to the legislature. It is not dependent upon parliament for supplies. It can obtain all the money it requires for any purpose it may design by the simple expedient of issuing "royal warrants." Within a few months of the financial year the government of British Columbia expended in this irregular manner, or obtained power to expend, about a quarter of the entire provincial expenditure for the year. It will be the duty of the legislature during the present session to inquire into this grave question of executive arrogance and decide whether such an unprecedented assumption of power can be tolerated in a presumably constitutionally governed province. If the legislature should condone such an invasion of its rights, then it might as well surrender its control of the revenues and formally recognize the administration as a more or less modified form of absolutism suited to our peculiar constitutional circumstances.

In every province of Canada, in Canada itself, and in Great Britain, the principle is rigidly upheld that revenues cannot be expended under Royal Warrant except in cases of grave emergency when it is impossible to obtain the consent of Parliament. The action of the Dominion government in contributing one hundred thousand dollars for the relief of the earthquake sufferers in Italy may be cited as an example of the manner in which the prerogative of the Royal Warrant may be legitimately exercised. But the government of British Columbia obtained power, illegitimately and censurably, we maintain, to expend within a few months between five and six hundred thousand dollars upon public works in the province, besides other sums which in the aggregate bring the total up to the figure we have mentioned. The ostensible objects to which these large sums of money were applied will doubtless be explained in the course of the session, but the real purpose of the invasion of the prerogative of the legislature is well known. It had something to do with the recent federal election.

In discussing this extraordinary violation of the constitutional prerogative of the people's representative in Parliament, our object at the present time is to merely ask whether such things are going to be tolerated. If there is any independence in the legislature the members will assert their rights, uphold their duty to their constituents, maintain the principles of constitutional government, and pass a vote of censure upon the government which has been guilty of such a manifest infringement of all practice and precedent.

Voting of supply under such circumstances is merely a form or a farce.

ATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1909.

BOWSER ESSAYS TO MAKE REPLY

FREQUENTLY TRIPPED UP FOR INACCURACIES

Price Ellison Declares Victoria Should Be C. N. R. Terminus.

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 29. It now appears that the debate on the address will go into another week. There are several members who wish to be heard upon the questions of the day, provincially. Quite likely Monday will not see the end, but from present indications the debate ought to be finished by Tuesday.

To-day's talking was entirely from the government side, the attorney-general and the member for Okanagan be-

ing those taking part. There was a large attendance in the galleries, but hardly as large as yesterday.

Interest centred in the speech of Hon. Mr. Bowser, who, it was understood, was to wipe the floor, metaphorically, with the member for Delta. Unfortunately for the calculation, the gentleman who was intended to be operated upon does not lay himself open to successful attack. His speech of yesterday could not, of course, be allowed to pass without some attempt to reply to it, but its statement of facts was too true, its enunciation of principles too clear, and its logic too convincing to leave hope that any answer could be made which would carry conviction to the people of this province.

In the circumstances the attorney-general was the very man for the task. A forcible and ready speaker, an accomplished special pleader for his party and, let it be said, not too careful of the accuracy of his statements or their application, nor too considerate of the truth when it is a case of "dishing the Grits," he could be relied upon to put the best possible complexion upon things as they exist and to glide most ingeniously through the awkward situations.

Mr. Bowser spoke for two hours and a quarter, exactly as long as Mr. Oliver, and made what must be considered as a very good speech from the point of view of the government party. That it will be accepted by the country as a satisfactory explanation of the charges made and a successful meeting of the criticism levelled at the administration of the province's business by the McBride government is not at all likely. The leader of the opposition as well as Mr. Oliver, followed Mr. Bowser closely, and four times Mr. Macdonald had to correct mis-statements made by the minister.

While Mr. Bowser had a great deal to say about the land question, he made no reference to the blanketing of a large area of the Nechaco valley by land speculators. He gave a long list of lands reserved for pre-emption alone and left the impression that the bona fide settler had no difficulty in finding a place to locate, notwithstanding all the evidence to the contrary offered by the opposition. The instances of speculation mentioned by Mr. Brewster and Mr. Oliver he skilfully glossed over. No notice was taken of Mr. Oliver's demand for an investigation into the conduct of the court proceedings at New Westminster in the fisheries cases, although he dealt as some length with the administration of the department. Mr. Bowser referred to the expectation of an election this year, but did not say that there would not be an appeal to the country.

Price Ellison, after a reference to the immense capabilities of the Okanagan valley as a fruit-growing district, made a spirited appeal to the government to assist the Canadian Northern to enter the province and declared that its terminus should be Victoria. He expressed his thorough confidence in the great future which is before the capital and advised the government to leave nothing undone to bring the Mackenzie road to this city.

Art and Literature.

At the outset of the proceedings, Mr. Oliver, on a question of privilege, said that during last session and again this year he had been the recipient of very many works of art and a good many literary efforts from some unknown person. Not being a monopolist he had no desire to keep them all to himself, and he proposed to send some up for the Speaker's inspection. In the future he intended to defend his privileges as a member of the House by refusing to receive any further literary efforts.

The Attorney-General.

The attorney-general said he did not feel it necessary to offer any apology for rising, as it was the duty of ministers to answer all criticisms levelled at their actions of the year. What were the reasons for the bitter speech, particularly bitter against himself and the chief commissioner, of the member for Delta? It was that the hon. gentleman opposite believed there was an election pending this year and it was necessary to encourage the party to which they belonged. He felt it an honor to be singled out by Mr. Oliver for special attack, for it proved to him that his public life had not been wanting in results.

The recent Liberal rally in this city came in for some attention from Mr. Bowser, who thought the member for Chilliwack had protested too much as to the party's devotion to their leader.

Replying to the opposition leader's criticism that the government was lacking in a railway policy, Mr. Bowser claimed that the government had been

the means, since 1903, of encouraging the building of 500 miles of railway, which he enumerated, without the expenditure of a dollar of public money. By sound government and promoting immigration and settlement settlers poured in and where there were so many people the railways realized that there must be traffic, and came in unasked. This, he thought, was the best sort of railway encouragement. This included 34 1/2 miles of the E. &

N. from Wellington to French Creek, the Great Northern had 14 miles from New Westminster to Vancouver, 25 miles of the Victoria Terminal from New Westminster to Blaine, 36 miles from Cloverdale to Sumas, 51 miles of the C. P. R. Nicola branch from Spence's Bridge, 35 miles of the V. V. & E. in the Boundry Country from the ferry opposite Midway to Oroville, Keremos, Hedley and Princeton, 55 miles of the Southeastern Kootenay, 15 miles from Grand Forks to Phoenix, 30 miles of the Corbin road from Yak to Kingsgate and the way to Spokane, 20 miles of the Kootenay Central under construction, and 13 miles of the Corbin road running from the Crow's Nest Pass line to the Flathead coal mine; 7 miles of the C. P. R. from Vernon to Eburne and New Westminster, besides which the B. C. Electric was building on from Westminster 59 miles to Chilliwack, and the government had secured the rapid construction of the G. T. P.

Mr. Bowser admitted that it would be a great advertisement to British Columbia to be adequately represented at Seattle fair, but this was a federal matter and the federal government was taking it up. It would require a quarter million to properly exhibit the advantages and products of this province, and the government felt that this money could be much better spent developing the northern country, in providing roads and bridges and trails for the incoming settlers.

Regarding the participation of civil servants in election matters, Mr. Bowser declared that there had never been any suggestion by any minister to any civil servant under him as to how he should vote. Perhaps a few country road bosses had used their influence, but it was the desire of the government to thoroughly divorce the civil service and politics. ("Oh! oh!")

"We have passed an order in council drawing the attention of the civil service to the fact that we do not want them to take part in politics," said Mr. Bowser. "In New Westminster we forced a civil servant out of the field who was asking municipal honor, and in the case of another who had been elected before receiving the notice, apparently, we gave him to understand that he could not finish out his term, though returned at the head of the poll."

Bowser Knows no Bounds.

"What was the date of that order in council?" Mr. Macdonald asked.

Mr. Bowser consulted with the premier a moment and replied: "I am not sure of the exact date. It was passed, I think, by the Semlin-Cotton government. (Liberal laughter.) It was not enforced by any government till we came in. I do not see why we should not take advantage of any good thing the Semlin-Cotton government or any other government did."

In reply to Mr. Brewster regarding travelling libraries Mr. Bowser said these were being rearranged and Alberta was one of sixteen places on a waiting list which would be served in turn.

Mr. Bowser complained that the opposition would not give him credit for common honesty of purpose in his administration of the license law, and claimed that in his eighteen months of office the results had been such as to justify all he had done. If it were not for him there would be liquor licenses to-day at Prince Rupert, the local commissioners having granted the three which the then population entitled the town to. The government did not desire to give the liquor-sellers the privilege to get rich at the expense of the unfortunate people who drank liquor, and the first thing they did when any application for a license was made was to inquire as to the applicant's character. The member for Delta had said one of the first things he did was to find out the political complexion of an applicant.

"Excuse me, I said nothing of the kind," interrupted Mr. Oliver.

The attorney-general said he had so understood. In eighteen months six new licenses had been granted in the whole of the unorganized portions of the province, seventy-three had been refused and twenty-five old licenses had been cancelled. Details of some of these were given by Mr. Bowser, who claimed that vice-presidents and secretaries of Conservative associations and prominent Conservatives had lost or been refused licenses, while he dared any one to show where a single Liberal had been ousted.

"We are not running this department on political lines," declared Mr. Bowser. "We are running it without any color as to politics and in such an honest way as to inspire the confidence of the public." (Derisive Liberal cheers.)

The expenditure of three-quarters of a million by way of special warrant was defended by Mr. Bowser, who argued that the peculiar conditions prevailing in this province required the passage of special warrants to meet immediate needs. The money had been devoted to such purposes as the provincial grant to the centenary celebration, the grant to the Tranquille sanatorium, free text books, compensation of fruit-growers for trees destroyed,

ed, the Fernie fire disaster, and \$50,000 to encourage surveys in order that settlers should not find the country unsurveyed. An amount of \$200,000 had been laid aside so that the government would be in a position to lay sidewalks and sewers in Prince Rupert. An amount of \$10,000 was granted to the Canada Zinc Company at Nelson, which was not able to continue its work, owing to shortage of capital. Last session the government brought down a loan of \$15,000, which was unanimously voted. During the recess it was found that \$10,000 more was needed. The government wanted to make it a sure shot in reference to the development of this proposition, and when the promoters came to the government with a letter from the leader of the opposition it was felt that the additional loan might safely be given. The government was dealing honestly and honorably with the finances of the province, despite the criticisms of the Times.

The Fisheries.

Mr. Bowser went very fully into his dealing with the fisheries of the province, asserting that as a result of his legislation and regulations the salmon fishery was being conserved as it could not be done by a department 3,000 miles away. The Dominion, by special terms in the act of union, was bound to protect the fisheries of the province, but all it did was to keep up two expensive boats, known by the halibut poachers of Seattle as the crab-cruisers of British Columbia. In the federal reports for the year ending March 31, 1907, this province contributed fifty per cent of the Dominion revenue from fisheries, but only got ten per cent of the expenditure. Not a cent had yet been paid under the modus vivendi of 1901.

Because the Dominion does not collect any tax from the Japanese canneries salting dog-salmon and other fish, while the province does, Mr. Bowser considered it proved that the Japanese government controls the Canadian cabinet.

"Do you want any more proof of the control of the Japanese nation over the Dominion government?" he cried.

The attorney-general declared that it was the intention of the government to obtain a decision from the privy council as to the right of the province to regulate its own fisheries, and that the immigration act is now before that highest court in the realm. His answer "to gentlemen who attempt to interfere with the administration of justice" was that he would continue to enforce the fishery regulations strictly and impartially.

Land Policy.

Coming to the criticisms of the land policy Mr. Bowser paid a compliment to the honor and ability of Chief Commissioner Fulton, and declared that the speeches of the opposition would discourage settlers from going in. Having made inquiry from his colleague, he said, he was informed that Mr. Fulton had no knowledge of a grazing concession in Chilcotin such as Mr. Oliver named. The charge of the member for Alberta that an official who had surveyed lands along Mud River was trying to sell them also fell to the ground. The area surveyed by Templeton, if that was his name, was completely under reserve, and when he brought in his plans not an acre had not been reserved for the pre-emptor alone.

It was asserted by the hon. gentleman that there was abundant information to be obtained by intending settlers. The department was honestly and properly conducted. There was a total area of 7,790,540 acres reserved for pre-emption alone, and no man could make a second entry until he had obtained a certificate of improvement on the first.

After talking for an hour and a half without more than a passing reference to Dominion politics Mr. Bowser broke loose in order to give vent to his opinions on the causes of the Liberal defeat in British Columbia in 1907, and again last fall. A few days ago, he said, the leader of the opposition had attended a convention in Vancouver, where this matter was discussed, and the causes given, not as a telegram published in the Colonist or a speech made by him in the Victoria theatre on the eve of the elections of 1907, but as the record of the Laurier government and graft in British Columbia. An excellent young professional man of Vancouver told his fellow-Liberals that the party could not expect to win in British Columbia in face of the graft record of the Laurier government in British Columbia.

"Who said that?" Mr. Macdonald asked.

"Dr. Kendall, according to the report I have read," replied the attorney-general.

"Dr. Kendall said nothing of the kind," declared the opposition leader.

Corrected Again.

Mr. Bowser accepted the statement and went on to say that W. W. B. MoInnis on that occasion undertook to explain the system of patronage in British Columbia.

"Again, I must correct my hon. friend," said Mr. Macdonald. "Mr. MoInnis made no reference to the province. The only reference to patronage

was with regard to Vancouver alone.

Turning to his statement in the Victoria theatre on February 1st, 1907, Mr. Bowser stated that he had received his information as to the employment of Japanese labor by the G. T. P. from a member of the Liberal party in Vancouver in whose word he placed every confidence. He had been speaking in an honest way when he spoke as he did on that occasion, and there was ample justification for what he said in the letter from E. G. Russell which was referred to at Mackenzie King's inquiry.

"I would ask the attorney-general if what Mr. Russell says was what he said at the meeting here," Mr. Macdonald interjected.

Mr. Bowser—The statement I made was that the Nippon Construction Company was incorporated for that purpose, and I understood that Robert Kelly, a prominent Victoria Liberal; Col. Gregory, of this city, and others, including Mr. Russell, were directors.

Mr. Macdonald—Was not the statement you made that the G. T. P. had entered into a contract to bring 50,000 laborers from Japan?

Mr. Bowser—I cannot say exactly the language I used, but I gave my information in an honest way to the people in Victoria theatre as I heard it from a member of the Liberal party, and it may have been I was not correct as to the number nor as to the contract being completed or sent to Japan for signature.

The attorney-general went on to read the letter from E. G. Russell to S. Gotoh, in which he said he did not think there would be any difficulty in having the company take five thousand—and not fifty thousand—laborers from the company.

Mr. Macdonald—Mr. Russell did not say he would take five thousand laborers, and my hon. friend knows that Mr. Russell's authority to make such a contract was repudiated by the G. T. P. Let us have all the facts in this matter.

"I would advise the attorney-general to get the files of the Colonist as to what he said then with the letter he has just read," said Mr. Oliver.

Mr. Bowser reiterated that he was justified in what he had said at the theatre.

Bowser and Duncan Ross.

As to why he had not met Duncan Ross, Mr. Bowser thought Mr. Oliver had violated the decencies of public life in bringing this up when everyone knew he had been ill in bed during the campaign, and had only been able to make one speech in his own constituency.

"But I hope the day may yet come," declared the attorney-general gallantly. "It may be in the future, as the member for Delta says, but if so I hardly think I will meet Duncan Ross. I hope the other world I go to is a different one from that where the late candidate in Yale-Cariboo will find himself. He is politically as dead as Julius Caesar, and his defeat in the late election is a vindication of me and a proof that his charges against me were false."

Mr. Bowser detailed the arrangement with the G. T. P. in regard to Prince Rupert townsite, and gravitated from this to Judge Cassell's report, concluding as follows:

"We are trying to deal with the public business in a business-like way. Judging from the results of the late Dominion elections the people are satisfied, and when we come to render an account of our stewardship to the people they will agree that we have dealt in a capable, honest and efficient manner with the business of the country."

Okanagan's Fruit.

Price Ellison (Okanagan) welcomed the premier's statement that a bureau of forestry would be formed. No more needed need be taken. The member of Cowichan had stated the fact when he attributed many forest fires to the amount of fallen timber left in lumbering. Millions of dollars could be saved annually by a judicious and careful handling of fire wardens, and the appropriation of sufficient funds to enable fire to be checked in their infancy. The government should consult Gifford Pinchot, the United States authority on such matters.

Coming from one of the finest fruit growing districts of the province, Mr. Ellison waxed eloquent in regard to the quality and quantity of the produce of the Okanagan valley and the manner in which growers sweep all before them at horticultural shows. In the recent show at Spokane T. R. E. de Hart took \$4,864 in prizes. At the Royal Agricultural Show British Columbia had taken the prize four years in succession. An unsolicited letter from a London dealer showed the esteem in which British Columbia fruit is held over there. This dealer expressed his high appreciation of the fruit, and said it arrived in better shape than that from California.

"We have the choice and delicate varieties that the London market requires," continued Mr. Ellison, "and we can send ship loads of them across. There have been a million and a quarter fruit trees planted in our district, and we can go on indefinitely. I tell

you, gentlemen, fruit is going to be worth more to this province than timber and fish, and will put them in the shade before many years pass."

Saskatchewan, too, there is a big demand for our fruit! (Applause).

Victoria as Terminus.

"I hope the government will accede to the C. N. R. coming into the province," said Mr. Ellison in concluding. "We want all the railways we can get in British Columbia. (Hear, hear.) The old proposition made years ago by Mr. Rithet, the British Pacific, I think it was called, should have been accepted by the province. The people of Victoria missed an opportunity then. Had they entertained that the province would be reaping hundreds of thousands of dollars to-day. It was the same with the former proposition of the C. N. R. The amount of money it would have cost them would have looked large at that time, but it would have been small now, \$200,000. I was sent down from Vernon to oppose it, and I am sorry now that I did so. I think the people of Victoria and the province regret that they opposed it and see that they made a mistake."

A. E. McPhillips—No, no.

Mr. Ellison—The hon. member for the Islands may say that, but it is a fact that if that proposition had been taken up the province would be getting millions now. It is up to the hon. gentleman now to say he and others made a mistake then. The government in making arrangements for the entry of the C. N. R. should make it a condition that Victoria be the terminus. (Applause.) Why should it not be? Victoria is the most beautiful place in Canada; it is the capital of the province, and should not be kept back in any way. With the seat of government here and four members representing the city, including the premier, surely their prestige ought to count for something. Vancouver has its assured position and future. Why should not Victoria have some of the railway advantages that are going? People would come here by the hundreds of thousands. Do you know that fifty guests were turned away from the Empress hotel in one day? Just imagine it. I predict that the great hotels that will be built in this city yet. We must look ahead.

"I hope the provincial and federal governments will give assistance in the development of the immense resources of this island. It is safe to say that this government would be justified in borrowing ten million dollars to open the whole of this province, including the great northern country we have. If necessary let the federal government encourage iron and steel works by a bounty. Let the provincial government come to the rescue also and do their share. We have principalities and kingdoms to be won in this province; we have the making of a great nation in fruit and coal and iron.

"If the government is not willing to entertain the C. N. R. proposition let them substitute something else that will enable the company to come here at an early date. I trust the government and people of British Columbia will embrace a golden opportunity to develop the province." (Cheers).

The floor was secured for Monday afternoon by Parker Williams, Socialist member for Newcastle.

Bills Introduced.

The following private bills have been introduced: To incorporate the Shuswap & Thompson River Boom Co., Ltd. (Mr. Parson); to incorporate the Victoria & Barclay Sound Ry. Co., Ltd. (Mr. Jardine); to incorporate the Flathead Valley Ry. Co. (Mr. Ross); to incorporate the Meadow Creek Logging Ry. Co. (Mr. Ross); to incorporate the Goat River Water, Power & Light Co. (Mr. Parson); to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act (Mr. Hawthornthwaite); to amend the inspection of Metalliferous Mines Act, 1889 (Mr. McInnis).

Petitions were presented for leave to introduce bills by Mr. Macgowan (Vancouver), to amend the False Creek Foreshore Act, and by Mr. Davoy (Victoria) for an extension of time in the construction of the Southeast Kootenay railway.

DUNCAN ROSS TO W. J. BOWSER.

To the Editor:—Yesterday afternoon I listened to the tirade directed against myself by Hon. W. J. Bowser, Attorney-General for the province of British Columbia. He advanced the rather novel argument that because the electors of Yale-Cariboo by a substantial majority had defeated me in the recent Federal contest, my charges against him must have been false. The defeat of five Liberal candidates in the recent contest was due to the creation of a temporarily hostile public opinion by means of lying statements, forged telegrams and other methods that were a disgrace to Conservative leaders and some Conservative journals in this province. One of the worst offenders was Hon. W. J. Bowser, and notwithstanding anything the electors of Yale-Cariboo may have done to eliminate me as a factor in the public life of this country, Hon. W. J. Bowser is still in public life. He cannot equal

pate himself by crowing over my political misfortunes.

Hon. W. J. Bowser occupies a very prominent position in the McBride government. He is the man to whom we ought to look for the proper administration of justice in this province. My charges involve his reputation as a public man and as a member of the legal profession. If they are true, he should not be allowed to continue to occupy the office of Attorney-General, and the members of the Law Society, if they have a high regard for the honor of the legal profession, should decide whether a practicing barrister has the right to exploit in public the confidential business of even a Japanese client, to make political capital of the most dishonest kind, in the interests of the party to which that barrister belongs.

The electors of Yale-Cariboo, as well as those of four other Federal constituencies, were grossly deceived in the recent contest. Their decision must now stand, but that decision in no way absolves Hon. W. J. Bowser from answering the following charges:

(1) That W. J. Bowser was solicitor for Gotoh.

(2) That W. J. Bowser drafted a contract between Gotoh and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company under which Japanese laborers were to be supplied to the company.

(3) That W. J. Bowser, acting under instructions from Gotoh, incorporated the Shoko Immigration Company under the laws of the province of British Columbia, and drew up an assignment of the Gotoh contract to the Shoko Immigration Company.

(4) That W. J. Bowser personally appeared in the County court, Vancouver, before His Honor Judge Henderson, as counsel for Gotoh and his company.

(5) That having acted as solicitor for Gotoh and Gotoh's companies for several years W. J. Bowser had an intimate and confidential knowledge of the business of Gotoh and his company.

(6) That W. J. Bowser used his knowledge, secured in a professional way, to furnish the Vancouver Province with material for an election canard which appeared in that paper on the evening before the last general provincial election.

(7) That the same knowledge was used by W. J. Bowser to make untruthful and sensational charges against the Liberal party in a speech delivered in the Victoria theatre the night before the last general provincial election.

(8) That at the first time W. J. Bowser introduced the Natal Act in the legislature he knew (by reason of his having been solicitor for Gotoh) that there was then in full force and effect a contract between Gotoh and Gotoh's company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to bring Japanese laborers to this country.

(9) That in this knowledge, secured in a professional way, is found sufficient motive for W. J. Bowser's having introduced in the legislature an act which did not, and could not, restrict Oriental immigration, but which did attempt to legalize the coming to this country of all those who could not read or write in English or a language of Europe.

(10) That in the publication of the Province canard and in the speech delivered in the Victoria theatre W. J. Bowser made an improper and unprofessional use of the business of his client.

(11) That W. J. Bowser's abortive Natal Act was introduced to deceive the members of the legislature and the electors of the province and not to endanger a contract that was in the interests of his powerful political ally, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Hon. W. J. Bowser had an opportunity of meeting these charges in the district of Yale-Cariboo before he was incapacitated by illness, and he did not avail himself of that opportunity. He had an opportunity of vindicating himself in the courts, and he did not avail himself of that opportunity. He has now the further opportunity of getting the legislature to revert to the somewhat obsolete practice of bringing to its bar anyone who publishes charges against one of its members.

Or, if he prefers the public platform, it is not yet too late to select a time and a place.

Mr. Bowser cannot escape responsibility by heaping abuse on myself. He must fully answer these charges or stand convicted of grossly dishonest political methods and of having shown a contemptuous disregard for the ethics of the profession to which he belongs.

DUNCAN ROSS.

Victoria, Jan. 29th, 1908.

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JOHN OLIVER RIDDLES GOVERNMENT RECORD

Retarding Development---Revenue From Natural Sources Decreasing---Bowser the Inflexible and the Fishery Tangle---Investigation Demanded.

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 28.

Red-hot shot was poured into the government entrenchments to-day, and in spite of the apparent great strength of its position there is reason to believe that a breach has been made in its defences, which will ere long become practicable and admit the Liberal party to the citadel, from whence they may administer the affairs of the province wisely and in the best interests of the people at large.

John Oliver, of Delta, the first lieutenant of the opposition leader, was the speaker, the only one of the day, and delivered a speech which extorted the admiration of political adversaries, as it received the unstinted applause of his own side. Every feature of the government policy was assailed with irrefutable arguments, backed by figures from government sources and facts that are common property. Coming from an agricultural community and himself one of the most successful farmers in the province, Mr. Oliver gave a good deal of attention to provincial affairs as they affect the settler, exposing the weakness and ill-effects of the McBride government's land and timber policies, and contrasting them with the statesmanlike proposals of the Liberal party for dealing with these sources of natural wealth.

The position was put very clearly by Mr. Oliver in the suggestion that the government policy is allowing land and timber speculators to get such a hold on the lands and forests of the province that it will be shortly in a worse condition than ever Ireland was. Instead of the revenue from natural resources increasing, as Conservative speakers in the debate have asserted, the member for Delta proved from the public accounts that there has been actually a decrease. At the same time there has been an alarming increase in the land held for speculation only, to the exclusion of the genuine settler and lumberman.

Mr. Oliver was particularly effective in his references to the attorney-general. Mr. Bowser is not thin-skinned, and is too good a politician to mind attacks, but he grew visibly restless under the hammer-like blows of the member for Delta. His administration of the fishery laws was reviewed in detail. Mr. Oliver charged that the attorney-general had deliberately framed his regulations and instructed his officers to act in such a manner as would precipitate a conflict between the province and the Dominion, but that when he got the chance he did not dare take his legislation to the Privy Council for a decision as to its constitutionality.

Serious charges were made by Mr. Oliver concerning the conduct of the proceedings in the cases tried at New Westminster, and as to the capacity of the magistrate to deal with them. The proceedings he declared disgraceful and un-British, and the magistrate incapable by reason of age. He demanded an investigation into these charges from the attorney-general, as he had had already demanded one from the premier in vain.

"I do not have to look for grievances; they are thrust upon me by Conservative speakers and press," said Mr. Oliver, in reference to the comforting reflections of government supporters that even such an experienced critic as he would not be able to find anything against the administrative work of the past year. In fact Mr. Oliver found so many grievances that are voiced by Conservatives that life must be a burden, as he said.

The galleries were crowded all afternoon, and the occupants rivaled the members of the House in close attention to Mr. Oliver during the two hours and a quarter that he spoke.

There was little routine, and the hon. gentleman began to speak very shortly after the House met.

Consideration for Members.

I rise mainly for two reasons—said Mr. Oliver. In the first place, a year ago, when I refrained from inflicting a speech on the House, my good example was followed by the attorney-general, but during the session he inflicted upon the members by instalments the same lengthy speech which he had pre-

of the House to the immense resources and capabilities of the valley. (Hear, hear.) It possesses a great deal of valuable agricultural land, and at an elevation of 3,000 feet has produced excellent fruit. Its scenery cannot be surpassed in the world for majesty and grandeur.

How to Get Cheap Coal.

I have to compliment the seconder (Mr. Davey) not so much upon the alleged facts contained in his speech as upon the manner in which he made use of them. The matter of that speech was only too evidently supplied from outside sources. Some of his most important figures and deductions are not in exact accordance with the facts. In the course of his speech the hon. gentleman said it would tax the imagination of even the member for Delta to find a grievance against the government. He must himself be more able to do so than I am, because he did not finish without finding a grievance against the government which he supports, as to the price of coal here, as compared with what it sells for in other places across the line. He said it sold in Seattle, freight and duty paid, at less than it does here. There is a reason for that. At the Conservative convention in Revelstoke in 1902 one of the planks adopted, and upon which they were elected in the following year, was that in every coal area there should be reserved a portion so that state mines could be operated. But in the records we find that when they had a chance every member on that side voted against it in the House.

This was a real grievance, such a grievance that a resolution was introduced by one of the Vancouver members last session calling on the Dominion to investigate. We on this side took the stand that it was a matter for the province to deal with and proposed that a committee of this House should be appointed to examine into the facts and devise a remedy without delay. But Mr. Davey, with the other Conservative members, voted down this proposition to bring the facts to the light of day. Are his present remarks to be considered in earnest in view of his record?

A Conditional Coal Tax.

I think this House is in duty bound to remedy that state of affairs, and the remedy is to be found in the government amending the Mines Act to the effect that there shall be imposed a tax, in addition to the present tax, of one dollar a ton on all coal exported, to be rebated in full conditional on the operators satisfying the government that coal is being supplied to the consumers in British Columbia at as low a price as to those outside. (Hear, hear.) Thus the legislature has the remedy in its own hands. The policy was adopted in regard to timber and would work as successfully in regard to coal. The other side has rejected our proposals in this matter; we may now expect the support of the second member for Victoria, if we propose a resolution later in the session, demanding that the government take this step.

Mr. Hayward's criticism.

The member for Cowichan also had a complaint to make against his own government. No member has offered more severe criticism of the government than he has. When the school act was before the House we took decided objection to many of its features, but the government said the matter had been given full consideration. Yet the next session, after the act had been in operation only six weeks we found them bringing down a bill of 87 sections to amend a bill of a little over 100 sections. Every objection made by the member for Cowichan is valid, and I endorse what he has said in the matter. It was once proposed that the municipalities have power to raise a personal property tax for school purposes, but it was found that the machinery was so cumbersome that the cost of its operation would be more than the tax would bring in.

Revenue From Natural Sources.

The seconder attributes the increased revenue to development of natural resources. If he had analyzed the public accounts he is too honest to have made this statement, so his figures must have been supplied to him. He told us that the revenue from timber licenses, including fees and penalties, amounted to \$2,302,000 as against \$1,263,000, and from royalties to \$394,000 as against

\$205,000. These figures are inaccurate to a considerable extent. Instead of an increase of \$98,000 in royalties there was a decrease of \$23,000, a difference of \$121,000 on this item alone. The increases in revenue are derived from four sources principally. In timber licenses there is an increase of \$1,125,000. Can it be argued that the alienation of our timber assets to an extent so great is to be credited to the development of the natural resources? The increase is simply an advance of so much greater a sum than the year before by timber speculators to secure a hold on resources to be exploited in the future. There was an increase of \$115,000 in the annual subsidy from the Dominion and besides there was the special subsidy of \$100,000. There was a most extraordinary increase of \$38,000 from the Chinese head tax. Was that a development of natural resources? (Laughter.) Even the attorney-general with all his ingenuity, would not venture to assert that, and we can expect almost any kind of an assertion from that gentleman.

Not a Benefit to Province.

There was an increase of \$78,000 from the wild land tax. The opposition have condemned and will condemn the policy which favors the speculator against the real settler. The man would be blind to facts who thought this increase was a benefit to the province. The attorney-general said a year ago that the speculator must be given a chance and the government has certainly given him a chance. The increase, at ten cents an acre on wild lands, means that 760,000 acres more than in the previous year have gone into the hands of speculators. That is not a policy in the interests of British Columbia. (Hear, hear.) We spend thousands of dollars to advertise our agricultural lands, but when we get settlers here we find them going back disgusted.

From income tax we got an increase revenue of \$38,000, and from coal lands tax of \$18,000. I challenge anyone to controvert these figures. We thus have an increased revenue of \$1,789,000 from these seven sources, out of which only one item is from the development of our raw materials, \$18,000 from the mining of coal. Mr. Davey's assumption is thus shown to be altogether unwarranted by the facts.

Decrease Not Increase.

On the other hand we have a decrease in land sales of \$115,000 in land revenue of \$43,000, in mining of \$25,000, and in timber royalties of \$23,000, a loss of \$48,000 on the last two items. Deducting the increase in business in coal mining to offset that and we still have a decrease of \$30,000 on the development of our natural resources during the year instead of the increase the seconder tried to make out.

The seconder hoped the government would decrease or abolish the personal property and income taxes. He was a good old Tory when he advocated this. It was one of the Tory principles that the man who draws an income, often without working for it, should have a tax on that income abolished. I was glad to hear the minister of finance say he believed the income tax was the most equitable way of raising revenue, even if the most difficult. Mr. Davey does not think so and he tells us chancellors of the exchequer in England only adopt it as an exceptional expedient in times of emergency and stress. I have not followed events there closely, but if my memory does not fail me, it is considered in England as the most equitable way of raising taxation, and it is in times of stress, when he has a large increase in revenue to provide, that a chancellor, taught by experience, puts on an extra sixpence or shilling on the pound as most equitable.

Municipalities Need Money.

The personal property tax amounts to \$124,000, the income tax to \$152,000 and the revenue tax to \$207,000. The leader of the opposition in his speech took the stand that instead of abolishing these taxes they should be handed over to the municipalities. He took the ground that the revenue is now large enough to meet the legitimate expenditures of the province, while it is necessary that the municipalities should have available much increased revenue. I think his ground was good and his proposition sound. In my own riding, composed largely of municipalities, it is found that to keep the roads in shape we have to pay a higher rate of taxation than is imposed by the government outside. On the whole, the municipalities have not half enough revenue and delegations are coming here all the time, forced into the position of beggars, to ask the government for help in the maintenance of their roads. In Delta, though one of the oldest settled parts of the country, the roads are so bad in places that when I started out not long ago with one of my best horses and a new buggy, I had to get out and walk mile after mile for fear it would pull the buggy to pieces getting it out of the mud-holes. The municipalities cannot raise revenue enough with the present taxation to meet this state of affairs, which has not all been brought about by the fault of the government.

It is largely the result of the condition of our laws. In that old-settled district, in some portions, four-fifths of

the land is held by absentee landlords. We have to keep up altogether too many miles of road for the population. I am going to ask the members to assist before the session is over in meeting this condition. The first step is for the government to provide that these municipalities shall be put in possession of their own revenue from the sources I have mentioned, give them power to increase the wild land tax and to require a large amount of improvements to gain exemption from that tax. Do that and you have gone a long way to meet the case. I am going to ask members to leave party out of the question and provide a solution in the interests of the people. (Cheers.)

The premier met the proposal of the leader of the opposition by a statement which was absolutely unjustifiable. We ask for the handing over to the municipalities of a revenue bringing into the province a quarter of a million, and the premier said it would lead us to bankruptcy and ruin. If it is true, as the public accounts show, that there is a surplus of \$1,000,000, how can it be true that to hand over \$250,000 of that would bankrupt the province? It is the duty of the government to realize the financial position of the municipalities of British Columbia, and if they reject this proposition we ask them to provide an alternative solution. (Applause.) The government has imposed additional duties on municipalities, notably with regard to schools, but has not provided for a corresponding increase of revenue.

The Capital's Streets.
I would ask the finance minister or the commissioner of lands and works to get information from any municipalities as to the financial condition they are in. Right here in Victoria they are asking for money to beautify the city. The streets in this city are a disgrace to the capital of the province of British Columbia. You will hear people elsewhere say from having seen the condition of the streets here that it must rain all the time because on the streets they were up to their knees in mud. Is it not a fact that if any municipality wants to make permanent improvements they have to borrow money to do it? If you investigate you will find that not five per cent of such works can be done out of the ordinary revenue of the current year. (Hear, hear.) If this condition is true, and I believe it is, how can the government escape its plain duty of providing more adequate revenue for municipalities? Hand them over these taxes and give them the means of improving these conditions.

Mr. Davey thought the farmer has abundant cause for thanksgiving and that he is getting good prices. The crops last year were not full and prices were low, but I suppose the farmer should be thankful that he has as good as he has and sufficient to meet the necessities he is subject to. Another cause of thankfulness was that though in the Fernie district a most destructive fire took place it was not attended with greater loss of life, and that there is to-day a finer town springing up.

Fraudulent Pre-emptions.
The seconder told us that there had been 1,600 pre-emption records taken up last year. This is no evidence as to the number of bona fide settlers. I know of one enterprising company which issued a prospectus asking people to file pre-emptions and hand them over to it. The land laws are insufficient to meet this case. Declarations of residence and improvements were made in this case where not a cent had been expended nor a day's residence put in. It is the duty of the government to see that the law is fulfilled in regard to these pre-emptions. There is ground to believe that a considerable proportion of these pre-emptions are fraudulent, that they are not recorded for settlement, but to obtain land and offer it to other speculators at rising prices. The seconder spoke of a government reserve until lands were surveyed, and he is evidently sincere when he thinks that policy tends to settlement. But he should remember that all lands not open to settlement are open to the government to take. Then when the government has decided that a survey shall be made of a certain section and that pending it there shall be no lands sold, there is nothing to show that the bulk of it is not staked out before the surveyor gets there. Take the case of the Nechaco valley and ask the chief commissioner how much of the land surveyed there was staked for purchase before ever the surveyor went on the ground at all. What is the use of reserving the land after it has been staked? Mr. Davey followed up by what I believe to have been an inspired statement. He says: "In order to encourage actual settlement the practice has been adopted of reserving all sections selected for survey against entry, save by pre-emption, pending completion of survey, when one-third of these lands are absolutely reserved for the settler."

Enriched by Settlers.
That settler is a man of small means. If he were a man of considerable means he would locate in a well-settled district where he could have the comforts he is used to. But this man of small means waits till the survey is completed

and then finds that one-third is reserved for the settler, that for every acre he improves for himself he improves two for the speculator. Suppose the 1,600 pre-emptions were in one block there would be 250,000 acres occupied by actual settlers, as against 750,000 acres of wild lands, or in the proportion of three to one. How long are we to have this condition in the province of British Columbia? How long is the settler, lured by the descriptions of the glorious country and climate advertised and paid for by the province, and travelling hundreds of miles to get in there, to find that the country is blanketed by the stakes of the speculator?

Definition of Speculator.
The premier seemed to be considerably exercised in his mind as to the meaning of speculator. Without ever having a university education I would have thought he knew what it meant or what it stood for to the ordinary individual. To my mind the speculator is the man who acquires any property not for use but for the profit to be made in turning it over again, and holds it for an advance in price. That is my opinion of what a speculator is, both in regard to coal and land and timber, and it is the definition as commonly understood in British Columbia. I do not hold the speculator up to scorn but I do say the policy is bad and the results are bad for the country. What enables the few to enrich themselves at the cost of the many in British Columbia should be abandoned and abandoned for all time. (Cheers.)

Mr. McInnes—How about the capitalist.
Mr. Oliver—I think the capitalist is quite able to take care of himself. He needs no special care from the legislature.

Prince Rupert Townsite.
In regard to the arrangement concerning the Prince Rupert townsite the premier did not give us any information as to what the arrangement was. But since he made his speech I have acquired sundry information. In the division of the waterfront the province, instead of getting the one-fourth of the value it was entitled to under the statute, to my mind has really received one-eighth. I have a map showing that the government has acquired the province's share in five different blocks. I find a block on the channel between the island and the mainland of 3,000 feet in length. I find another block scaling approximately about 1,200 feet, and the point in the vicinity of Seal Island. There is another 1,500 feet right in the centre of the town. I find another block of 1,500 feet to the right of the entrance of the harbor, and a fifth of from 1,000 to 1,200 feet, which is at the extreme southeast portion of the townsite.

Having been in the harbor I will admit that the block in the centre is the most valuable portion of the waterfront, but I will point out that the government has received 3,000 feet, or approximately two-fifths of its entire waterfront, on a channel between the island and the mainland, on water which we have no record of as to its being navigable or not; and I would point out too that up the present time—though Prince Rupert has been the chosen terminus for four years—there is no record available as to soundings, as to depths of water, whether navigable or safe between the island or the mainland, where the government has its larger block.

Why Should We Finance?
I am not going to criticise in a hostile spirit, because there is not sufficient information to enable the house to judge as to the relative value of this block. But it strikes me as a peculiar arrangement that the government is becoming the financial backer of the G. T. P., or the townsite company, whichever you like to call it, and without authority of parliament to give \$200,000 by special warrant for improvements. I do not say that it was not right that there should not be considerable improvement made before lots are offered for sale, but why should the government provide \$150,000 as a loan to improve the property of the G. T. P., or the townsite company.

I hope the chief commissioner will give us some reasons why this arrangement was made before the debate is over. It seems to me it would have been more business-like had he furnished us with reasons at an early period in the session as to the causes which influenced the government to become the bankers of the G. T. P., or of the townsite company. It is alleged in many quarters that this will not be the permanent terminus. I do not believe that myself, but you cannot tell. There is Port Simpson, which was long spoken of. There may be a repetition of Port Moody and Vancouver. We know that Port Moody was the statutory terminus. How do we know that the railway, after having exploited this townsite with the aid of the government of British Columbia, will not abandon it and extend the line to Port Simpson, making that the permanent Pacific port?

Timber Resources.

The seconder referred to the timber resources of the province and to the address delivered recently in Vancouver by Dr. Judson Clark. I would like to draw attention, in answer to Mr. Davey's opinion, that our timber resources are well administered, to a recent statement of W. J. Sutton, an excellent authority on such matters, of what he calls the enormous waste and slaughter of timber, especially on Vancouver Island. There can be no dispute that the process on the island is the same as on the mainland, and Mr. Sutton tells us of the wanton and wasteful destruction of the island timber resources. We did not need to be told that the forests of cedar on this island are immensely valuable, and yet in a recent fire near Cowichan cedar worth \$100,000 was destroyed. Our timber resources have received attention from experts, and many have said that the waste-taking place in lumber operations is altogether unjustifiable and is ruining one of the most valuable resources in the province.

The Liberal Policy.
Last year the leader of the opposition proposed a resolution along lines which would secure to the province these resources. The policy of the Liberal party is to give security of tenure to the men who have invested their money in our timber lands, and at the same time to pass legislation which should preserve our forests from this wanton waste and destruction, preserve them from fire by a thorough system of fire protection, enable the government to withdraw the denuded portions at any time when required for agricultural purposes, and would give stable conditions to the lumber industry, and in short make the interests of the investor identical with those of the province. If the premier will compare the principles advocated by Dr. Judson Clark and those advocated by my honorable friend the member for Rossland on the floor of this House a year ago, he will find the two practically identical, and yet he and his colleagues are on record less than a year ago as voting down a proposition similar to that made by Dr. Clark, and which he now tells the House is receiving the serious consideration of the government.

Challenge to Bowser.
I venture to say that the attorney-general, who is advertised to follow me and tear me to pieces, will not take up the facts I have laid before the House. I challenge him now to take them up and controvert them if he can. We do not want any rehearsed arguments used in the Dominion election or any drawing of a red herring of federal matters, but that he shall devote his talents to considering what is in the interests of this province.

The premier tells us as a proof that the license law is being administered impartially, that 23 licenses were cut off and that most of them were held by Conservatives. What are the legitimate deductions from that statement? The first is that the large majority of holders are at least nominally since the changes in the law Conservatives. They could not profitably be otherwise. The government takes care to ascertain the political predilections of applicants, and the fact that they can tell us that a majority of the cancelled licenses were Conservative is proof that they have gone to the trouble to discover this information. (Hear, hear.) Why have they gone to the trouble? There is but one answer: to bring political pressure to bear.

Licensing of Clubs.
Now we have the club licensing act. The very best criticism I can offer is obtained in the government organ itself of last Thursday, when it says: "The club licensing bill is sure to arouse a good deal of interest and some discussion, though when its provisions are made known it will be seen that no respectable clubs will be in any way affected beyond the necessity of taking out a license. Briefly, the act will ensure that every club in which liquor is sold or supplied to members will be obliged to take out an annual license of \$100, which may be cancelled at any time by the attorney-general."

I do not think, knowing that gentleman as I do, that he will even take the trouble to consult the Conservative association.
"The license will be granted by the superintendent of provincial police on the written instructions only of the attorney-general, and no liquor may be sold or supplied without this license."
I am sorry to say the government seems to think that though there are many Conservative clubs in British Columbia the only respectable clubs are those patronized by the upper-ten.

"It is, perhaps, needless to say that this legislation is not aimed at respectable clubs, such as, for instance, the Union Club, the Pacific Club or the Vancouver Club."

Line of Respectability.
I do not know how the Nelson Club and other clubs in the interior are going to take that, and I am not interested, but I am interested in desiring to know, and we have a right to know,

where the government will draw the line of respectability. There are workmen on the streets of Victoria or Vancouver just as respectable as any frequenters of these clubs.

"It is not anticipated that the inspector will ever darken the doors of these institutions."

Well, that is one good thing. We cannot afford to think he would question the respectability of those who frequent them. That would be worse, less majestic than any in Germany. It must be a relief to the members of these clubs to know this on the authority of the Colonist, inspired by the attorney-general.

"But the attorney-general's department has for a long time past been in constant receipt of complaints from all parts of the province, about alleged clubs which are nothing better than dives. Men who, on account of their record, have been refused licenses have frequently started these clubs, and it has been found that the existing machinery is inadequate to cope with the evil."

In Delta a man who was refused a license by the municipality carried one of these clubs on for two years before the evidence would satisfy the attorney-general of the desirability of closing it.

Class Legislation.
The notorious Railway Porters' Club in Vancouver is just as "respectable" to the class who frequent it as the Vancouver Club is to its members. I say respectability is a question of degree, not of principle. What the Union Club in the city of Victoria is to its frequenters the Railway Porters' Club in Vancouver is to its, and if we are going to deal with this matter let us deal with it on principle and not as class legislation in the interests of so-called "respectable" clubs in this province. (Applause.) Then I notice, to make assurance doubly sure, the control of the whole machinery is kept in the hands of the attorney-general. We find the attorney-general sticking out everywhere in connection with liquor licenses in this province. (Hear, hear.) "The control of the whole machinery has been designedly kept within the hands of the attorney-general's department, under whose guidance, the superintendent of provincial police and the inspector will act. In this way all possibility of an over-zealous, newly-appointed official going officiously outside the spirit of the new enactment has been removed."

What more do you want? The inspector is not to darken the doors. The so-called respectable clubs are not to suffer from the interference of the inspector.

I do not have to look for grievances; they are thrust upon me by Conservative members of the House and by the Conservative press. There are so many thrust upon me that life is a burden. (Laughter and applause.)

Bowser's Inflexibility.
We are told, Mr. Speaker, that the attorney-general is inflexible as adamant. Not being a geologist, I do not know how inflexible adamant is, but if it will be any relief to the attorney-general I will admit that he is as inflexible as adamant. (Laughter and cheers.) I will also admit that he is infallible, because we have a witness to his infallibility. Less than a year ago he stated that if the Dominion government would only keep hands off his bill not another Jap should land in British Columbia. The matter has been in the courts and probably he will say the magistrates, county court, supreme court and full court judges were politically biased and he did not receive fair treatment. But I would point out that he has had ample time to carry an appeal to the privy council, but he has not done so.

The Forged Telegram.
I am also willing to admit that George Washington's record is overshadowed by Mr. Bowser's reputation. We have witnesses to his truthfulness. Every day during the present week a great deal of adverse criticism has been levelled at the Colonist, the organ of the government, because it published a forged telegram in the interest of the Conservative candidate in the recent federal election of this city. I notice he does not regret this any more than the Colonist, story of a Liberal conspiracy with the G. T. P. to import 50,000 Japanese. I notice under the statute laws of the land that if a man by false representation obtains what is not his he is liable to prosecution for obtaining goods under false pretensions. He is also liable to pay damages for making false statements. The man who held up the Liberals of this province and Dominion and respectable citizens to scorn and execration by means of an untruthful statement, made for political effect, is rewarded with the position of attorney-general of British Columbia. (Hear, hear.)

Is it not a question of expediency? Where is the principle involved? What is the difference between obtaining political advantage by false representations and statements and telegrams and the obtaining of goods by false pretences. (Applause.) Whereas the one false pretence is punished nothing is done with the other, as, for instance, what took place in a Victoria theatre

last election and the publication in the Colonist of a forged telegram. But the principle is the same. You reward one man by putting him behind the bars and another by putting him at the head of the administration of justice in a British province.

A Sorry Exchange.

I will admit that the attorney-general is ambitious, as ambitious as Napoleon. According to the newspapers he has never lost an opportunity of impressing on the premier and the Conservative party that the present premier should withdraw from public life in the province and devote himself to federal politics as the lieutenant, if not the leader, of Mr. Borden. (Laughter.) My friend opposite may imagine for the moment that the people cannot see the reason why this course of action is pursued by that gentleman. I want to say that if our premier is a gentleman of so great ability he is needed here; the very best we have is none too good for British Columbia. (Hear, hear.) The province's interests are much more important to us, as a community than those outside. Therefore, if our present premier is a man of so great ability let us keep him here in the interest of the province. I am sure the majority of the people of British Columbia would say it would be a sorry day that the present premier should be supplanted by the attorney-general. (Laughter and cheers.)

Bowser and Duncan Ross.

I am willing to admit, too, he has all the qualities of the Iron Duke magnified many times in his constitution. He is brave. We remember him a year ago stating on the floor that certain statements made by Duncan Ross were false, and that he would take good care he would meet that gentleman in Cariboo and make him retract his words, and I do not know what was not going to happen when the two gentlemen met. But I do not seem able to recall that the honorable gentleman ever went to Cariboo to meet Duncan Ross. I do not remember any record of any meeting between Duncan Ross and the attorney-general in Vancouver. But I have no doubt whatever of the inflexibility and bravery of the attorney-general. I have no doubt that this meeting will take place sometime, maybe in the dim and distant future, I do not know when; it may be in this life, it may be in some other life. (Laughter and cheers.)

His Fishery Legislation.

I am willing also to admit that my honorable friend has the wisdom of Solomon. We have the proof of his wisdom and success as a legislator in regard to immigration, as an administrator of the fisheries, and in his amendments to the fisheries laws. Let us examine what the wisdom of this modern Solomon has done. Many of my constituents work as fishermen on the Fraser river, and he compelled them, in addition to having Dominion licenses, to take out provincial licenses, besides cutting out a considerable number of hours during which they could work. His officials encouraged the fishermen to violate the Dominion regulations in regard to fishing on the Fraser river.

There was every effort made to promote a conflict between the Dominion and provincial officers in regard to these fisheries. For the purpose of promoting this fishermen refusing to take out a provincial license were persecuted and fined by the stipendiary magistrate, according to instructions from the attorney-general, for not having a license. They then took out licenses, and in spite of having licenses from both governments in one instance the same man was persecuted, not prosecuted, by the attorney general for fishing during prohibited hours, according to provincial regulations.

There is every reason to believe that the attorney-general deliberately framed the regulations as to hours of fishing so as to bring on a conflict between the province and the Dominion.

I know of several instances where men were summoned, appeared before the magistrates, and were told that the court was adjourned to suit the convenience of the prosecuting attorney. They were thus deprived of their day's work. Instead of fixing a day for the hearing when there was no fishing it was fixed for a time when they had to lose another day. Finally the cases were heard.

A more disgraceful condition of affairs it is impossible to imagine in any court in a British country. I heard the officials swear that the men had no licenses and had not produced any licenses when they had licenses all the time. I heard the prosecuting attorney put words into witnesses' mouths which they never uttered under oath. I heard the prosecuting attorney asking questions from a witness and when the witness said he saw fish in a boat changed "fish" into "salmon."

An Investigation Demanded.

I say that the magistrate who tried the case is an old man who, from infirmity brought on by old age, is neither mentally nor physically capable of deciding cases of this kind. I say that on the same day this took place, in presence of a man who had been persecuted, not prosecuted, as I assert, I presented these facts to the premier of

this province, and demanded an investigation from him.

I stand now on the floor of parliament and demand from the attorney-general that these charges shall be examined into and an inquiry made. I say that the whole proceedings under that act have been disgraceful.

So intent was the attorney-general on persecuting these men that he had three or four cases against each of fishing without a license or fishing within prohibited hours. He had all the evidence to test the constitutionality of his act if he wished to do so, but he deferred the matter. His attorney so handled the case that the men should not get an appeal. The magistrate decided that they must pay a fine or go to jail. The men did not pay the fine so as to be able to take habeas corpus proceedings and raise the whole question of the constitutionality of the law. I believe that under instructions of the prosecuting attorney the magistrate deliberately gave from one to two months for the payment of the fine, so that the men could not even bring the matter up by habeas corpus proceedings before the fishing season was over.

What Are Bowser's Intentions?

This was how the law was carried out under this modern Solomon. I am going to ask him to tell us what he is going to do, whether the judges who gave their decision in county court and full court were biased politically or not, whether he is going to carry an appeal to the privy council or not, whether he is going to continue his persecution of my clients in this matter. They, and I as their representative, have a right to know his intentions. They were deprived of the right of earning a livelihood during a large portion of the last fishing season and I am going to ask if he intends to continue this persecution. I am not going to allow the self-adulation and effrontery of any man to deprive my constituents of their right to have their grievances redressed. (Hear, hear.) I am going to leave it to the intelligence of men on both sides of this House to say whether I have to resort to any ingenuity to discover grievances against this government. (Applause.)

Advice Was Not Taken.

What did the premier mean by the want of hearty support of measures by the opposition? I challenge him to show me any important measure which has not been improved to a large extent by members of the opposition. The Assessment Act is a case in point. They taxed the farmer on land and personal property and crops, and rejected the help that the opposition offered, with the result that after the expense of a royal commission consisting of my friend, the president of the council, and two business men, they had to change their act almost beyond recognition. Regarding the loan bill, we did not say that the interest was too much, but that the period was too long at such a rate. We said the conditions would change inside three years, and we find that by the change in conditions in five years the loan is wiped out.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow—The province lost nothing.

Mr. Oliver—No, but that does not alter the fact that we said that conditions would improve. (Hear, hear.) If our help has not been taken advantage of it is owing to the density of our friends opposite. The government's timber policy was going to give relief in five years. In two years after it was in operation they found it necessary to depart from the principle of 1903, while the principle introduced in 1905 has worked so disastrously that inside of three years the government was forced to put a reserve on the balance of the timber. If the policy of 1905 was good why was it not good in 1903? That reservation was the wisest thing that the government has done since it took office.

The Land Policy.

I must devote some little time to my friend from The Islands (Mr. McPhillips.) The Liberal policy in regard to lands is as different from his as the poles are asunder. I am a democrat; he is imbued with the Toryism of four hundred years ago. He thinks the settler should not go in on the land until it has been surveyed. I have in my hand a prospectus of the Appleton Land Company. It has an agency in Vancouver with which very intimate friends of the attorney-general are connected. James A. Harvey, of Cranbrook, is said in this circular to be largely interested in this company as well as in others in Kootenay. He is spoken of as a man of great executive ability. In consequence of his executive ability he allies himself with the Conservative party, and as it is the party to give a chance to the speculator, of course Mr. Harvey gets a chance.

The company say they have 52,150 acres of the very best part of the choicest localities. I am going to ask the government if this company has complied with the land laws. I am not going to take the chief commissioner's answer that South African scrip is going to be located there. We will find out how much scrip has been located before we get through. I am going to ask if they have complied with sub-

section 11 of section 34 of the act, and before applying for a second pre-emption had the certificates of the improvement of the first. We want to see whether these lands were acquired by means of agents of these men working in with the surveyors. The people want to know these things. They are getting interested in the land question and want to know a lot of things. (Hear, hear.)

Speculation in Lands.

This company is advertising these lands in Winnipeg and offering them to settlers at from \$15 to \$30 an acre. Imagine the conditions. Hundreds of miles away from a railway, ninety miles from a wagon road, and settlers by means of such circulars are induced to go in there at immense expense only to find that the land the government advertises as available is blanketed by a land company. According to the Victoria papers I see one Rattenbury has been getting in on the ground floor, and sold 11,000 acres for \$100,000, some nine dollars an acre, to another land company which holds it for a still higher price. There is 63,000 acres accounted for of these lands surveyed in the Nechaco valley. We also find that Rattenbury holds land in the Bulkley valley. Is he the only one? In this morning's paper we read that another Victorian has sold 11,300 acres of Nechaco valley lands to a Seattle man for \$140,000. There are 74,000 acres in that one district gone to speculators.

This is the result of the land policy of the present government of British Columbia. Is it in the interests of the province? Ninety per cent of the white population is in the towns and cities. Is that a healthy state of affairs? In a depression like that of fourteen years ago, when the province had to furnish work to keep people from starving, what would be the condition with such a population in our urban communities now? This condition is largely the result of the policy which prevents the settler getting out on the land. (Hear, hear.) A Seattle group of speculators has sixty claims of 640 acres each, or some 40,000 acres, on Graham Island. This is an American firm. The other day the premier, in dealing with the forestry question, said there was no hurry, that he was getting advice from American experts. We will probably get advice from American experts how to deal with the land question. (Hear, hear.)

Worse Than Ireland.

I say the government of the day is allowing the creation by these land speculators of a condition in British Columbia equal to, if not worse than, anything which ever existed in Ireland. I say they are doing that in face of the results which are being pointed out to them year after year. I ask them to rise to the surface and to consider the advantage of British Columbia as a whole. (Hear, hear.) Another American company has a twenty year concession of grazing lands at Chilcotin. These Americans are sopping up our timber and mines and lands. If this policy goes on the people of British Columbia will be simply hewers of wood and drawers of water for the American people.

I have also to complain that those holding hundreds of thousands of acres of timber and pulp concessions have never complied with the statutory conditions, and are holding it at a rental of only two cents an acre. These favored individuals are enabled to hold these lands, although not entitled to hold them, as against the bona fide lumberman who has to pay a rental of eighteen to twenty-two cents an acre. I ask the government to remedy this.

The People's Policy.

The policy of the Liberal party is one which will make the interests of the lumberman identical with that of the people, that will work hand in hand with them for the development of our province. Our policy is the agricultural land for the agricultural settler only and exclusively, upon conditions of residence and cultivation. I say that I believe thoroughly that it is to the best interests of this country to give to the willing worker free access to the soil. It is a right God Almighty has given him and which you, by your legislature, have deprived him of. I say you are criminally guilty when you thus deprive him of what the Almighty intended for him.

We believe that the policy of the government is not to the advantage of the country. We have here a great country, a country immensely rich. If it had not been so it could never have stood the raids made upon its natural resources during the last thirty years. It is the duty of the representatives of the people of this province to set party predilections and party hatreds, which work to the disadvantage of the country, to one side and view the conditions from a patriotic standpoint, and see that all legislation shall be for the whole people without respect to any individuals. If the premier will introduce legislation of this kind for the consideration of this legislature, we on this side will give that legislation our most hearty support. (Prolonged cheers.)

The attorney-general moved the adjournment of the debate and the House rose.

AN INSULT TO THE LEGISLATURE

The Colonist, a strong upholder of constitutional principles in the abstract, can see no harm in a government, providing that government be the McBride government, arrogating to itself powers which under the constitution are absolutely vested in Parliament. It is quite right, we are solemnly told, for the McBride government to spend under Royal Warrant a very large proportion of the revenue of the province. But if the government of the Dominion were to attempt any such subversion of parliamentary power, columns of denunciation would be printed and reams of precedents would be quoted in proof of the indefensibility of the proceeding. The unsatisfactory defence, of course, is that unforeseen demands arose for public works—demands which the government failed to provide for when the legislature was in session. We all know that the alleged "emergency" was a Dominion election campaign. The governments of Great Britain and of every other subordinate state of the realm take care to provide in the estimates for all possible contingencies. Not an instance can be cited of expenditures, except such as we have already instanced, being made without the previous sanction of Parliament. If it is in accordance with the principle that Parliament must exercise absolute control of the purse strings for a government to expend one-fourth of the revenue by Royal Warrant, then there is no barrier to a government disposing of the whole of the revenue after the same manner. We say that not another government in any section of the British dominions would dare to insult the legislature to which it is responsible as the McBride government has done. If the legislature of British Columbia does not manifest its resentment at the action of the McBride government, then parliamentary institutions in this province are a farce.

VICTORIA'S PETITION TO BE REPORTED TO HOUSE Private Bills Committee Deals With a Number of Prayers.

The private bills committee met this morning and considered a number of petitions.

The Flathead Valley Railway Company, which is represented by Mr. Corbin, will be reported. Attention was, however, called to the fact that the petition differed from the advertisement.

Vancouver city's petition asking for amendments to its charter was laid over until February 5th in order to comply with the rule respecting advertising.

The petition relative to the amalgamation of the Coldstream Estate Company and the White Valley Irrigation Company will be reported.

The petition of John Hopp asking for the consolidation of placer leases was in the hands of H. T. Elliott, K. C. The petition will be reported.

The Goat River Water Power Light Company's petition passed the committee and will be reported.

The petition for Victoria city's proposed amendment to the "Waterworks" act will be reported also.

The petition for Graham Island railway, represented by Harold Robertson, was laid over for one week to allow copies of advertisements to be received.

Another petition which it was decided to report was that asking for the Prince Rupert and Fort Simpson Railway Company.

The Shuswap and Thompson River Boom Company promise to have strong opposition with respect to their petition. The committee had before it this morning a series of protests against the enterprise from different parties. These had been forwarded to the attorney-general and in turn sent on to the committee. The latter considered that it could not be dealt with by the committee in that shape. It was decided therefore to notify those concerned that they should be represented before the committee or should forward petitions in the matter to the House, February 5th being fixed as the date for so doing.

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A MASTERLY ARRAIGNMENT.

The rugged son of toil from the marshes of the Delta had the ear of Mr. Speaker and of everyone else in the legislature yesterday afternoon. Mr. Oliver's oratory is fashioned after the style of one who has long contended with Nature and has good reason to be satisfied with the result. Yesterday he treated the "adamantine" Mr. Bowser as a rocky obstacle Nature had made the mistake of placing in the path of provincial progress, drilled several holes in his character and reputation, and with a few timely shots scattered the whole "works" over the face of the political landscape. To do the Attorney-General justice, he seemed, except for a few uncomfortable moments, to enjoy the fireworks. But one could hardly expect the author of several of the meanest and most despicable misrepresentations ever fabricated against political opponents to be greatly abashed at a faithful exposition of his own dishonesty.

Mr. Oliver, as the members of the government party realize to their evident hurt, has developed into one of the ablest debaters on the floor of the Legislature. Indeed, the member for Delta would be accorded a front bench in any popular assembly. He has mastered every detail of parliamentary procedure, and his knowledge of public matters is complete. A quick thinker and ready of wit, he has taught the man of "adamantine" and all others on the government side of the House the foolhardiness of interrupting.

The dressing down of the Attorney-General, while interesting and complete in every respect, was not the really important phase of Mr. Oliver's speech upon the address. The public delights to see a political brow-beater receiving his deserts when he falls into the hands of his master, but it is more vitally interested in facts bearing upon the administration (in this case the maladministration) of the province's affairs.

The speech of the member for Delta will be found in another part of today's issue of the Times. It is worthy of the most careful study by all who are really interested, not so much in what party shall administer our local affairs, as in the practical results of the McBride government's administration. Mr. Oliver shows by facts which cannot be explained away that the surplus of which the Finance Minister boasts has not been gathered together as a result of the development of our natural resources but by the alienation of those resources. This condition applies alike to timber and to public lands. The policy of a province like British Columbia should be to preserve the public lands for settlers. It is as a result of such a policy that the progress of the new provinces of the Northwest has been one of the wonders of the outside world. The public lands of these two provinces are controlled by the Dominion government. It is as a result of a negation of the policy pursued by the Dominion government that settlers not only cannot be induced to come in here, where they are so badly needed, and where their prospects ought to be of the best, but are actually driven out because settlement is impossible owing to all the lands suitable for settlement being in the hands of speculators, who demand impossible prices for their holdings.

The design of the government to vest all powers which can be turned into political account in their own hands—practically all in the hands of the Attorney-General—is also shown in the matter of liquor licenses. In this matter the administration is also running counter to every one of the natural tendencies of the times. Its one idea is to control every string which may be pulled effectively at election and all other times to keep itself in power.

Mr. Oliver's criticism ought to be carefully studied by every elector who takes a proper interest in the affairs of the province. The evolution of the member for Delta is one of the most interesting of the political signs of the times. From a son of the soil or of toil he has rapidly developed into a son of thunder. The lightning played incessantly around the "adamantine" countenance of the Attorney-General yesterday afternoon; and of course it "never phased him."

That was hardly to be expected.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1909.

RAILWAYS AFTER PAYING TRAFFIC MANY WANT CHARTERS IN FLATHEAD COUNTRY

Victoria and Barkley Sound Line Will Open Up South Coast.

It looks as if the present session would be prolific in the sort of railway legislation that the attorney-general claims as a proof of the government having a railway policy. There are several extensions of existing lines being asked for, and charters for small roads of local importance. Half a dozen bills have already been introduced in the legislature, and some of them come before the committee on railways on Wednesday.

In the Kootenay country there will be a conflict of interests between the Hill and Corbin and other lines, all of which are likely to put up a good fight in the committee in support of their bills. Last session Mr. Corbin secured incorporation of the Eastern British Columbia Railway Company, with power to build from near the loop on the Crow's Nest Pass line southerly following the east fork of the south fork of the Michel river to the summit between that creek and a tributary of the Flathead, thence southerly along that tributary and down the Flathead or the most convenient route to the boundary, a distance of forty miles. This is the full route formerly wanted by the Eastern British Columbia.

The usual omnibus powers are asked for. The company is to be capitalized at two million dollars, and is to deposit \$5,000 within six months of the passage of the act as a guarantee that it will expend \$10,000 before December 1, 1910.

The South-East Kootenay Railway Company got a charter in 1906 to build through practically the same country, and is before the House this session for an extension of time for the construction of their road. The capital in this is Victorian to a large extent and the company is in a strong financial position. It is understood. A line is authorized from a point on the Flathead river at the boundary line north by the most feasible route to McGillivray, on the Crow's Nest Pass line. A vigorous opposition to the Corbin bill may be expected from this company.

The Hill interests are likely to present a bill, seeking incorporation for another line in this same territory, the rich coalfields in which offer a traffic worth fighting for. Both the Hill and Corbin systems have lines running to the boundary, which enables them to reach the Washington, Idaho and Montana markets.

To Develop the Island. The Victoria and Barkley Sound Railway Company is seeking incorporation, for the purpose of building and operating a line of railway from this city to Barkley Sound by way of Otter Point and San Juan. The western terminus is to be on the Sound at some point near Sarita river. Power is also desired to construct branches not over twelve miles long from any points on the main line into the adjacent country. The incorporators are named in the bill are W. K. Houston, Henry H. Jones, W. E. Laird, and Charles L. Betteerton.

The capital is fixed at \$1,500,000, in fifteen thousand shares of one hundred dollars each. As soon as one hundred thousand dollars have been subscribed, the company must have a general meeting and elect directors. Until then the gentlemen named are to act as provisional directors. Bonds may be issued to the extent of fifty thousand dollars a mile, authorized by a two-thirds majority of the shareholders at a general or special meeting.

In addition to the powers it seeks as a railway the company asks the right to operate telegraphs, telephones, express service, steamers and to acquire water rights and develop and dispose of power. With the consent of the chief commissioner of lands it seeks

permission to take any stone and lumber required for the construction of the line from off any public lands adjacent to it. Six months after the act has been passed the company is to deposit the sum of \$10,000 with the minister of finance as security that it will expend not less than \$10,000 in surveys or construction within two years from the date of passage of the act. Other bills which have been presented are the incorporation of the Prince Rupert and Port Simpson Railway Company, the Graham Island Railway Company and the Meadow Creek Logging Railway Company.

DEPUTATION WILL ASK LOCAL OPTION BILL

Supporters From All Over Province Will Wait on Cabinet To-morrow.

A large deputation, representing every constituency in the province, will wait upon the government to-morrow forenoon to ask for the introduction of local option legislation at the present session. There will probably be a hundred or more local option supporters in the deputation, which will be introduced by Premier McBride and his colleagues by A. E. McPhillips, K. C., M. P. P.

The speakers in support of the petition, which will be later presented to the House, will be Rev. S. D. Chown, general secretary of the moral and social reform department of the Methodist church, and Rev. Dr. Spencer.

THINK BOWSER SHOULD REPLY

THE CHALLENGE MADE BY DUNCAN ROSS TO BOWSER

A Topic of General Discussion Among Members Across the Bay.

Duncan Ross's challenge to Attorney-General Bowser in Saturday's Times, is a topic of general discussion in political circles to-day. That it will force the minister to take notice of the charges brought against his professional honor and political honesty is the opinion of members of the legislature even some on the Conservative side.

Liberal members are a unit in approving of the action taken by Mr. Ross in pressing his charges against the attorney-general, and the letter written by him will probably be referred to in the House, if not to-day then before long. Mr. Bowser has consistently refrained from answering the charges, while talking all round them, and the challenge to do so on the platform or in the courts which Mr. Ross has made is held to be fully justified by every member of the local opposition.

The definite and categorical manner in which Mr. Ross repeats his charges is a matter of gratified comment among the Liberal members and they are awaiting with interest to see what step Mr. Bowser will take.

"It is up to him now," as a mainland member put it this morning.

Questions affecting British Columbia are likely to occupy a prominent place in the deliberations of Parliament during the present session; but the interest excited will not be due to the prominence of the provincial Conservative members. They are all under a cloud, and silence will become them exceedingly well.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1909.

LIBERALS WOULD ENLARGE FUNDS PROPOSE TO INCREASE MUNICIPAL REVENUE

Government Urged to Aid in Fight Against Tuberculosis

Legislative Press Gallery, Feb. 1.

The opposition has decided not to allow the debate on the address to pass without putting itself on record—and compelling the government to put itself on record also—in regard to the proposal to allow the revenue from the personal property tax and revenue tax to go to the municipalities.

There can be no doubt, from the clear statement of conditions as made in the House, that the municipalities throughout the province suffer from an inadequacy of revenue, which hampers them in the carrying out of needful public works. The province having enough revenue and to spare the Liberal policy is to allow the revenues collected directly from the people by the province to go to the municipalities.

This is the unanimous view of the Liberal members, and if most of the Conservative members do not approve of it, however they may vote, it is not because the arguments in favor of it have not been presented clearly and forcefully by the speakers on the opposition side.

The amendment upon which the House will be asked to vote was moved by C. W. Munro and seconded by Dr. J. H. King. Both members spoke briefly and to the point on the subject of the amendment, and made it clear that it should pass.

Mr. Munro gave a most interesting description of the fertility and prosperity of the reclaimed lands in the Sumas valley, in promoting which he had had no small share, albeit he did not mention that fact. On behalf of the settler, the man whose only asset is his strong arms and his determined courage—the type of man who hewed Ontario and most of eastern Canada and the States out of the forest—the member for Chilliwack asked that every effort should be made to secure them possession of the land free from the incursions of land speculators and inflated prices, and upon such terms as to build up a sturdy farming community in the newer portions of the province.

The opposition whip, Dr. King, called on the government to get into line, and bring the province into line, in the great world-wide fight against tuberculosis. He pointed out that other provinces are further along the road than this is, and urged speedy action. As the Tranquille sanatorium can only accommodate a small number of the patients who will be applying for treatment, Dr. King suggested that the government establish another one, either there or at some convenient point.

From the Socialist ranks Parker Williams was the only other speaker of the day, uttering a number of characteristic opinions in a rather interesting way.

At the opening of the House, after prayers by Rev. T. E. Holling, the certificate of election of Hon. Thomas Taylor, minister of public works, re-elected in Revelstoke, was read by the clerk of the House. Immediately after the new minister was introduced between Hon. Richard McBride and W. R. Ross, chief government whip.

Parker Williams (Newcastle), in resuming the debate on the address, said it seemed to be a fashion in a debate of this kind to congratulate everyone that could by any possibility be congratulated upon anything. The only thing his party could see for congratulation was the recent result in Nanaimo, where his colleague had been triumphantly re-elected.

The speech was wholly and completely in the direction of the government looking backward. The government congratulated itself on things which had happened in the past, when, in his opinion, we in this province needed more to look to the future and let the past take care of itself. Reference was made to the affair down at Quebec, a sort of vaudeville or pantomime, which had no more to do with the life of the average man than with the supposed inhabitants of Mars. The government had given \$10,000 towards that, which could be better spent at home.

Mr. Williams, speaking of the late Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, said a look at the face of that grand old man, in spite of the trappings and gauds which he was sometimes adorned with,

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The Daily News-Advertiser.

TEN PAGES.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1909.

TEN PAGES

PROVINCIAL

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PROVINCIAL

PARLIAMENT

Address in Reply to Speech Moved and Seconded—Mr. Oliver Early in Action.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Victoria, January 22.—The House held a brief sitting to-day, business being confined to the speeches of Mr. Parson and Mr. Davey, the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply. Mr. Macdonald moved the adjournment of the debate. Mr. Oliver asked for more definite information regarding arrangements with the G. T. P. at Prince Rupert. Hon. Mr. McBride promised it on Monday.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Thursday, 21st January, 1909.

THREE O'CLOCK, P.M.

This being the first day of the third meeting of the Eleventh Parliament or Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, for the dispatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation of His Honour the Honourable JAMES DUNSMUIR, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, dated the 24th day of November, 1908.

His Honour the Honourable JAMES DUNSMUIR, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, having entered the House, took his seat on the Throne, and was pleased to deliver the following gracious Speech:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It affords me much pleasure, in meeting you at the opening of another Session, to be able to congratulate you upon the prosperity which has prevailed throughout the Province during the past year, and the indications of continual progress which are manifest on every hand.

The almost complete destruction of Fernie by fire, though it caused serious loss, served to awaken the indomitable energy and enterprise of the people of the Province, and resulted in the speedy rebuilding of the city on a more substantial scale. My Government took prompt measures for the relief of the municipality and individual sufferers, and you will be asked to approve of such action.

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It is my sad duty to refer to the death of my esteemed and distinguished predecessor in office, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, whose demise was regarded throughout the Dominion as a national loss. His amiability, courtesy and kindness in private life, and his sterling qualities as a public man, won for him the love and respect of all classes, and his memory will long be cherished by Canadians.

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JANUARY 23, 1909.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

of the House Viewed by Large Attendance—Speech From the Throne—Action in Prospect.

Correspondent in the Press

January 22.—After a and cloudy morning shone out brightly in the opening of the present Legislature. There was a pleasant ripple of color, aided considerably by which made a gallant lace and gold epauletant-Governor Dunsmuir. The galleries were thronged with spectators upon the extra seats upon the were all filled. Most of the ladies, dressed in additional scene. It was about then the guard of honor, of Colonel Holmes, broad steps, and es-tendant-Governor in laced uniform to the He read the Speech,

ON THE THRONE.

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The rapid development of the Province and the extension of settlement in new districts, necessitating the construction of roads, trails and bridges, the establishment of new schools and the surveying of large areas of agricultural lands, have rendered extraordinary expenditure imperative during the recess. You will, therefore, be asked to confirm certain disbursements made under the authority of special warrant.

The negotiations between my Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company respecting the town-site of Prince Rupert have been concluded, and the work of surveying, subdividing and laying out the new city is proceeding satisfactorily.

When the Speech from the Throne had been read, His Honor made his bow and departed, the guard of honor going with him. With them much of the brilliance of the scene vanished and a business-like air settled upon the House.

Premier McBride made the usual formal motions.

Hon. Mr. Bowser introduced a Bill to amend the Magistrates' Act, which passed first reading.

The Public Accounts were presented by Hon. Mr. Tatlow, and the Public Schools report by Hon. Dr. Young. The latter also presented something new in the form of a report from the Free Textbook branch of the Department of Education.

The House then adjourned till Friday at 2 p. m.

LEGISLATION FORSHADOWED.

The Bill to amend the Magistrates' Act, introduced by Attorney-General Bowser, and the first bill of the session, simply provides that magistrates in making their quarterly returns must in future send them to the Attorney-General, as well as to the Provincial Secretary, as has hitherto been the practice.

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The Act passed at the last Session, providing for the creation of a Department of Works, has been put in force, and a Minister of Works appointed. It is confidently expected that the new arrangement will be found effective in expediting the public service in connection with the public lands and the carrying out of public works.

The Public Accounts for the past financial year will be at once submitted for your consideration, as well as the Estimates for the coming year.

In leaving you to your deliberations, I have every confidence that they will result in promoting the welfare and prosperity of the Province.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was then pleased to retire.

Prayers by the Lord Bishop of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker reported that, to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy of His Honour's Speech.

Ordered, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof, and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

Ordered, That the Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—

1. On Standing Orders and Private Bills;
2. On Public Accounts;
3. On Printing;
4. On Railways;
5. On Mining;
6. On Agriculture;
7. On Municipal Matters;

which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as shall be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for papers, persons and records.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a Member of this House, or endeavoured so to be, by bribery or other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Bowser*, Bill (No. 1) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Magistrates' Act,'" was introduced and read a first time.
To be read a second time at the next sitting of the House.

On the motion
Resolved, That
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expenditures for public works, designed to make communication possible with remote parts of the coun-

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21ST JANUARY.

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On the motion of the Hon. Mr. McBride, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Bowser,—
Resolved, That the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be taken into consideration on Friday, the 22nd January, instant.

The Hon. the Minister of Finance presented the Public Accounts of the Province for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1908.

The Hon. the Provincial Secretary presented the Thirty-seventh Annual Report of the Public Schools of the Province of British Columbia—1907-08.

Also the following papers:—
Report of the Free Text Book Branch of the Education Department.
Papers relating to the Acts passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia during the Session of 1908.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock on Friday next.

And then the House adjourned at 3:25 o'clock, P.M.

D. M. EBERTS, *Speaker*.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Address in Reply to Speech Moved and Seconded—Mr. Oliver Early in Action.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Victoria, January 22.—The House held a brief sitting to-day, business being confined to the speeches of Mr. Parson and Mr. Davey, the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply. Mr. Macdonald moved the adjournment of the debate. Mr. Oliver asked for more definite information regarding arrangements with the G. T. P. at Prince Rupert. Hon. Mr. McBride promised it on Monday.

JANUARY 23, 1909.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Speech of the House Viewed by Large Attendance—Speech From the Throne—Legislation in Prospect.

Correspondent in the Press.

January 22.—After a bright and cloudy morning, the sun shone out brightly in the afternoon. There was a festive tinkle of color, aided considerably by gold lace and gold epaulettes. The galleries were thronged with spectators. The extra seats upon the floor were all filled. Most of the ladies wore dresses of light colors. It was about 10 o'clock when the guard of honor, led by Colonel Holmes, the broad steps, and the Lieutenant-Governor in uniform to the air. He read the Speech.

FROM THE THRONE.

and Gentlemen of the Legislature:

I have much pleasure in being able to congratulate you on the prosperity which has prevailed throughout the Province during the past year, and the indications of progress which are manifest.

The complete destruction of the city of Kamloops, though it caused severe loss to the Province, and resulted in the rebuilding of the city on a larger scale. My Government has taken prompt measures for the reconstruction of the city, and you will be asked to approve of such action.

Messages of sympathy were received from His Majesty the King and His Excellency the Governor-General; and from various parts of Canada, as well as from Great Britain, Australia and the United States, came assistance and sympathy for the sufferers.

The Tercentenary Celebration of the founding of Quebec, and the Centenary of Fraser's overland journey to the Pacific and discovery of the Fraser River, were two notable events of the past year. At the former it was my privilege to represent British Columbia and to donate, on behalf of the Province, a substantial sum to the fund for the preservation and nationalisation of the Quebec battlefields. My Government was also called upon to assist in the very successful celebration of the Simon Fraser Centenary at New Westminster.

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VICTORIA, B. C.:
Printed by RICHARD WOLFRUM, L.S.O., V.D., Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1909.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENTS

Third Session of Assembly of Formally Op

TEXT OF SPEECH FROM

Prospective Leg Magistrates—M of the

From Our Own Correspondent

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The Daily News-Advertiser.

TEN PAGES.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1909.

TEN PAGES

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Third Session of Eleventh Legislative Assembly of British Columbia Formally Opened Yesterday.

TEXT OF SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Prospective Legislation—Duties of Magistrates—Mover and Seconder of the Address.

From Our Own Correspondent.
Victoria, January 21.—The Provincial House opened to-day with the usual ceremonies. All the members were present except Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton and Mr. Garden, on the Government side, and Messrs. Henderson and Eagleson, on the Opposition. The Socialists were in the corridor, but not in their seats.

Hon. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Hawthornthwaite will be introduced formally to-morrow, when the debate on the Lieutenant-Governor's speech will begin. Mr. Parsons, of Golden, will move the Address in Reply and Mr. Davey, of Victoria, will second.

Hon. Mr. Bowser has introduced a Bill to amend the Magistrates' Act, compelling magistrates to send returns to his department.

Mr. Bowser has sent to the Minister of Justice a recommendation for the pardon of James Mullin, sentenced to two years' imprisonment by Magistrate Alexander for stealing a boat.

Many delegates are here for the convention of the Provincial

CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION, which will be held here to-morrow.

Beyond forecasting the enactment of legislation governing the distribution of water for irrigation purposes, and the enactment of various pension clauses in connection with the Civil Service Act, the Speech from the Throne contains little new. The Speech refers to the prosperity of the Province, the success of the negotiations of the Government with the G. T. P., and the bountiful harvests of fruit and other products.

The day was cloudy and threatened rain, so that the crowd attending the opening of the third session of the Eleventh Parliament was not as large as in other years.

The House adjourned until 2 o'clock to-morrow.

It is rumored that Mr. Hayward will be the new Conservative Whip to succeed Hon. Mr. Taylor.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Power and Irrigation—Our Fruit Assets—Other Public Works.

The Speech from the Throne was as follows:

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It affords me much pleasure in meeting you at the opening of another session, to be able to congratulate you upon the prosperity which has prevailed throughout the Province during the past year, and the indications of continual progress which are manifest on every hand.

The almost complete destruction of Fernie by fire, though it caused serious loss, served to awaken the indomitable energy and enterprise of the people of the Province, and resulted in the speedy rebuilding of the city on a more substantial scale. My Government took prompt measures for the relief of the municipality and individual sufferers, and you will be asked to approve of such action. Messages of sympathy were received from His Majesty the King and His Excellency the Governor-General, and from various parts of Canada, as well as from Great Britain, Australia and the United States, came assistance and sympathy for the sufferers.

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The negotiations between my Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company respecting the Townsite of Prince Rupert have been concluded, and the work of surveying, subdividing and laying out the new city is proceeding satisfactorily.

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GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC RAILWAY Company respecting the Townsite of Prince Rupert have been concluded, and the work of surveying, subdividing and laying out the new city is proceeding satisfactorily.

In consequence of the rapidly increasing demand for water for irrigation and power purposes, coincident with the expansion of the fruit growing industry, you will be asked to consider a Bill for the more effectual and equitable distribution of water required to meet the new conditions.

The Act passed at the last session, providing for the creation of a Department of Works, has been put in force, and a Minister of Works appointed. It is confidently expected that the new arrangement will be found effective in expediting the public service in connection with the public lands and the carrying out of public works.

The Public Accounts for the past financial year will be at once submitted for your consideration, as well as the Estimates for the coming year.

In leaving you to your deliberations I have every confidence that they will result in promoting the welfare and prosperity of the Province.

THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

The Provincial Legislature opened yesterday the third session of the present Parliament. The speech delivered by His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, does not indicate that anything of a particularly important character is likely to occupy the attention of the Legislature during the present session. That does not imply that work of great utility to British Columbia will not be achieved. On the contrary, much good practical work may be accomplished in a session of which the annals may seem to be of a very humdrum character. Indeed, it speaks well for the situation in the Province that the bill of (are which the Government lays before the House contains nothing that shows either mistakes of previous legislation to be corrected or measures requisite to repair disasters or remove grievances from which the people are suffering. Nor is there any probability that during the course of the present session any startling political incident will arise that will rivet attention on the Parliament Buildings at Victoria and give rise to much speculation as to the outcome. Dull and uninteresting as the session may prove to be to the lovers of sensational political developments and unexpected party manoeuvres, the indications are that it will be one marking the steady progress that the Province is making and showing that legislation is being kept abreast of the changes that larger population and expanding settlements make necessary.

The Speech refers to the remarkable progress that horticulture is making in British Columbia, and the beneficial effect that that circumstance has had in advertising the resources of this Province in the United Kingdom. We are also reminded that with increased population and larger settlement the

expenditures for public works, designed to make communication possible with remote parts of the country, must continue to grow. Happily the Provincial finances have shown great elasticity during the last few years, and the money necessary to meet these expenditures will be available without any addition being made to the burdens of the people. Indeed we shall be disappointed if the financial situation is not found to be so favorable as to permit of substantial reductions in taxation during the ensuing financial year.

Among the items mentioned in the Speech is one stating that legislation regarding the distribution of water for irrigation purposes will be introduced. This is a subject of great importance in a large section of the Province and it is well that it is now to be dealt with in a complete and thorough manner.

Popular sentiment will be in entire and sympathetic accord with the reference to the late Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere. Few of those who have held the position of Governor in this Province have won such a place in popular esteem as Sir Henri did, and the reference to him is one that will meet with sincere approval.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1909.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Opening of the House Viewed by Large Attendance—Speech From the Throne—Legislation in Prospect.

From a Staff Correspondent in the Press Gallery.

VICTORIA, January 22.—After a drizzling and cloudy morning the sun shone out brightly in the afternoon for the opening of the third session of the present Legislature yesterday afternoon. There was the usual effervescent ripple of color and brightness, aided considerably by the sunshine which made a gallant show of the gold lace and gold epaulettes of Lieutenant-Governor Dussault's guard of honor. The galleries of the House were thronged with spectators, and the extra seats upon the floor for visitors were all filled. Most of the privileged ones were ladies, whose gay dresses lent additional brightness to the scene. It was about three o'clock when the guard of honor, under command of Colonel Holmes, marched up the broad steps, and escorted the Lieutenant-Governor in cocked hat and laced uniform to the Speaker's chair. He read the Speech, as follows:

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It affords me much pleasure, in meeting you at the opening of another Session, to be able to congratulate you upon the prosperity which has prevailed throughout the Province during the past year, and the indications of continual progress which are manifest on every hand.

The almost complete destruction of Fernie by fire, though it caused serious loss, served to awaken the indomitable energy and enterprise of the people of the Province, and resulted in the speedy rebuilding of the city on a more substantial scale. My Government took prompt measures for the relief of the municipality and individual sufferers, and you will be asked to approve of such action. Messages of sympathy were received from His Majesty the King and His Excellency the Governor-General; and from various parts of Canada, as well as from Great Britain, Australia and the United States, came assistance and sympathy for the sufferers.

The Tercentenary Celebration of the founding of Quebec, and the Centenary of Fraser's overland journey to the Pacific and discovery of the Fraser River, were two notable events of the past year. At the former it was my privilege to represent British Columbia and to donate, on behalf of the Province, a substantial sum to the fund for the preservation and nationalisation of the Quebec battlefields. My Government was also called upon to assist in the very successful celebration of the Simon Fraser Centenary at New Westminster.

It is my duty to refer to the death of my esteemed and distinguished predecessor in office, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, whose demise was regarded throughout the Dominion as a national loss. His amiability, courtesy and kindness in private life, and his sterling qualities as a public man

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Address in Reply to Speech Moved and Seconded—Mr. Oliver Early in Action.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Victoria, January 22.—The House held a brief sitting to-day, business being confined to the speeches of Mr. Parson and Mr. Davey, the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply.

Mr. Macdonald moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Oliver asked for more definite information regarding arrangements with the G. T. P. at Prince Rupert. Mon. Mr. McBride promised it on Monday.

won for him the love and respect of all classes, and his memory will long be cherished by Canadians.

I have again to congratulate the horticulturists of the Province on the remarkable success they have achieved with British Columbia fruit at the exhibitions in Great Britain. The Minister of Finance and Agriculture, who assisted in the work this year, is also to be congratulated on the favorable impression made by him upon the press and public of the Motherland. I must also express my gratification in the fact that British Columbia fruit growers won several thousand dollars in prizes at the Spokane Apple Show, where the fruit was in competition with the principal fruit-growing States of the Union.

The rapid development of the Province and the extension of settlement in new districts, necessitating the construction of roads, trails and bridges, the establishment of new schools and the surveying of large areas of agricultural lands, have rendered extraordinary expenditure imperative during the recess. You will, therefore, be asked to confirm certain disbursements made under the authority of special warrant.

The negotiations between my Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company respecting the townsite of Prince Rupert have been concluded, and the work of surveying, subdividing and laying out the new city is proceeding satisfactorily.

When the Speech from the Throne had been read, His Honor made his bow and departed, the guard of honor going with him. With them much of the brilliance of the scene vanished and a business-like air settled upon the House.

Premier McBride made the usual formal motions.

Hon. Mr. Bowser introduced a Bill to amend the Magistrates' Act, which passed first reading.

The Public Accounts were presented by Hon. Mr. Taitow, and the Public Schools report by Hon. Dr. Young. The latter also presented something new in the form of a report from the Free Textbook branch of the Department of Education.

The House then adjourned till Friday at 2 p. m.

LEGISLATION FORSHADOWED.

The Bill to amend the Magistrates' Act, introduced by Attorney-General Bowser, and the first bill of the session, simply provides that magistrates in making their quarterly returns must in future send them to the Attorney-General as well as to the Provincial Secretary, as has hitherto been the practice.

The Act to amend the Water Classes Act which is to be introduced by Hon. Mr. Fulton later in the session, promises to be a long and contentious one. While its contents are, of course, not yet known, there is a general belief that it will aim to deal with the use and storage of water for irrigation purposes along the lines suggested by the Irrigation Convention held at

Province had been prosperous and had given ample returns to the employers of labor for their investments, nor did it require any great stretch of imagination to ascribe those blessings in great measure to the wise and stable Government the Province had enjoyed for a number of years, and which to all appearance it was still destined to enjoy for a number of years to come. (Ministerial applause.)

"There has been ample proof lately," he added, "that the sentiments of the great majority of the people of British Columbia is Conservative, and that they appreciate the efforts of the Conservative Party to furnish honest and efficient administration. The affairs of this Province since the House last met have been conducted in so exemplary a manner as to be almost beyond the reach of censure or effective criticism, and it will tax the industry and ingenuity even of the member for

to make up for it, it would be necessary to reforest a quarter of a million acres of land each year. No precautions were taken to prevent this waste, and if it continued long enough, trees would become as scarce as diamonds.

Among the resources of the Province, its mining wealth had always occupied a prominent position. While it was believed that there would be a falling off in revenue from this source of about \$2,000,000, it was thought the tonnage would be as great as before. The diminution in value was the cause of the falling off in revenue, and this was attributed to the decline in the price of copper. He was pleased to hear, however, that the price had taken an upward tendency and it was liable to be higher for some time to come.

HIGH PRICE OF COAL.

The production of the coal mines

In conclusion, he thanked the House for its patience and attention, and seconded the Address in Reply.

Loud applause greeted the conclusion of Mr. Davey's speech.

MR. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. OLIVER ALREADY.

MR. OLIVER said there were some important matters referred to in the Speech from the Throne of which the particulars were not before the House. He mentioned particularly that of the arrangements between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company in regard to the Townsite of Prince Rupert, and asked if these particulars could not be put in possession of the House by Monday.

HON. MR. McBRIDE said that it was difficult to supply all these details. Government would be quite glad to give what information they could consult with his colleague down what information he had for Monday's sitting. The House adjourned to meet at 2 p. m.

The expenditure necessarily increases with the growth of settlement, the opening up of new districts and a larger population, and in the last fiscal year amounted to \$4,530,873. Deducting this from the Revenue and there is a surplus of \$1,388,381. Although the latter half of the year 1907-8 included a period of considerable commercial depression the Provincial revenue continued to show remarkable elasticity and exceeded the estimates made by the Minister of Finance in his Budget for that year. There is reason to believe that the current fiscal year will also show a very satisfactory financial position. Owing to the change made in the financial year which now ends at March 31st, instead of June 30th, the period which the next accounts will show will only be one of nine months. But we think there is every indication that the nine months will add a further sum to the surplus of the preceding year and the accounts show a still more solid and substantial situation in the Provincial finances.

While this satisfactory state of things will permit of some reductions in direct taxation, the probable demands of the future in various directions must not be ignored. The immense districts in the Northern part of the Province which will be traversed by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway are likely to make heavy demands on the Provincial Treasury during the next few years. Although ultimately these districts will contribute their legitimate quota to the Provincial revenue, experience has shown that for some years the opening of a new district—and especially one as remote as the one under consideration—is from the centres of population—entails expenditures out of all proportion to the revenue which it yields. Roads have to be opened through a wilderness, rivers bridged, Government buildings erected and all the machinery of administration provided. It is satisfactory, therefore, to feel that without adding to the rate of taxation, much less of increasing the Provincial debt, the finances will permit of these exceptional expenditures designed to add what will be practically almost a new community to the population of the Province.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

Accounts for the financial year ending June 30th, 1908, which were furnished to the Legislature on the excellent condition of the Provincial finances. They also show that there has been the growth during the last few years, from additions to the population of the people, but from which the natural resources of the country are being depleted to such a degree that the health in timber, are being

In the fiscal year 1907-8 the Revenue was \$4,530,873, the largest amount in the history of the Province. Going back to the corresponding period of the year 1906-7, we find that the Revenue was \$1,388,381, so that between the two years there was an increase of about \$3,142,492. Nor, as has been pointed out, has this great growth in revenue been caused by the tax-payers' burdens. The four items which exceed of the direct taxes a year ago, that source as now become comparatively unimportant in the total revenue. The four items which exceed of the direct taxes a year ago, that source as now become comparatively unimportant in the total revenue. The four items which exceed of the direct taxes a year ago, that source as now become comparatively unimportant in the total revenue.

The growth of revenue, as expected from the activity in the last financial year, is due to the increase in timber royalties, the receipts from which being \$2,258,368, an amount \$1,100,000 over those of the previous year. While the amounts received from license rentals respectively, it may be said that the larger portion of the revenue is derived from the sale of timber. In the course of years, the natural conditions of the Province will be renewed to a limited extent, but the depletion of the natural conditions of the Province will be renewed to a limited extent, but the depletion of the natural conditions of the Province will be renewed to a limited extent.

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No. 2.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Friday, 22nd January, 1909.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Canon Beanlands.

Pursuant to Order, the House proceeded to take into consideration the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

Mr. Parson moved, seconded by Mr. Davey,—

That an humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, thanking His Honour for his gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session, and further assuring His Honour that:—

1. We are pleased to be congratulated upon the prosperity which has prevailed throughout the Province during the past year, and to be assured that indications of continual progress are manifest on every hand.

2. While the almost complete destruction of Fernie by fire was a great disaster, much satisfaction may be derived from the fact that it has but served to awaken the indomitable energy and enterprise of the people of the Province, and has resulted in the speedy rebuilding of the city on a more substantial scale. His Honour's Government is to be commended upon the prompt measures taken for the relief of the municipality and individual sufferers. This action is most heartily approved by this House. It is gratifying to be informed that messages of sympathy were received from His Majesty the King and His Excellency the Governor-General, and that from various parts of Canada, Great Britain, Australia and the United States came assistance and sympathy for the sufferers.

3. The Tercentenary celebration of the founding of Quebec, and the Centenary of Fraser's overland journey to the Pacific and discovery of the Fraser River, were certainly two notable events of the past year. We learn with pleasure that at the former His Honour represented British Columbia and, on behalf of the Province, donated a substantial sum to the fund for the preservation and nationalisation of the Quebec battlefields. We are also pleased to be informed that His Honour's Government assisted in the very successful celebration of the Simon Fraser Centenary at New Westminster.

4. We regret that to His Honour has fallen the sad duty of recording the death of His Honour's esteemed and distinguished predecessor in office, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière, whose demise was regarded throughout the Dominion as a national loss. His amiability, courtesy and kindness in private life, and his sterling qualities as a public man, won for him the love and respect of all classes, and his memory will long be cherished by Canadians.

5. It affords us great satisfaction that His Honour can again congratulate the horticulturists of the Province on the remarkable success they have achieved with British Columbia

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not only a very able address was presented recently before the Canadian Club in Vancouver by Dr. Judson Clark in which he pointed out the waste going on in our forest resources, and recommended the establishment of a Bureau of Forestry to deal with the matter. From the great acreage of our forests and the vast revenue derived from them I think that is a matter worthy of consideration by the Government and every one.

He continued that he had read an address delivered recently by the Hon. Mr. Root before the American Institute of Forestry, in which he was reported to have said that they were using three times as much wood in the United States as they were growing.

He congratulated the member for Revelstoke on his appointment to the Ministry of Public Works. He would bring to his new position a long practical experience in the public service and he felt no doubt that he would do credit to his office. The fact and judgment he had shown in performing his duties in a party capacity on that side of the House spoke very highly for him, and his re-election for his constituency by such a large majority was a proof of his personal popularity and the strength of the Government of which he was a member. In the performance of his official duties as Minister of Public Works he would suggest that he should visit personally all important works proposed to be carried out, and obtain information at first hand as to the best manner in which it should be done.

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to the assets of the Province. The Public Accounts under consideration show that both these courses have been followed. Including the payment in the sinking funds of the Permanent Debt and the repayment of the Debentures issued in 1903, a sum exceeding \$550,000 was applied in the fiscal year 1907-8 to the extinguishment of Provincial debt. At the same time very considerable sums were appropriated for permanent public works and buildings, adding to the efficiency of the Provincial administration and to the convenience of the public in regard to transportation and other matters.

non last summer. One suggestion made there was that water records should only be held on condition that they shall be actually used. While it is hardly suggested that the Government will go so far as that it is generally believed that an effort will be made to see to it that records will only be granted for actual use in future. While not much opposition is anticipated to the bill on general principles the definite intention is to be sure to provoke a great deal of discussion.

Another interesting measure promised is a bill to impose an annual licence fee of \$100 on all clubs where liquor is sold. This measure is promised in deference to complaints about the abuse of the liquor selling privilege by certain clubs. It is not aimed at respectable institutions such as the Vancouver Club, or the Union Club and Victoria, who can well afford to pay the tax; but it is thought to be only a way of justice to those persons engaged in the liquor business, who are already paying heavy licences.

About nineteen private bills, mostly dealing with the incorporation of new railway companies, have already been applied for.

GALLERY NOTES

There was a good attendance at the opening of the House. All members were in their places with the exception of Hon. P. Carter-Cotton and Mr. J. E. Garden, on the Government side, and Messrs. Stuart Henderson and Mark Easton on the Opposition. The Socialists also were not in their places, though they were in the corridors of the House. Mr. Hawthornthwaite could not sit because he had not been introduced to the speaker after his recent election, and he doubts Messrs. Williams and McInnis did not care to honor the Lieutenant-Governor with their presence.

Captain Hart-McEarg, looking soldierly in his dark uniform, represented the Sixth Regiment in the Lieutenant-Governor's guard of honor. Last year this task fell to the lot of Lieut.-Colonel Bonfield.

One of the most conspicuous figures of the floor of the House was Mr. Yada, the Japanese Consul at Vancouver, who, representing his country for the first time at such a function, appeared in full official uniform, brilliant with gold lace and gold embroidery. The American and German and other Consuls present were in ordinary apparel.

Among the Vancouver people to be noticed on the floor of the House were Mr. Harry Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Osborne Plunkett, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Clark, Mr. H. Cottingham and Mr. H. Murgatroyd.

All the members wore buttonholes of malpais fern and carnations, the annual gift on this occasion of Mrs. Harry Helmcken.

Attorney-General Bowser has sent to the Minister of Justice a recommendation for pardon in the case of James Mullin, who was sentenced by Magistrate Alexander to two years' imprisonment for the theft of a boat. The Attorney-General said he read the depositions in the case carefully and was convinced that a grave mistake had been made.

A new departure in the decoration of the House for the opening was the placing of long crimson curtains between the marble pillars. These give the chamber a decidedly rich and cosy air.

REPORT ON FREE TEXT BOOKS

Books Which Would Have Cost Parents \$27,247.25, Laid Down by Province for \$20,000.

With the opening of the Legislature, one of the first reports to be handed down is that of Mr. D. Wilson, who is the officer in charge of the Free Text Book Branch of the Education Department. He submitted the following account of operations for the six months from July 1st, the date of establishment.

The adoption of a free text book system is a natural outcome of free schools. Already several Provinces of the Dominion of Canada have adopted such a system and are furnishing the pupils of their schools, free of charge, with all or nearly all the books required for the common school course. In the Province of Alberta, the school books supplied by the Education Department become the property of the children who receive them. The Province of New Brunswick has taken steps to place school books in the hands of pupils at cost price to the parents. But last year, when British Columbia decided to supply free text books, it chose a middle course or plan of lending the books to the pupils on certain conditions, a printed copy of which is pasted inside the front cover of each text book. The free text books supplied to each school in British Columbia thus form a lending library, a book being charged to a pupil when received and marked off when returned. With the first shipment of books to any school, a teacher's record is always supplied for the purpose of enabling the teacher to keep an account of the number and names of books received, as well as of their disposition. To secure a strict compliance with this important requirement of the lending system, a postcard was in November last addressed to each teacher in the Province, whose school had drawn free text books, enquiring, among other things, if the proper entries of all receipts and disbursements had been made as required. It may also be added that before the first requisition for school books made by any Trustee Board was honored at the Free Text Book Branch, the members of that Board were required

to sign an agreement undertaking to provide suitable accommodation (bookcase or bookshelves) for all free text books and supplies furnished by the Education Department; and further to see that the teacher or teachers employed by them fulfill all the duties with regard to free text books and that he or they keep a proper record of all these books.

The Free Text Book Branch of the Education Department of this Province was opened in the basement of the Parliament Buildings on July 1st, 1908, but much work of a preparatory nature had necessarily to be done before that date. The ordering of books, the furnishing of suitable quarters, the preparation of circulars, requisitions, receipts, agreements, record books, etc., occupied a good deal of time. On May 31st, 1908, explanatory circulars with blank requisitions and forms of agreement were mailed to all the Trustees of the Province, informing them of the recent decision of the Education Department to supply the public schools of the Province (except high schools), free of charge, with certain text books and school requisites, and pointing out that full directions with other particulars were printed on back of accompanying requisition forms for preparing a requisition which would be honored within certain limits, at the Free Text Book Branch.

As far as I can determine, all the common and graded schools of the Province, with perhaps two or three exceptions, have taken advantage of the offer of free text books made by the Education Department. The Provincial Normal School was also supplied from this branch. From July 1st, 1908, to December 31st, 1908, 726 requisitions were filled by the Free Text Book Branch. Of these, 489 were for the first term, 237 for the second term, 2 for School Inspectors, and 1 for the Education Department of Nova Scotia, in order to give samples of British Columbia text books. The 489 first-term requisitions represent the needs of 419 public schools. In order to distribute all the supplies called for by the 726 public school requisitions referred to, it was necessary to ship 569 cases and about 510 parcels. The total weight of the shipments was over 90,000 pounds. In the majority of instances these supplies were forwarded to their destination by freight as the cheapest mode of carriage, although both express and post were also employed. The sum of \$35.72 in stamps (drawn from the general fund) was expended for the last named service. It is satisfactory to be able to state that, as far as known, all the shipments for the first term reached their respective destinations in good condition, although seven receipts are still outstanding. It may be explained that with every shipment of books a receipt form, which includes a list of the text books forwarded to a particular school, is sent to the Secretary of the Board, with the request that the contents of boxes or parcels be checked with list and with copy of requisition, and that the receipt form be then promptly returned, after having been signed and dated. All this appears very simple, but to secure the return of some 489 receipts cost the Free Text Book Branch several hundred letters of request and many duplicate receipts.

The 726 requisitions just referred to called for the distribution of the following: 30,979 primers and readers; 19,465 arithmetics; 38,408 copy books; 108,456 scribbles; 419 Union Jacks; 803 teacher's records; 100 principal's records. The items are: 5,580 first primers; 4,616 supplementary primers; 4,339 second primers; 4,008 first readers; 4,031 second readers; 4,284 third readers; 4,177 fourth readers; 8,687 arithmetics (first book); 7,237 arithmetics (second book); 5,541 arithmetics (third book); 6,117 copy books (No. 1); 5,995 copy books (No. 2); 5,559 copy books (No. 3); 4,457 copy books (No. 4); 4,247 copy books (No. 5); 5,817 copy books (No. 6); 4,376 copy books (No. 7); 19,327 scribbles (No. 1); 52,488 scribbles (No. 2); 21,308 scribbles (No. 3); 14,998 scribbles (No. 4). If the parents of the thirty-three thousand school children throughout the Province had purchased the text books called for by the 726 school requisitions at the prevailing retail prices, it would have meant an outlay, for them, of \$27,247.25. The stock of books on hand December 31st, 1908, would at similar prices retail for \$5,026.25.

In dealing with the various requests for free text books, the utmost care has been exercised by me in order to give each school what it appeared to need, as well as what it was entitled to according to the enrolment by grades entered on requisition form presented to the Free Text Book Branch. It was necessary also freely to exercise the right to question requisitions and even to decline to fill them, except in part, when they appeared to be excessive. Some criticism may have been passed upon the officer in charge for exercising this right, but it seems to me better, if err one must, to commit a fault on the side of a reasonable economy than on that of careless generosity. For instance, when a school of 25 pupils, not 30 of whom are fit to use a text book in arithmetic, asks for 36 of these books, after having been supplied with 25, it seems proper to question such a requisition. And this is only one of many cases of a somewhat similar, though not nearly so unreasonable, character. To have honored every requisition in full would have proved a somewhat expensive and fruitless course.

In ordering the necessary books and other school supplies for free distribution, great care has been exercised so as to secure the lowest possible prices; no contracts were entered into at any time. The total expenditure of the Free Text Book Branch of the Education Department to December 31st, 1908, was \$23,794.68, made up as follows: Books, labels, etc. . . . \$17,337 01 Union Jacks 1,788 00 Freight, labor, drayage, etc. . . . 1,919 82 Distribution (freight, boxes, cartage, etc.) 1,078 88 Salaries of staff of three 1,688 05

Total \$23,794 68 On the books received to December 31st, 1908, the Branch, however, still owes \$1,331.67. The cost, therefore, to December 31st, 1908, is \$25,026.35. From this amount the sum of \$1,788, paid for Union Jacks, must be deducted in order to get the true cost of free text books to December 31st, 1908, viz. \$23,238.55. As nearly one-half the second term's requisitions were filled before the close of the past calendar year, it is probable that the outlay for the succeeding six months will not exceed \$7,000 in addition to what has already been spent and guaranteed. Nor does it seem likely that during the next school year the demand for bound books will be so great since the supply at present in use should, with the exception of the primers, set for several years. Of course, additional shipments will

require, as in the past, to be sent frequently, as books are filled (as in the case of copy books and scribbles), are destroyed, lost, worn out, or burned by order of the Medical Health Officer, and as the number of schools and school children increase. All this only proves again that it is the initial step which costs; the succeeding stages usually prove less expensive.

As the people of the Province collectively are the principals in the purchase and distribution of these free text books for the use of their children, it is proper that they should learn whether or not this experiment has been of advantage to them financially. It has already been stated that the Free Text Book Branch of the Education Department distributed during the past six months text books and supplies which would have cost the parents, at prevailing retail prices, the sum of \$27,247.25. To place these books in the hands of the public school children through the medium of the Free Text Book Branch required an outlay of \$20,084.18, made up as follows: Text books (laid-down cost) . . . \$17,319 34 Distribution—freight, etc. . . . 1,078 80

while in the Old Country on his recent holiday, are most thoroughly deserved, and it has been with the greatest pleasure that we have read of prizes won by our fruit when on exhibition in Great Britain and the United States.

It is pleasing, Mr. Speaker, to be informed that the arrangements between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific have been satisfactorily concluded and to know that the vast undertakings of this railway corporation which means so much to the Northern part of the Province, will soon be carried on much more energetically than ever.

I desire, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the Government upon the recent appointment of a Minister of Public Works. I think that everybody will agree that the Government have acted wisely in dividing the great and growing

Province had been given ample relief of labor for it did require. In great measure, the able Government employed for a while to all, as destined to enjoy to come. (Minister)

There has been added, "that great majority of British Columbia is they appreciate the servative Party efficient administration of this Province met have been play a manner yond the reach criticism, and it ingenuity, as Delta to the gov- charge the Govern-

He continued, had been expected administration of country. The re- (creasing beyond expectation, and a substantial su- view of this and from the nature Province, he he Finance would reduction or ever- various taxes and income. H- that the income regarded by Ch- chequer in the ceptional tax on times of emergency tax it had been think that "con- try warranted it indefinite time.

PROGRESS

Agriculture was base of all manu- gratifying to ki- harvest was a farmer was w- both. The grow- the increase of under trees had proved the adap- climate of the E- along that line note that fruit- had always been prizes abroad. year had again- ed in London, parts of Great States. Great Minister of Ag- assistance he had- tions. Although- ed holiday in the he never spare- ways ready to this Province. solved and ha- ting reviews f- fish papers. "I observe," "that a trial of- lumbia fruit ha- China and Japa- will prove succe- ke; for our fru- lent."

Turning to the- said it was gra- settlement of C- had been much- previous year. emptory record- was 1,692 again- der to encourag- Government ha- reserving a thi- settler. Fifty- were now under- was considered- the collections- compared very- ber revenues, a- of nearly \$1,000- year. There wa- in the number- cences.

He thought t- of Lands and- gratulated on- with the Grand- Company for so- the Townsite- arrangements- ing the streets, the Governmen- would also be- the residents of- tion of a wharf- in the right d- be hoped that- erment and th- in building at- town, from ever- CONSERVA-

He considered- of the Province- the. The rapid- lands of the Un- Canada had in- 1911.

He continued- address deliver- Mr. Bow before- of British C- to have said- three times as- the water wa-

at Quebec, at which the Province was so ably represented by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, I am sure, Sir, that we all would have been pleased had it been possible for our Premier, the Honorable Richard McBride, to be present also; but unfortunately, Sir, it was not possible for him to be shown from his post at Victoria just at that time.

The regret expressed at the recent death of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere will be re-echoed throughout the Province, where our late Lieutenant-Governor was universally esteemed for his many good qualities and kind disposition.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the same gratulations extended to the Minister of Agriculture for his efforts to further the interests of the Province.

with a great deal of interest, and he rose to second the Address in Reply, but his task had been kindly made lighter by the lucid and comprehensive speech of the mover. In fact, he had so completely covered the ground that it appeared to him that anything he might add looked almost like a work of supererogation. At the same time he could not refrain from expressing his agreement with the Lieutenant-Governor's speech as to the general prosperity of the country.

"This is indeed a favored land," he continued, "where the cry of distress from the unemployed is not heard, and where those terrible convulsions of Nature which have resulted in so much disaster and death and suffering in other lands, are unknown."

During the year the industries of the

Province had been prosperous and had given ample returns to the employers of labor for their investments, nor did it require any great stretch of imagination to ascribe those blessings in great measure to the wise and stable Government the Province had enjoyed for a number of years, and which in all appearance it was still destined to enjoy for a number of years to come. (Ministerial applause.)

"There has been ample proof lately," he added, "that the sentiments of the great majority of the people of British Columbia is Conservative, and that they appreciate the efforts of the Conservative Party to furnish honest and efficient administration. The affairs of this Province since the House last met have been conducted in so exemplary a manner as to be almost beyond the reach of censure or effective criticism, and it will tax the industry and ingenuity even of the member for Delta to find grounds on which he can charge the Government with fault."

He continued that the Government had been especially successful in the administration of the finances of the country. The revenue had gone on increasing beyond the most sanguine expectation, and there would again be a substantial surplus for this year. In view of this and the increasing revenue from the natural resources of the Province, he hoped the Minister of Finance would be able to promise a reduction or even the abolition of those vexatious taxes on personal property and income. He would remind him that the income tax had always been regarded by Chancellors of the Exchequer in the Old Country as an exceptional tax only to be resorted to in times of emergency or distress, a war tax it had been called. He did not think that conditions in this country warranted its being levied for an indefinite time.

PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture was said to lie at the base of all natural wealth, and it was gratifying to know that last season's harvest was a bounteous one and the farmer was well rewarded for his toil. The growth of fruit farming and the increase of the acreage planted under trees had been phenomenal, and proved the adaptability of the soil and climate of the Province for production along that line. It was pleasing to note that fruit grown in this country had always been successful in winning prizes abroad. The fruit display last year had again captured the gold medal in London, besides prizes in other parts of Great Britain and the United States. Great praise was due to the Minister of Agriculture for the assistance he had given to these exhibitions. Although enjoying a well-earned holiday in the Old Country last year, he never spared himself but was always ready to say a good word for this Province. His speeches were well received and had met with very flattering reviews from all classes of English papers.

"I observe," continued the speaker, "that a trial shipment of British Columbia fruit has recently been sent to China and Japan. I hope the venture will prove successful and a new market for our fruit be found in the Orient."

Turning to the Land Department, he said it was gratifying to note that the settlement of Crown lands during 1908 had been much greater than in any previous year. The number of pre-emption records taken out last year was 1,609 against 936 for 1907. In order to encourage actual settlement the Government had adopted the plan of reserving a third of all lands for the settler. Fifty thousand square miles were now under reserve, and when this was considered it would be seen that the collections from land revenues, compared very favorably with the timber revenues, which showed an increase of nearly \$1,000,000 over the previous year. There was a gratifying increase in the number of coal prospecting licences.

He thought the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works was to be congratulated on the arrangements made with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company for surveying and laying out the Townsite of Prince Rupert. The arrangements for grading and plank-ing the streets, and sewerage, between the Government and the Company, would also be greatly appreciated by the residents of that place. The erection of a wharf by the Government for the use of the public was also a step in the right direction, and it was to be hoped that the efforts of the Government and the Company would result in building at Prince Rupert a model town from every point of view.

CONSERVATION OF TIMBER.

He considered the timber resources of the Province worthy of special notice. The rapid depletion of the forest lands of the United States and Eastern Canada had lately called attention to this.

"I notice," a verbatim address was reported recently, "before the Canadian Club in Vancouver by Dr. Judson Clark in which he pointed out the waste going on in our forest resources, and recommended the establishment of a Bureau of Forestry to deal with the matter. From the great acreage of our forests and the vast revenue derived from them I think that is a matter worthy of consideration by the Government and every one."

He continued that he had read an address delivered recently by the Hon. Mr. Root before the American Institute of Forestry, in which he was reported to have said that they were doing three things at once, one in the United States, one in Canada, and one in

to make up for it, it would be necessary to reforest a quarter of a million acres of land each year. No precautions were taken to prevent this waste, and if it continued long enough, trees would become as scarce as diamonds.

Among the resources of the Province, its mining wealth had always occupied a prominent position. While it was believed that there would be a falling off in revenue from this source of about \$2,000,000, it was thought the tonnage would be as great as before. The diminution in value was the cause of the falling off in revenue, and this was attributed to the decline in the price of copper. He was pleased to hear, however, that the price had taken an upward tendency and it was liable to be higher for some time to come.

HIGH PRICE OF COAL.

The production of the coal mines had suffered from the flooding of the San Francisco market, on which we chiefly depend, with Australian coal at a time when our own mines were tied up by labor troubles. As soon as that supply was worked off, the demand for our own coal would resume its normal proportions. During the last summer some 75,000 tons of our Vancouver Island coal had been sent to Seattle and sold at \$7.00 a ton. He asked why it should be considered necessary to charge us \$7.50 a ton when it could be sold there at that price after paying an import duty of 75 cents a ton, besides the extra freight and other charges for handling?

The successful treatment of complex ores and the development of the lead zinc industry in the Kootenay justified the policy of the Government in passing a bill to aid in the establishment of a smelter at Nelson. It was to be hoped that the prosperity that had marked the mining industry of the Province during the past five years would be maintained. During that time it had grown from an annual production of seventeen and a half million tons to twenty-five and three-quarters of a million each year.

The action of the Government in supplying the Public Schools with free text books is to be highly commended," said Mr. Davey. "Its adoption completes and rounds off the system of free education in this Province of which we are proud. It gives an opportunity for an elementary education to the child of every parent in this Province, no matter how poor they may be."

The speaker quoted figures from the leaflet of the Minister of Education dealing with the subject of free text books, in which he showed that the system was not only good for the public, but at the same time it imposed practically no added financial burden on the Province.

HIGHER LICENSE LEGISLATION.

The Government was also to be congratulated on the very efficient manner in which the amendments to the Liquor License Act passed at the last session had been carried into effect. The result was a marked improvement on the old plan, as all applications for licences in rural districts had been critically examined by the Superintendent of Provincial Police, and as a result 55 applications for new licences had been refused, 243 existing licences cancelled, while licensees had been compelled to live up to the letter of the law. The persistent refusal of the Government to grant liquor licences at Prince Rupert or to construction tents along the Grand Trunk Pacific must also commend itself, not only to temperance advocates, but to all right-minded people.

"No doubt pressure has been brought on the Government to alter this," continued Mr. Davey with a smile, "but when our Attorney-General makes up his mind to a certain course they might as well desist, for he is as inflexible as dynamite."

Mr. Davey also commented on the intention of the Government to license clubs and provide for their proper inspection. It was unjust that these institutions, however well conducted, should be allowed privileges that interfered with legitimate trade. Neither the Conservative Party, nor the present administration posed as temperance gentlemen, but he thought the action of the Government in this matter would commend itself to temperance advocates and prove in the best interests of the public. He considered at least that it entitled the Government to some recognition from their temperance friends as having done valuable work along the lines of moral reform. The Government had certainly repelled the charge that they were under the control of the liquor dealers, a statement that was shown to be absolutely untrue.

He congratulated the member for Revelstoke on his appointment to the Ministry of Public Works. He would bring to his new position a long, practical experience in the public service and he felt no doubt that he would do credit to his office. The fact and judgment he had shown in performing his duties in a party capacity on that side of the House spoke very highly for him, and his re-election for his constituency by such a large majority was a proof of his personal popularity and the strength of the Government of which he was a member. In the performance of his official duties as Minister of Public Works he would suggest that he should visit personally all important works proposed to be carried out, and obtain information at first hand as to the best manner in which it should be done.

In conclusion, he thanked the House for its patience and attention, and seconded the Address in Reply.

Loud applause greeted the conclusion of Mr. Davey's speech.

MR. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. OLIVER ALREADY.

MR. OLIVER said there were some important matters referred to in the Speech from the Throne of which the particulars were not before the House. He mentioned particularly that of the arrangements between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company in regard to the Townsite of Prince Rupert, and asked if these particulars could not be put in possession of the House by Monday.

HON. MR. MURPHY said that it was difficult to supply all these details, but the Government would be quite prepared to give what information they could. He would consult with his colleagues and get down what information they could for Monday's sitting.

The House then adjourned to meet on Monday at 2 p. m.

THE PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

The Public Accounts for the financial year ending June 30th, 1908, which were laid before the Legislature on Thursday last, furnish the most definite proof of the excellent condition of the Provincial finances. They also show how great has been the growth of revenue during the last few years, arising not from additions to the direct taxation of the people, but from the manner in which the natural resources of the country are being developed and the degree to which those resources, especially as regards the Province's wealth in timber, are being appreciated.

In the financial year 1907-8 the Revenue amounted to \$5,379,054, the largest in the history of the Province. Going back to the corresponding period ten years ago, we find that the Revenue in 1897-8 was \$1,355,048, so that a comparison between the two years shows a growth of revenue of about 450 per cent. in the decade. Nor, as we have said, has this great growth in the Provincial revenue been caused by additions to the taxpayers' burdens. Important as items in the receipts as were the proceeds of the direct taxes, ten or twelve years ago, that source of revenue has now become comparatively unimportant in the total receipts. Taking the four items which comprise the direct taxation—Revenue Tax, Real Property Tax, Personal Property Tax, and the Wild Land Tax—and we find that in the aggregate they yield only \$805,648, or about 14.1 per cent. of the total revenue.

The greatest growth of revenue, as was to be expected from the activity which prevailed in the last financial year in speculation in timber limits, is found in the item of timber royalty and licences, the receipts from that source being \$2,258,566, an advance of about \$1,100,000 over those in the previous year. While the details of the amounts received from royalties and licence rentals respectively are not specified, it may be assumed that it is the latter which has contributed the larger portion of the amount shown, and that the Provincial exchequer will, in the course of years, draw an annual and much larger proportionate sum from royalties when the holders of the limits begin to cut the timber upon them. Since this forest wealth is one of the capital resources and can only be renewed to a limited extent under the natural conditions found in our timbered areas, a prudent policy would direct that a considerable proportion of the revenue from such a source should be devoted either to the extinguishment of capital liabilities—in the shape of floating or permanent debt—or to expenditures on permanent works which will add to the assets of the Province. The Public Accounts under consideration show that both these courses have been followed, including the payment into the sinking Funds of the Permanent Debt and the repayment of the Debentures issued in 1903, a sum exceeding \$800,000 was applied in the fiscal year 1907-8 to the extinguishment of Provincial debt. At the same time very considerable sums were appropriated for permanent public works and buildings, adding to the efficiency of the Provincial administration and to the convenience of the public in regard to transportation and other matters.

The expenditure necessarily increases with the growth of settlement, the opening up of new districts and a larger population, and in the last fiscal year amounted to \$4,530,473. Deducting this from the Revenue and there is a surplus of \$1,358,381. Although the latter half of the year 1907-8 included a period of considerable commercial depression the Provincial revenue continued to show remarkable elasticity and exceeded the estimates made by the Minister of Finance in his Budget for that year. There is reason to believe that the current fiscal year will also show a very satisfactory financial position. Owing to the change made in the financial year which now ends at March 31st, instead of June 30th, the period which the next accounts will show will only be one of nine months. But we think there is every indication that the nine months will add a further sum to the surplus of the preceding year and the accounts show a still more solid and substantial situation in the Provincial finances.

While this satisfactory state of things will permit of some reductions in direct taxation, the probable demands of the future in various directions must not be ignored. The immense districts in the Northern part of the Province which will be traversed by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway are likely to make heavy demands on the Provincial Treasury during the next few years. Although ultimately these districts will contribute their legitimate quota to the Provincial revenue, experience has shown that for some years the opening of a new district—and especially one as remote as the one under consideration—is from the centres of population—entails expenditures out of all proportion to the revenue which it yields. Roads have to be opened through a wilderness, rivers bridged, Government buildings erected and all the machinery of administration provided. It is satisfactory, therefore, to feel that without adding to the rate of taxation, much less of increasing the Provincial debt, the finances will permit of these exceptional expenditures designed to add what will be practically almost a new community to the population of the Province.

non last summer. One suggestion made there was that "water-licenses" should only be held on condition that they shall be actually used. While it is hardly suggested that the Government will go so far as that it is generally believed that an effort will be made to see to it that records will only be granted for actual use in future. While not much opposition is anticipated to the bill on general principles the details in committee are sure to provoke a great deal of discussion.

Another interesting measure promised is a bill to impose an annual license fee of \$100 on all clubs where liquor is sold. This measure is promoted in deference to complaints about the abuse of the liquor selling privilege by certain clubs. It is not aimed at respectable institutions such as the Vancouver Club, or the Union Club of Victoria, who can well afford to pay the tax, but it is thought to be only a way of justice to those persons engaged in the liquor business, who are already paying heavy licenses.

About nineteen private bills, mostly dealing with the incorporation of new railway companies, have already been applied for.

GALLERY NOTES

There was a good attendance at the opening of the House. All members were in their places with the exception of Hon. F. Carter-Cottman and Mr. J. F. Gordon, on the Government side, and Messrs. Stuart Henderson and Mark Eagleson on the Opposition. The Socialists also were not in their places, though they were in the corridors of the House. Mr. Hawthornthwaite could not sit because he had not been introduced to the speaker after his recent election, and no doubt Messrs. Williams and McInnis did not care to honor the Lieutenant-Governor with their presence.

Captain Hart-McHarg, looking soldierly in his dark uniform, represented the Sixth Regiment in the Lieutenant-Governor's guard of honor. Last year this task fell to the lot of Lieut.-Colonel Boulthée.

One of the most conspicuous figures on the floor of the House was Mr. Tada, the Japanese Consul at Vancouver, who, representing his country for the first time at such a function, appeared in full official uniform, brilliant with gold lace and gold embroidery. The American and German and other Consuls present were in ordinary apparel.

Among the Vancouver people to be noticed on the floor of the House were Mr. Harry Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Osborne Plunkett, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Clark, Mr. H. Cottingham and Mr. H. Murtaghroy.

All the members wore buttonholes of maidenhair fern and carnations, the annual gift on this occasion of Mrs. Harry Helmcken.

Attorney-General Bowser has sent to the Minister of Justice a recommendation for pardon in the case of James McGill, who was sentenced by Magistrate Alexander to two years imprisonment for the theft of a beacon. The Attorney-General said he read the depositions in the case carefully and was convinced that a grave mistake had been made.

A new departure in the decoration of the House for the opening was the placing of long crimson curtains between the marble pillars. These give the chamber a decidedly rich and cosy air.

REPORT ON FREE TEXT BOOKS

Books Which Would Have Cost Parents \$27,347.25, Laid Down by Province for \$26,084.

With the opening of the Legislature, one of the first reports to be handed down is that of Mr. D. Wilson, who is the officer in charge of the Free Text Book Branch of the Education Department. He submitted the following account of operations for the six months from July 1st, the date of establishment.

The adoption of a free text book system is a natural outcome of free schools. Already several Provinces of the Dominion of Canada have adopted such a system and are furnishing the pupils of their schools, free of charge, with all or nearly all the books required for the common school course. In the Province of Alberta, the school books supplied by the Education Department become the property of the children who receive them. The Province of New Brunswick has taken steps to place school books in the hands of pupils at cost price to the parents. But last year, when British Columbia decided to supply free text books, it chose a middle course or plan of lending the books to the pupils on certain conditions, a printed copy of which is pasted inside the front cover of each text book. The free text books supplied to each school in British Columbia thus form a lending library, a book being charged to a pupil when received and marked off when returned. With the first shipment of books to any school, a teacher's record is always supplied for the purpose of enabling the teacher to keep an account of the number and names of books received, as well as of their disposition. To secure a strict compliance with this important requirement of the lending system, a postcard was in November last addressed to each teacher in the Province, whose school had drawn free text books, enquiring, among other things, if the proper entries of all receipts and disbursements had been made as required. It may also be added that before the first requisition for school books made by any Trustee Board was honored by the Free Text Book Branch, the members of that Board were required

to sign an agreement undertaking to provide suitable accommodation (bookcase or bookshelves) for all free text books and supplies furnished by the Education Department; and further to see that the teacher or teachers employed by them fulfil all the duties with regard to free text books and that he or they keep a proper record of all these books.

The Free Text Book Branch of the Education Department of this Province was opened in the basement of the Parliament Buildings on July 1st, 1908, but much work of a preparatory nature had necessarily to be done before that date. The ordering of books, the furnishing of suitable quarters, the preparation of circulars, requisitions, receipts, agreements, book lists, etc., occupied a good deal of time. On May 27th, 1908, explanatory circulars with blank requisitions and forms of agreement were mailed to all the School Boards of the Province, informing them of the recent decision of the Education Department to supply the public schools of the Province (except high schools), free of charge, with certain text books and school requisites, and pointing out that full directions with other particulars were printed out back of accompanying requisition forms for preparing a requisition which would be honored, within certain limits, at the Free Text Book Branch.

As far as I can determine, all the common and graded schools of the Province, with perhaps two or three exceptions, have taken advantage of the offer of free text books made by the Education Department. The Provincial Normal School was also supplied from this branch. From July 1st, 1908, to December 31st, 1908, 739 requisitions were filled by the Free Text Book Branch. Of these, 489 were for the first term, 237 for the second term, 2 for School Inspectors, and 1 for the Education Department of Nova Scotia, in order to give samples of British Columbia text books. The 489 first-term requisitions represent the needs of 416 public schools. In order to distribute all the supplies called for by the 739 public school requisitions referred to, it was necessary to ship 569 cases and about 150 parcels. The total weight of the shipments was over 90,000 pounds. In the majority of instances these supplies were forwarded to their destination by freight as the cheapest mode of carriage, although both express and post were also employed. The sum of \$35.72 in stamps (drawn from the general fund) was expended for the last named service. It is satisfactory to be able to state that, as far as known, all the shipments for the first term reached their respective destinations in good condition, although seven receipts are still outstanding. It may be explained that with every shipment of books, a receipt form, which includes a list of the text books forwarded to a particular school, is sent to the Secretary of the Board, with the request that the contents of boxes or parcels be checked with list and with copy of requisition, and that the receipt form be then promptly returned, after having been signed and dated. All this appears very simple, but to secure the return of some 480 receipts cost the Free Text Book Branch several hundred letters of request and many duplicate receipts.

The 739 requisitions just referred to called for the distribution of the following: 30,979 primers and readers; 19,465 arithmetic; 26,608 copy books; 108,486 scribblers; 410 Union Jacks; 808 teacher's records; 100 principal's records. The items are: 5,590 first primers; 4,516 supplementary primers; 4,329 second primers; 4,008 first readers; 4,031 second readers; 4,284 third readers; 4,177 fourth readers; 6,987 arithmetics (first book); 7,257 arithmetics (second book); 5,541 arithmetics (third book); 6,117 copy books (No. 1); 4,247 copy books (No. 2); 5,559 copy books (No. 3); 4,557 copy books (No. 4); 4,247 copy books (No. 5); 5,817 copy books (No. 6); 4,876 copy books (No. 7); 16,287 scribblers (No. 1); 52,888 scribblers (No. 2); 21,305 scribblers (No. 3); 14,986 scribblers (No. 4). If the parents of the thirty-three thousand school children throughout the Province had purchased the text books called for by the 739 school requisitions at the prevailing retail prices, it would have meant an outlay for them of \$27,347.25. The stock of books on hand December 31st, 1908, would at similar prices retail for \$5,026.25.

In dealing with the various requests for free text books, the utmost care has been exercised by me in order to give each school what it appeared to need, as well as what it was entitled to according to the enrolment by grades entered on a requisition form sent to the Free Text Book Branch. It was necessary also freely to exercise the right to question requisitions and even to decline to fill them; except in part, when they appeared to be excessive. Some criticism may have been passed upon the officer in charge for exercising this right, but it seems to me better, if err one must, to commit a fault on the side of a reasonable economy than on that of careless generosity. For instance, when a school requisition for 20 of whom are fit to use a text book in arithmetic, asks for 36 of these books, after having been supplied with 25, it seems proper to question such a requisition. And this is only one of many instances of some-what similar, though not nearly so unreasonable, a character. To have honored every requisition in full would have proved a somewhat expensive and fruitless course.

In ordering the necessary books and other school supplies for free distribution, great care has been exercised so as to secure the lowest possible prices; no contracts were entered into at any time. The total expenditure of the Free Text Book Branch of the Education Department to December 31st, 1908, was \$27,704.08, made up as follows: Books, labels, etc. . . . \$17,527 01 Union Jacks 1,788 00 Freight, labor, drayage, etc. . . . 4,919 82 Distribution (freight, boxes, cartage, etc.) 1,078 80 Salaries of staff of three 1,688 05

Total \$27,704 08

On the books received to December 31st, 1908, the Branch, however, still owes \$1,231.67. The cost, therefore, to December 31st, 1908, is \$26,084.25. From this amount the sum of \$1,788, paid for Union Jacks, must be deducted in order to get the true cost of free text books to December 31st, 1908, viz., \$25,296.25. A nearly equal half the second term's requisitions were filled before the close of the past calendar year. It is probable that the outlay for the succeeding six months will not exceed \$7,000 in addition to what has already been spent and guaranteed. Nor does it seem likely that during the next school year the demand for bound books will be so great, since the supply at present is abundant, with the exception of the primers, but for several years. Of course, additional shipments will

require, as in the past, to be sent frequently, as books are filled (as in the case of copy books and scribblers), are destroyed, lost, worn out, or burned by order of the Medical Health Officer, and as the number of schools and school children increases. All this only proves again that it is the initial step which costs; the succeeding stages usually prove less expensive.

As the people of the Province collectively are the principals in the purchase and distribution of these free text books for the use of their children, it is proper that they should learn whether or not this experiment has been of advantage to them financially. It has already been stated that the Free Text Book Branch of the Education Department distributed during the past six months text books and supplies which would have cost the parents, at prevailing retail prices, the sum of \$27,347.25. To place these books in the hands of the public school children through the medium of the Free Text Book Branch required an outlay of \$26,084.19, made up as follows:

Text books (laid-down cost) . . . \$17,527 34
Distribution—freight, etc. . . . 1,078 80

while in the Old Country on his recent holiday, are most thoroughly deserved, and it has been with the greatest pleasure that we have read of prizes won by our fruit when on exhibition in Great Britain and the United States.

It is pleasing, Mr. Speaker, to be informed that the arrangements between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific have been satisfactorily concluded and to know that the vast undertakings of this railway corporation which means so much to the Northern part of the Province, will soon be carried on much more energetically than ever.

I desire, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the Government upon the recent appointment of a Minister of Public Works. I think that everybody will agree that the Government have acted wisely in dividing the great and grow-

Province had been given ample room for labor for it requires imagination to in great measure stable Government enjoyed for a while to all destined to come. (Minister) There has been added that great majority in British Columbia is they appreciate. (Opposition) Party efficient administration of this Province met have been play a manner beyond the reach criticism, and it and ingenuity.

fruit at the exhibitions in Great Britain. The Minister of Finance and Agriculture, who assisted in the work this year, is also to be congratulated on the favourable impression made by him upon the press and public of the Motherland. We share His Honour's gratification in the fact that British Columbia fruit-growers won several thousand dollars in prizes at the Spokane Apple Show, where the fruit was in competition with the principal fruit-growing States of the Union.

6. We can readily understand that the rapid development of the Province and the extension of settlements in new districts, by necessitating the construction of roads, trails and bridges, the establishment of new schools and the surveying of large areas of agricultural lands, have rendered extraordinary expenditure imperative during the recess.

7. It is satisfactory that the negotiations between His Honour's Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company respecting the townsite of Prince Rupert have been concluded, and that the work of surveying, subdividing and laying out the new city is proceeding.

8. We shall carefully consider any measure introduced for the more effectual and equitable distribution of water required for irrigation and power purposes.

9. We are pleased to be informed that the Act passed at the last Session, providing for the creation of a Department of Works, has been put in force, and that a Minister of Works has been appointed. We are confident that the new arrangement will be found effective in expediting the public service in connection with the public lands and the carrying out of public works.

10. The work of the present Session will be greatly facilitated by the early submission of the Public Accounts for the past financial year and of the Estimates for the coming year, referred to by His Honour.

11. We join His Honour in hoping that our deliberations will result in promoting the welfare and prosperity of the Province.

On the motion of Mr. Macdonald, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

D. M. EBERTS, Speaker.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

On Monday next—
The Hon. Mr. Tallow to ask leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the Horticultural Board Act."

On Tuesday next—
Mr. Brexter to ask leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act for the Better Securing of Certain Mine Workers' Wages."

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—
That an Order of the House be granted for the Return of copies of all correspondence, telegrams, agreements or other documents between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co., and the Grand Trunk Pacific Town and Development Co., under the provisions of Chapter 19, Statutes of 1908.

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—
That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of copies of judgments of any Court, in each case of prosecution under authority of Chapter 23, 1908, intituled "An Act to Regulate Immigration into British Columbia."

celebration at Quebec, at which the Province was so ably represented by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. I am sure, Sir, that we all would have been pleased had it been possible for our Premier, the Honorable Richard McBride, to be present also; but unfortunately, Sir, it was not possible for him to be absent from his post at Victoria just at that time.

The regret expressed at the recent death of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière will be re-echoed throughout the Province, where our late Lieutenant-Governor was universally esteemed for his many good qualities and kind disposition.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the same congratulations extended to the Minister of Agriculture for his efforts to further the interests of the Province

with a great deal of timidity that he rose to, second the Address in Reply, but his task had been ably made lighter by the lucid and comprehensive speech of the mover. In fact, he had so completely covered the ground that it appeared to him that anything he might add looked almost like a work of supererogation. At the same time he could not refrain from expressing his agreement with the Lieutenant-Governor's speech as to the general prosperity of the country.

"This is indeed a favored land," he continued, "where the cry of distress from the unemployed is not heard, and where those terrible convulsions of Nature which have resulted in so much disaster and death and suffering in other lands, are unknown."

During the year the industries of the

By Mr. C. 1. What fiscal year? 2. What 3. In wh 4. To wh

By Mr. C. 1. What 2. For w 3. To wh

By Mr. C. 1. Did t dredging in C 2. If so, 3. Was t 4. What 5. To wh 6. What 7. At wh 8. Are t 9. If so, arrears due!

By Mr. C. That an appointed und the amount of the names of licences issued preceded again each case; th such costs we prosecuting ag case; the tra received from of the Act.

By Mr. C. 1. What Bridge at Ne 2. Who during the sa 3. Is it t Westminster Westminster 4. Has a Co. for the us 5. If so, for its inform

the work of the Canada had in this

the matter of Mr. Root before of forestry, in other lands, are unknown."

three times as

Province had been prosperous and had given ample returns to the employers of labor for their investments, nor did it require any great stretch of imagination to ascribe those blessings in great measure to the wise and stable Government the Province had enjoyed for a number of years, and which to all appearance it was still destined to enjoy for a number of years to come. (Ministerial applause.) "There has been ample proof lately," he added, "that the sentiments of the great majority of the people of British Columbia is Conservative, and that they appreciate the efforts of the Conservative Party to furnish honest and efficient administration. The affairs of this Province since the House last met have been conducted in so exemplary a manner as to be almost beyond the reach of censure or effective criticism, and it will tax the industry and ingenuity even of the member for

to make up for it, it would be necessary to reforest a quarter of a million acres of land each year. No precautions were taken to prevent this waste, and if it continued long enough, trees would become as scarce as diamonds. Among the resources of the Province, its mining wealth had always occupied a prominent position. While it was believed that there would be a falling off in revenue from this source of about \$2,000,000, it was thought the tonnage would be as great as before. The diminution in value was the cause of the falling off in revenue, and this was attributed to the decline in the price of copper. He was pleased to hear, however, that the price had taken an upward tendency and it was liable to be higher for some time to come.

HIGH PRICE OF COAL.

The production of the coal mines

In conclusion, he thanked the House for its patience and attention, and seconded the Address in Reply.

Loud applause greeted the conclusion of Mr. Davey's speech.

MR. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. OLIVER ALREADY.

MR. OLIVER said there were some important matters referred to in the Speech from the Throne of which the particulars were not before the House. He mentioned particularly that of the arrangements between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company in regard to the Townsite of Prince Rupert, and asked if these particulars could not be put in possession of the House by Monday.

HON. MR. McBRIDE said that it was difficult to supply all these details, but the Government would be quite glad to give what information they could consult with his colleague down what information for Monday's sitting. He then adjourned to meet at 2 p. m.

The expenditure necessarily increases with the growth of settlement, the opening up of new districts and a larger population, and in the last fiscal year amounted to \$4,590,873. Deducting this from the Revenue and there is a surplus of \$1,383,331. Although the latter half of the year 1907-8 included a period of considerable commercial depression the Provincial revenue continued to show remarkable elasticity and exceeded the estimates made by the Minister of Finance in his Budget for that year. There is reason to believe that the current fiscal year will also show a very satisfactory financial position. Owing to the change made in the financial year which now ends at March 31st, instead of June 30th, the period which the next accounts will show will only be one of nine months. But we think there is every indication that the nine months will add a further sum to the surplus of the preceding year and the accounts show a still more solid and substantial situation in the Provincial finances.

While this satisfactory state of things will permit of some reductions in direct taxation, the probable demands of the future in various directions must not be ignored. The immense districts in the Northern part of the Province which will be traversed by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway are likely to make heavy demands on the Provincial Treasury during the next few years. Although ultimately these districts will contribute their legitimate quota to the Provincial revenue, experience has shown that for some years the opening of a new district—and especially one as remote as the one under consideration—is from the centres of population—entails expenditures out of all proportion to the revenue which it yields. Roads have to be opened through a wilderness, rivers bridged, Government buildings erected and all the machinery of administration provided. It is satisfactory, therefore, to feel that without adding to the rate of taxation, much less of increasing the Provincial debt, the finances will permit of these exceptional expenditures designed to add what will be practically almost a new community to the population of the Province.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

Accounts for the financial year 1907-8, which close on June 30th, 1908, which were laid before the Legislature on the 11th inst., furnish the most definite and excellent condition of the Provincial finances. They also show that there has been the growth during the last few years, from additions to the population of the people, but from the natural resources of the country are being developed to such a degree which those particularly as regards the growth in timber, are being

The total revenue for the financial year 1907-8 the Revenue amounted to \$4,590,873, the largest amount in the history of the Province. Going back to the corresponding period of 1906-7, we find that the Revenue was \$3,207,548, so that between the two years there was an increase of about \$1,383,325, or about 43 per cent. of the total revenue. Nor, as has been pointed out, has this great growth in revenue been caused by the taxpayers' burdens. It is seen in the receipts as detailed in the direct taxes of the year 1907-8, that source of revenue which has now become comparatively unimportant in the total revenue, the four items which constitute direct taxation—Revenue Property Tax, Personal Property Tax, and the Wild Land Tax—amounted in the aggregate to only \$805,648, or about 17.5 per cent. of the total revenue.

The growth of revenue, as expected from the activity in the last financial year, is shown in the item of timber royalties. The receipts from this source, which in 1906-7 were only \$2,258,568, an amount of \$1,100,000 over those of the previous year. While the amounts received from licence rentals respectively, it may be seen in the latter which has the larger portion of the total. And that the Provincial Revenue in the course of years, and much larger proceeds from royalties when the limits begin to cut the forest. Since this forest of the capital resources of the Province, the natural conditions of the timbered areas, a prudent course would direct that a proportion of the revenue from this source should be devoted to the extinguishment of capital expenditures of the shape of floating or sinking debt, or to expenditures on public works which will add to the assets of the Province. The Public Accounts under consideration show that both these courses have been followed, including the payment into the Sinking Funds of the Permanent Debt and the repayment of the Debentures issued in 1902, a sum exceeding \$500,000 was applied in the financial year 1907-8 to the extinguishment of Provincial debt. At the same time very considerable sums were appropriated for permanent public works and buildings, adding to the efficiency of the Provincial administration and to the convenience of the public in regard to transportation and other matters.

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—
1. What roads or bridges were made or repaired in Delta District during the present fiscal year?
2. What was the amount expended on each road or bridge, and under what foreman?
3. In what month was the work done in each case?
4. To what votes were the respective amounts charged?

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—
1. What moneys have been expended in Dewdney Riding during the present fiscal year?
2. For what purpose was such expenditure made?
3. To what vote has such expenditure been charged?

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—
1. Did the Government employ Mr. Alexander Cruickshank, of Chilliwack, to do any dredging in Coquitlam Dyking District during the year 1908?
2. If so, what work and for what purpose?
3. Was the work done by contract or day's work?
4. What was the amount paid, or to be paid, for such work?
5. To what vote was this expenditure charged?
6. What authority had the Government for making this expenditure?
7. At whose request was the work done?
8. Are there any arrears of charges against lands in the Coquitlam Dyking District?
9. If so, against what lands are such arrears charged, and for what period are such arrears due?

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—
That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of copies of regulations issued by the Government under the "British Columbia Fisheries Act," also showing the names of officials appointed under authority of said Act; the length of service of each official; the rate and the amount of pay of each official; the travelling expenses or other allowances of each official; the names of firms obtaining licences, and the amounts paid in each case; the number of licences issued to an individual fisherman, and the amounts collected; the names of persons proceeded against for infractions of the Fisheries Act and Regulations; the offence charged in each case; the results of prosecution in each case; the amount of cost in each case; by whom such costs were paid; names of prosecuting attorney in each case; the amount of fees paid to prosecuting attorney in each case; the amount, if any, still due to prosecuting attorney in each case; the travelling and other expenses of prosecuting attorney in each case; the total amount received from issue of licences, and the total expenditure in connection with the enforcement of the Act.

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—
1. What amount of money was collected by way of tolls for the use of the Government Bridge at New Westminster during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1908?
2. Who were the Toll Collectors employed, and what amount was paid to each Collector during the same period?
3. Is it the intention of the Government to accede to the wishes of the people of the New Westminster City and District by discontinuing the imposition of tolls for the use of the New Westminster Bridge?
4. Has any agreement been made between the Government and the B. C. Electric Railway Co. for the use of the New Westminster Bridge?
5. If so, will the Government cause copies of such agreement to be laid before the House, for its information, forthwith?

The report of the Commissioner of the Forests of the United States and Eastern Canada had lately called attention to the fact that in the Canadian Province of British Columbia, the waste going on in our forest resources, and recommended the establishment of a Bureau of Forestry to deal with the matter. From the great acreage of our forests and the vast revenue derived from them I think that is a matter worthy of consideration by the Government and every one.

He congratulated the member for Revelstoke on his appointment to the Ministry of Public Works. He would bring to his new position a long, practical experience in the public service and he felt no doubt that he would do credit to his office. The fact and judgment he had shown in performing his duties in a party capacity on that side of the House spoke very highly for him, and his re-election for his constituency by such a large majority was a proof of his personal popularity and the strength of the Government of which he was a member. In the performance of his official duties as Minister of Public Works he would suggest that he should visit personally all important works proposed to be carried out, and obtain information at first hand as to the best manner in which it should be done.

to the assets of the Province. The Public Accounts under consideration show that both these courses have been followed, including the payment into the Sinking Funds of the Permanent Debt and the repayment of the Debentures issued in 1902, a sum exceeding \$500,000 was applied in the financial year 1907-8 to the extinguishment of Provincial debt. At the same time very considerable sums were appropriated for permanent public works and buildings, adding to the efficiency of the Provincial administration and to the convenience of the public in regard to transportation and other matters.

present position. He (Mr. Macdonald) would not admit in the first place that the Province was on the verge of ruin in 1904, and while it had made progress since then his honorable friend had done practically nothing towards it. It was true that the Province was in an enviable position as to revenue, but how had that revenue been obtained? By so changing the land laws and timber laws that they had brought about a condition of affairs that required most careful consideration from the legislature to-day.

TIMBER LICENCE LAW.

Mr. Macdonald then attacked the 21-year lease of timber limits. This limitation would impel licence holders to take off the cream of their timber within the life of the licence. The effect would be the ruthless slaughter of our timber resources. Before the Government came into power licences were renewable year

WHAT ABOUT RAILWAYS?

He regretted to find no mention of railways in the Speech. Some years ago they had been in favor of granting assistance to encourage railway development, but no, there was no more mention of it. He would like to see something done to assist the Kootenay Central, for a line to connect the Grand Trunk Pacific and the C. P. R., and also for a line to develop Vancouver Island. For years, two-thirds of the total revenue of the Province had been derived from two small mining sections which had been developed by railway construction, and this should encourage them to go forward and construct roads in other parts. By guaranteeing bonds of railways it did not mean that they were giving away the people's money, but lending assistance at a time when it was needed, assistance that would be fully

was one on which his colleague from Delta was better able to speak than he was. They should ask whether the land was being held for the speculator or the settler. A mistaken policy on lands had been pursued both by this and former governments in British Columbia.

The land should be given to the settler free of all incumbrance. In the wet belt, the man who cleared away the timber earned every cent there was in the land; and in the dry belt the man who irrigated and made it productive also earned all there was in it. In Bulkley and Nechaco valleys to-day, the best lands were all plastered over with the claims of speculators, and settlers had come back disgusted unable to get the lands they sought. It was said that 50,000 square miles had been reserved for homestead and pre-emption, but what was that out of the great area of the Province? Lately

ment had sold some fruit land at Creston. It had but to exact the highest price for the best available land was not the best way of settlement. He congratulated the Dominion Government in the North-West, which had resulted in a vast influx from which this Province benefited. He considered these men, who were the backbone of the country and developed it self-sustaining, too much to be given.

He regretted to see there was no grant for the Alaska-Pacific Exhibition at Seattle. It was a splendid opportunity to use the resources of British Columbia and should not be missed. He hoped that the matter would yet take up. "I," said Mr. Macdonald, "am glad to see the Speech from the Throne is unobjectionable, and I hope for a rough discussion of these matters later in the session. I am sure my friends on both sides of the House that on all matters for the welfare of British Columbia on this side will be free from bias and partisanship, and will lead and support everything to be in the interests of the Province as a whole." (Applause).

PREMIER FOLLOWS.

MR. McBRIDE congratulated

his honorable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, particularly on his position. He would take him to heart, and expect that in the future the business of the House would be at least more correct than they had had in the past, but he would hope for hearty co-operation in the future.

Reference to the Speech from the Throne, his honorable friend had made his criticisms of the Government. It was true that the Speech from the Throne was usually as perfunctory, but they should not be so within its limits. The importance as might well be the Lieutenant-Governor's speech. He congratulated the mover and the mover in reply. The Hon. Mr. Golden had shown his interest in the welfare of the Province, and the member had shown a very comprehensive grasp of the public affairs of the Province. The Leader of the Opposition said something that embarrassed him in connection with the selection of the Minister of Works. However, he (Mr. Macdonald) knew his party, and knew nothing but harmony and good will among them. In regard to the member for Okanagan he could say very word said in his praise. He had been many years in that district while always watchful for the interests of his own constituency. He failed to show a broad public view. He was a member of the Conservative party and he had been in their councils. The member for Revelstoke, chosen as Minister of Public Works, by no means impaired the reputation of the member for Okana-

FOR COMMENDATION.

He congratulated the member for Okanagan in his patriotic references to the Tercenary at Quebec. Nothing could tend more to cement the citizens of the Dominion, and the part played by such distinguished men as their Governor-General and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales would tend to make Canada more prominent in the eyes of the world than it had ever been in days gone by. Particular credit was due to His Excellency Earl Grey who seemed determined to hold such a celebration and bring the most distinguished visitors from other lands to our shores.

He also heartily endorsed every word of praise that had been spoken of Simon Fraser, whose discoveries had easily done 80 per cent. of the

work that brought British Columbia to the front, and made her the great country she was to-day. Since the Simon Fraser exhibit, which had been seen by thousands, the Provincial Secretary had received many letters of praise and inquiry, and there was no limit to the increased interest in the history and affairs of the Province that would result from it.

On an August morning last year when the people learned through the press that Fernie had been destroyed by fire it came as a shock to all. Fernie with its mines and coke ovens occupied a unique position. It had a payroll all the year round, and all conditions made it one of the most promising sections in the Kootenay district. He (Hon. Mr. McBride) was on the spot three days after the fire and found only three or four houses left. There had been disaster and loss of life, but there were also instances of heroism indicative of what those people could do in a time of emergency. Through the agency of the member for Fernie, whose action was endorsed by the Mayor and Council, the Provincial Government had contributed \$10,000 towards the rebuilding of Fernie in replacing its streets and sidewalks, and \$25,000 towards its schools. Everything was done that could be, and the rebuilding was so rapid that by the first anniversary of the fire, a model town would stand again on the site of Fernie. (Applause). The Premier referred to the contributions of aid from the East and from distinguished persons like Lord Strathcona. Not only that, but even His Majesty the King had sent his offer of sympathy. Last but not least our cousins to the South, particularly the city of Spokane, had been the first to rush to our assistance. It was at least gratifying that in spite of such a conflagration the people of Fernie had such faith in British Columbia that they determined to remain here, come what may.

LEGISLATION RE WATER.

The Speech from the Throne had been described as perfunctory and even empty. The Speech did not necessarily comprise all the legislation to be brought forward, but the Government had endeavored to make it do its duty, and at least fit the occasion. He was pleased with the promise of the Leader of the Opposition that they would have his aid in perfecting the Water Clause Act and making it particularly applicable to irrigation in the dry belt.

"While," said the Premier, "the Government naturally feels some hesitation about interfering with or disturbing vested rights in water records, yet owing to the rapid development in horticulture and the discovery of new fruit lands in the dry belt, the Government feels that it would do something to secure the use of the water for horticulture as much as possible. Furthermore, the Government in passing this bill is simply striving to redeem the promise made a year ago that this question would not be overlooked but would be grappled with and settled. The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works has done his best to secure the very best advice possible on this subject. Not only has he secured the advice of Professor Carpenter, but he has himself visited different parts of Colorado where conditions are similar to those in the dry belt of British Columbia, and right there has secured information at first hand that must be productive of good in the enactment of this legislation."

Last Summer the Chief Commissioner visited the Irrigation Convention at Vernon. He, the Premier, was unable to be present, but a perusal of the reports of that convention had shown that great results should come from it. Many good suggestions had been made there and embodied in the bill, which consisted of some 375 sections. Many were a repetition of the former bills, but there were also many new clauses that made for the equitable distribution of water for irrigation purposes.

"We would be glad," said the Premier, "of the advice of our friends opposite in perfecting the details of this bill. It has not often been given in the past when they have opposed good measures. But here is a golden opportunity for them to redeem themselves. They have very much to redeem and I hope they will avail themselves of this chance."

OPPOSITION'S STAND.

His honorable friend had a great deal to say about the timber question. He spoke of indefinitely renewable licences and the waste that followed under the present system. His honorable friend seemed always desirous to get away from the speculator, but always ended by being the champion of the speculator. "This is also," said the Premier, "a favorite topic with my honorable friend from Delta, whom we all admit is a most shrewd and cautious critic. Yet he stands all around this form of speculation and never tells us exactly what he

No. 3.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Monday, 25th January, 1909.

TWO O'CLOCK, P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. W. L. Clay.

The election returns showing the election of *James Hurst Hawthornthwaite*, Esq., as a Member to represent Nanaimo City Electoral District, were read and *Ordered* placed on the Journals of the House, as follows:—

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
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"Whereas on the 22nd day of December, 1908, a Writ for the election of a Member to represent such Electoral District was duly issued to *Fred. G. Peto*, the Returning Officer of the said District.

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"A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
"Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

James Hurst Hawthornthwaite, Esq., the Member elected to represent Nanaimo City Electoral District, being duly sworn, was introduced to Mr. Speaker and took his seat.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. *Fulton* presented copies of all correspondence, telegrams, agreements or other documents between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co., and the Grand Trunk Pacific Town and Development Co., under the provisions of Chapter 19, Statutes of 1908.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

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said that the Government had not yet moved to reduce that tax though for years persons in the mining districts had repeatedly urged them to do so, and five years ago they had promised to look into it. Nothing had been done, and as a result there had been a distinct falling off in the mining industry during the past five years. The Dominion Government had given a bonus on lead, but the Provincial Government had done nothing to encourage mining, so that what should be the premier industry of this Province was in a languishing condition on account of the do-nothing policy of the present Government.

influence of their position to advance the interests of their party. The Government had raised the cry of Federal interference in the last provincial election, but while there had been no interference from Ottawa then there had been the greatest kind of interference in Federal politics by Provincial officials in this instance. For his own part he thought Federal and Provincial politics should be kept strictly apart.

Turning to other subjects, Mr. Macdonald said the question of the settlement of the lands of the Province

to the Tercenary at Quebec. Nothing could tend more to cement the citizens of the Dominion, and the part played by such distinguished men as their Governor-General and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales would tend to make Canada more prominent in the eyes of the world than it had ever been in days gone by. Particular credit was due to His Excellency Earl Grey who seemed determined to hold such a celebration and bring the most distinguished visitors from other lands to our shores.

He also heartily endorsed every word of praise that had been spoken of Simon Fraser, whose discoveries had easily done 80 per cent. of the

present position. He (Mr. Macdonald) would not admit in the first place that the Province was on the verge of ruin in 1904, and while it had made progress since then his honorable friend had done practically nothing towards it. It was true that the Province was in an enviable position as to revenue, but how had that revenue been obtained? By so changing the land laws and timber laws that they had brought about a condition of affairs that required most careful consideration from the legislature to-day.

TIMBER LICENCE LAW.

Mr. Macdonald then attacked the 21-year lease of timber limits. This limitation would impel licence holders to take off the cream of their timber within the life of the licence. The effect would be the ruthless slaughter of our timber resources. Before the Government came into power licences were renewable year

WHAT ABOUT RAILWAYS?

He regretted to find no mention of railways in the Speech. Some years ago they had been in favor of granting assistance to encourage railway development, but no, there was no more mention of it. He would like to see something done to assist the Kootenay Central, for a line to connect the Grand Trunk Pacific and the C. P. R., and also for a line to develop Vancouver Island. For years, two-thirds of the total revenue of the Province had been derived from two small mining sections which had been developed by railway construction, and this should encourage them to go forward and construct roads in other parts. By guaranteeing bonds of railways it did not mean that they were giving away the people's money, but lending assistance at a time when it was needed, assistance that would be fully

was one on which his colleague from Delta was better able to speak than he was. They should ask whether the land was being held for the speculator or the settler. A mistaken policy on lands had been pursued both by this and former governments in British Columbia.

The land should be given to the settler free of all incumbrance. In the wet belt, the man who cleared away the timber earned every cent there was in the land; and in the dry belt the man who irrigated and made it productive also earned all there was in it. In Bulkley and Nechaco valleys to-day, the best lands were all plastered over with the claims of speculators, and settlers had come back disgusted unable to get the lands they sought. It was said that 50,000 square miles had been reserved for homestead and pre-emption, but what was that out of the great area of the Province? Lately the Government had sold some fruit land at Creston. It had been sold but to exact the highest price. This was not the best way to settle the land. He contended with the Dominion Government policy in the North-West. It had resulted in a vast influx of settlers from which this Province benefited. He considered the country and developed it. It was self-sustaining, too much money could not be given.

He regretted to see there was no grant for the Alaska-Pacific Exhibition at Seattle. It was a splendid opportunity to use the resources of British Columbia and should not be missed. He hoped that the Government would yet take up the matter. He said Mr. Macdonald, Speech from the Throne is a matter that he hoped that the Government would yet take up. He said Mr. Macdonald, Speech from the Throne is a matter that he hoped that the Government would yet take up. He said Mr. Macdonald, Speech from the Throne is a matter that he hoped that the Government would yet take up.

PREMIER FOLLOWS.

MR. McBRIDE congratulated the honorable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, particularly on his position. He would take him to the business of the House and expect that in the future he would have at least more confidence than they had had in the past, but he would give hearty co-operation in the future.

He congratulated the mover and the Address in reply. The orator Golden had shown his interest in the welfare of the province, and the member for Creston had shown a very comprehensive knowledge of the public affairs of the province. The Leader of the Opposition had said something that had pleased him in connection with the selection of the Minister of Works. However, he (Mr. Macdonald) knew his party, and knew nothing but harmony and agreement among them. In regard to the report of Okanagan he could not say that it was in his praise.

He said that for many years in that district while always watchful for the interests of his own constituency, he had failed to show a broad interest in public affairs. He was a man who stood high in the eyes of the Conservative party and in their councils. The member for Revelstoke chosen as Minister of Public Works by no means impaired the reputation of the member for Okanagan.

FOR COMMENDATION.

He commended the Leader of the Opposition in his patriotic references to the Centenary at Quebec. Nothing could tend more to cement the citizens of the Dominion, and the part played by such distinguished men as their Governor-General and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales would tend to make Canada more prominent in the eyes of the world than it had ever been in days gone by. Particular credit was due to His Excellency Earl Grey who seemed determined to hold such a celebration, and bring the most distinguished visitors from other lands to our shores.

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work that brought British Columbia to the front, and made her the great country she was to-day. Since the Simon Fraser exhibit, which had been seen by thousands, the Provincial Secretary had received many letters of praise and inquiry, and there was no limit to the increased interest in the history and affairs of the Province that would result from it.

On an August morning last year when the people learned through the press that Fernie had been destroyed by fire it came as a shock to all. Fernie with its mines and coke ovens occupied a unique position. It had a payroll all the year round, and all conditions made it one of the most promising sections in the Kootenay district. He (Hon. Mr. McBride) was on the spot three days after the fire and found only three or four houses left. There had been disaster and loss of life, but there were also instances of heroism indicative of what these people could do in a time of emergency. Through the agency of the member for Fernie, whose action was endorsed by the Mayor and Council, the Provincial Government had contributed \$10,000 towards the rebuilding of Fernie in replacing its streets and sidewalks, and \$25,000 towards its schools. Everything was done that could be, and the rebuilding was so rapid that by the first anniversary of the fire, a model town would stand again on the site of Fernie. (Applause). The Premier referred to the contributions of aid from the East and from distinguished persons like Lord Strathcona. Not only that, but even His Majesty the King had sent his offer of sympathy. Last but not least our cousins to the South, particularly the city of Spokane, had been the first to rush to assistance. It was at least gratifying that in spite of such a conflagration the people of Fernie had such faith in British Columbia that they determined to remain here, come what may.

LEGISLATION RE WATER.

The Speech from the Throne had been described as perfunctory and even empty. The Speech did not necessarily comprise all the legislation to be brought forward, but the Government had endeavored to make it do its best and at least fit the occasion. He was pleased with the promise of the Leader of the Opposition that they would have his aid in perfecting the Water Clause Act and making it particularly applicable to irrigation in the dry belt.

"While," said the Premier, "the Government naturally feels some hesitation about interfering with or disturbing vested rights in water records, yet owing to the rapid development in horticulture and the discovery of new fruit lands in the dry belt, the Government feels that it would do something to secure the use of the water for horticulture as much as possible. Furthermore, the Government in passing this bill is simply striving to redeem the promise made a year ago that this question would not be overlooked but would be grappled with and settled. The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works has done his best to secure the very best advice possible on this subject. Not only has he secured the advice of Professor Carpenter, but he has himself visited different parts of Colorado where conditions are similar to those in the dry belt of British Columbia, and right there has secured information at first hand that must be productive of good in the enactment of this legislation."

Last Summer the Chief Commissioner visited the Irrigation Convention at Vernon. He, the Premier, was unable to be present, but a perusal of the reports of that convention had shown that great results should come from it. Many good suggestions had been made there and embodied in the bill, which consisted of some 375 sections. Many were a repetition of the former bills, but there were also many new clauses that made for the equitable distribution of water for irrigation purposes.

"We would be glad," said the Premier, "of the advice of our friends opposite in perfecting the details of this bill. It has not often been given in the past when they have opposed good measures. But here is a golden opportunity for them to redeem themselves. They have very much to redeem and I hope they will avail themselves of this chance."

OPPOSITION'S STAND.

His honorable friend had a great deal to say about the timber question. He spoke of indefinitely renewable licences and the waste that followed under the present system. His honorable friend seemed always desirous to get away from the speculator, but always ended by being the champion of the speculator. "This is also," said the Premier, "a favorite topic with my honorable friend from Delta, whom we all admit is a most shrewd and cautious critic. Yet he shames all around this term of speculator and never tells us exactly what he

No. 3.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Monday, 25th January, 1909.

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TIMBER LICENCE LAW.

Mr. Macdonald then attacked the 21-year lease of timber limits. This limitation would impel licence holders to take off the cream of their timber within the life of the licence. The effect would be the ruthless slaughter of our timber resources. Before the Government came into power licences were renewable year by year. It was true they were liable to cancellation by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works; but he could not cancel without good cause, and the holders of the licences thus felt secure in their tenure; but when the holder of a licence realised that unless he got all his timber off in 21 years he must lose what he had paid, it was only human nature that they should take it off. Were the people of the Province prepared to have their timber slaughtered in this way? It was true that the interest in the licence holder was conserved, but were there not greater interests than those namely, the interests of the Province in the preservation of its timber? He held that the proposal of the Opposition that licences should be made perpetual and renewable from year to year, was wise. The Province would thus derive a revenue sufficient for all its purposes, but the incentive to the wholesale destruction of timber would be removed. Did his honorable friend mean to take no steps to change the timber laws this session? If he did not then the people of the Province would pronounce upon it on the first opportunity and in no uncertain way.

The seconder of the Address (Mr. Davey), while he could see nothing but good in the fiscal policy of the Government, had disputed his own statement by describing the taxes on personal property and income as unnecessary and invidious. They on that side of the House held that these taxes should either be abolished altogether or readjusted. They had always held that the personal property tax should go to the municipalities in which it was levied, so that they would be assisted in maintaining their roads and schools.

It had also been suggested on behalf of the Premier's constituency that something should be done towards the beautification of the City of Victoria. During the recent Federal election he had never been tired of pointing out that Mr. Templeman had done nothing for Victoria. Now, what did he propose to do? If he did propose to do anything, why did he not indicate it in the Speech from the Throne?

OBJECTION TO POLL TAX.

"There is another tax I wish to call attention to," said Mr. Macdonald, "and that is the revenue tax commonly known as the poll tax. I think this tax is a perfectly legitimate one, since it reaches a class of people who are not reached in any other way; but there is no reason why those who pay taxes on land or personal property or income should pay this tax. That is not done in other provinces and why should it be done here? It is a good tax on those who pay no other, but why should it be added to those paying taxes in other ways at a time when the Finance Minister claims a surplus of from one and a half million to two million dollars?"

He continued that there was no reason why surpluses should be hoarded and all revenue expended by the Government in unorganised districts. The municipalities had a right to come to the Government and demand better terms. "Certainly my honorable friend will not deny them better terms," he added, "a word he has made a by-word in every household in this Province."

Referring to the mineral tax, he said that the Government had not yet moved to reduce that tax though for years persons in the mining districts had repeatedly urged them to do so, and five years ago they had promised to look into it. Nothing had been done, and as a result there had been a distinct falling off in the mining industry during the past five years. The Dominion Government had given a bonus on lead, but the Provincial Government had done nothing to encourage mining, so that what should be the premier industry of this Province was in a languishing condition on account of the do-nothing policy of the present Government.

WHAT ABOUT RAILWAYS?

He regretted to find no mention of railways in the Speech. Some years ago they had been in favor of granting assistance to encourage railway development, but no, there was no more mention of it. He would like to see something done to assist the Kootenay Central, for a line to connect the Grand Trunk Pacific and the C. P. R., and also for a line to develop Vancouver Island. For years, two-thirds of the total revenue of the Province had been derived from two small mining sections which had been developed by railway construction, and this should encourage them to go forward and construct roads in other parts. By guaranteeing bonds of railways it did not mean that they were giving away the people's money, but lending assistance at a time when it was needed, assistance that would be fully repaid in the settlement of the country and the development of its resources. What would Western Canada have been without railways to-day? The Western prairies had been developed by the encouragement of railway construction and that was what was needed in British Columbia also.

Turning to the liquor question, he said at the last session the Government had taken the granting of licences in unorganised districts out of the hands of the people and placed it in the hands of Government officials. It was a part of the policy of the Government which usurped to itself the power that should remain in the hands of the people. It practically meant that in those districts a man must be a Conservative to get a licence at all, and it would work out just as badly which ever was in power and after the next election, licences would go only to Liberals. (Laughter.) He did not impute any particular wrong actions to anyone, but was simply attacking the principle of taking power out of the hands of the people, and leaving it with the Government, and he trusted the Government would see fit to restore the business to its former basis.

"Another matter I hope my honorable friend will consider is that of fair appropriations in different constituencies for public works. It was pointed out a year ago that the appropriations to Opposition constituencies was only half of that given to constituencies that supported the Government. This was charged against the Government at the last session and was not denied. It is true we succeeded in shaming them in some instances to make up by larger appropriations afterwards. I trust that this time my honorable friend will see to it that justice is done to every constituency and recognise that all are ratepayers, no matter what party is in power."

"Another thing I wish to refer to," said Mr. Macdonald, "is the practice of Government agents going about and practically compelling Government employees to vote for Conservative candidates. That has happened in Kootenay and Yale-Cariboo during the recent elections. I do not say that all Government agents do this, but some do, and I hope the Government will punish those who do."

HON. MR. BOWSER asked if he could name any.

MR. MACDONALD: "Yes, several instances have come to my ears. I charge that the Government Agent at Nelson, a former member of this House, has been going about the constituency and telling farmers and others where Government work was being carried on that unless the polling division at that place showed a majority for the Conservative candidate the work would be stopped. It may be that my honorable friend does not know of these things or that I have been misinformed, but it is a story that has come to my ears from half a dozen places, and if it be true it shows a most shocking state of affairs in certain branches of the civil service in this Province."

INTERFERENCE IN POLITICS.

Mr. Macdonald admitted that he had found no trouble of that kind in his district as the Government Agent there was beyond reproach, but unfortunately there were some who were using Government funds and the influence of their position to advance the interests of their party. The Government had raised the cry of Federal interference in the last provincial election, but while there had been no interference from Ottawa then there had been the grossest kind of interference in Federal politics by Provincial officials in this instance. For his own part he thought Federal and Provincial politics should be kept strictly apart.

Turning to other subjects, Mr. Macdonald said the question of the settlement of the lands of the Province

was one on which his colleague from Delta was better able to speak than he was. They should ask whether the land was being held for the speculator or the settler. A mistaken policy on lands had been pursued both by this and former governments in British Columbia.

The land should be given to the settler free of all incumbrance. In the wet belt, the man who cleared away the timber earned every cent there was in the land; and in the dry belt the man who irrigated and made it productive also earned all there was in it. In Bulkley and Nechaco valleys to-day, the best lands were all plastered over with the claims of speculators, and settlers had come back disgusted unable to get the lands they sought. It was said that 50,000 square miles had been reserved for homestead and pre-emption, but what was that out of the great area of the Province? Lately the Government had sold some fruit lands by auction at Creston. It had sold well, but to exact the highest price for land was not the best way to encourage settlement. He contrasted it with the Dominion Government policy in the North-West, which had resulted in a vast influx of settlers from which this Province also had benefited. He considered that to these men, who were the backbone of a country and developed it and made it self-sustaining, too much encouragement could not be given.

He regretted to see there was no mention of a grant for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exhibition at Seattle. It would be a splendid opportunity to advertise the resources of British Columbia, and should not be missed. It was a matter that he hoped that the Government would yet take up.

"I know," said Mr. Macdonald, "that the Speech from the Throne is only perfunctory, and I hope for a more thorough discussion of these important matters later in the session. Let me assure my friends on both sides of the House that on all matters that make for the welfare of British Columbia we on this side will sink all bias and partisanship, and will go ahead and support everything we think to be in the interests of the people as a whole." (Applause.)

THE PREMIER FOLLOWS.

PREMIER McBRIDE congratulated his honorable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, particularly on his last observation. He would take him at his word, and expect that in the conduct of the business of the House they would have at least more cordial support than they had had in the past. Not that he criticised their conduct in the past, but he would look to more hearty co-operation in the future.

With reference to the Speech from the Throne, his honorable friend repeated exactly his criticisms of former sessions. It was true that the Speech from the Throne was usually regarded as perfunctory, but they had tried to comprise within it matters of such importance as might well come from the Lieutenant-Governor in his opening speech.

He congratulated the mover and seconder of the Address in reply. The member for Golden had shown his keen interest in the welfare of his own district, and the member for Victoria had shown a very comprehensive grasp of the public affairs of the Province. The Leader of the Opposition had said something that rather embarrassed him in connection with the selection of the Minister of Public Works. However, he (Mr. McBride) knew his party, and knew there was nothing but harmony and good will among them. In regard to the member for Okanagan he could endorse every word said in his praise. He had sat for many years in that House, and while always watchful for the interests of his own constituency, had never failed to show a broad interest in public affairs. He was a gentleman who stood high in the ranks of the Conservative party and was prominent in their councils. The fact that the member for Revelstoke had been chosen as Minister of Public Works by no means impaired the standing of the member for Okanagan.

MATTERS FOR COMMENDATION.

He joined with the Leader of the Opposition in his patriotic references to the Tercentenary at Quebec. Nothing could tend more to cement the citizens of the Dominion, and the part played by such distinguished men as their Governor-General and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales would tend to make Canada more prominent in the eyes of the world than it has ever been in days gone by. Particular credit was due to His Excellency Earl Grey who seemed determined to hold such a celebration and bring the most distinguished visitors from other lands to our shores.

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work that brought British Columbia to the front, and made her the great country she was to-day. Since the Simon Fraser exhibit, which had been seen by thousands, the Provincial Secretary had received many letters of praise and inquiry, and there was no limit to the increased interest in the history and affairs of the Province that would result from it.

On an August morning last year when the people learned through the press that Fernie had been destroyed by fire it came as a shock to all. Fernie with its mines and coke ovens occupied a unique position. It had a payroll all the year round, and all conditions made it one of the most promising sections in the Kootenay district. He (Hon. Mr. McBride) was on the spot three days after the fire and found only three or four houses left. There had been disaster and loss of life, but there were also instances of heroism indicative of what those people could do in a time of emergency. Through the agency of the member for Fernie, whose action was endorsed by the Mayor and Council, the Provincial Government had contributed \$10,000 towards the rebuilding of Fernie in replacing its streets and sidewalks, and \$25,000 towards its schools. Everything was done that could be, and the rebuilding was so rapid that by the first anniversary of the fire, a model town would stand again on the site of Fernie. (Applause.) The Premier referred to little contributions of aid from the East and from distinguished persons like Lord Strathcona. Not only that, but even His Majesty the King had sent his offer of sympathy. Last but not least our cousins to the South, particularly the city of Spokane, had been the first to rush to assistance. It was at least gratifying that in spite of such a conflagration the people of Fernie had such faith in British Columbia that they determined to remain here, come what may.

LEGISLATION RE WATER.

The Speech from the Throne had been described as perfunctory and even empty. The Speech did not necessarily comprise all the legislation to be brought forward, but the Government had endeavored to make it do its best and at least fit the occasion. He was pleased with the promise of the Leader of the Opposition that they would have his aid in perfecting the Water Clause Act, and making it particularly applicable to irrigation in the dry belt.

"While," said the Premier, "the Government naturally feels some hesitation about interfering with or disturbing vested rights in water records, yet owing to the rapid development in horticulture and the discovery of new fruit lands in the dry belt, the Government feels that it would do something to secure the use of the water for horticulture as much as possible. Furthermore, the Government in passing this bill is simply striving to redeem the promise made a year ago that this question would not be overlooked but would be grappled with and settled. The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works has done his best to secure the very best advice possible on this subject. Not only has he secured the advice of Professor Carpenter, but he has himself visited different parts of Colorado where conditions are similar to those in the dry belt of British Columbia, and right there has secured information at first hand that must be productive of good in the enactment of this legislation."

Last Summer the Chief Commissioner visited the Irrigation Convention at Vernon. He, the Premier, was unable to be present, but a perusal of the reports of that convention had shown that great results should come from it. Many good suggestions had been made there and embodied in the bill, which consisted of some 375 sections. Many were a repetition of the former bills, but there were also many new clauses that made for the equitable distribution of water for irrigation purposes.

"We would be glad," said the Premier, "of the advice of our friends opposite in perfecting the details of this bill. It has not often been given in the past when they have opposed good measures. But here is a golden opportunity for them to redeem themselves. They have very much to redeem and I hope they will avail themselves of this chance."

OPPOSITION'S STAND.

His honorable friend had a great deal to say about the timber question. He spoke of indefinitely renewable licences and the waste that followed under the present system. His honorable friend seemed always desirous to get away from the speculator, but always ended by being the champion of the speculator. "This is also," said the Premier, "a favorite topic with my honorable friend from Delta, whom we all admit is a most shrewd and cautious critic. Yet he stands all around this term of speculator and never tells us exactly what he

means by it. For my part, I have always held that we are all more or less speculators. Most of us, if we have anything to sell, and can make a good profit, will not hold on to it. I know I would not because I am a poor man, and I don't think my honorable friend would throw a chance over his shoulder." (Laughter.)

The Premier continued that one definition of speculation might apply to Mr. Burrows, who had secured such concessions from the Dominion Government that he had corralled nearly all the timber in the Northwest. For his part he believed that at present the holder of timber licences in British Columbia had better protection than in any other province in Canada. The one objection seemed to be that the term of 21 years was too limited, and it was said that if the term were only made indefinite they would have an almost perfect timber law. The Government was looking into this question and had received various suggestions from Boards of Trade and other public bodies throughout the country, but preferred to go slowly in so important a matter. It had been said that last Summer Mr. Gifford Pinchot, one of the greatest experts on forestry in the United States, was coming through British Columbia, and they had intended to get his advice on the situation. But at the last hour Mr. Pinchot failed to come West and the Government could not avail themselves of his advice, but they felt that in a matter of such importance a delay of twelve or eighteen months was no great hardship nor could it impair investments.

TIMBER NOT NEGLECTED.
"We feel that this is a tremendous asset, and the interests of the public should not be overlooked, and we should not approach it without getting the best possible advice. I have read in newspapers that our timber supply is not sufficient to last more than a quarter of a century. I do not know whether that is so, nor can I promise any particular timber legislation during this session, but I can assure my friends opposite that the Government is anxious to do everything possible to conserve the timber resources of the Province."

The Premier said that he had read somewhere that President Roosevelt had been trying to secure another interstate conference for the discussion of common interests in these matters. He himself would like to see some such conference arranged in Canada, where they might discuss matters of general interest to the welfare of the country.

"My friend from Victoria (Mr. Davy) the other day suggested the formation of a Bureau of Forestry to take over all matters in connection with the timber interests. This, of course, would necessitate the appointment of a skilled Superintendent of Forestry to look after our timber resources, and take the best means for their conservation. I don't think there can be any question as to the necessity for such a move or its advisability at this time. Our standing timber is altogether different from anything of the same nature in the sister provinces, and we will have to rely on our own genius as to what should be done in a Department of Forestry. We shall be glad to hear suggestions along that line. In particular from this subject I wish to say the Government has done all it can to conserve our timber resources by placing a reserve on all unalienated timber lands. It might be asked why the reserve was not placed earlier, but it was only about six months before it was placed that the demand for timber in the Province became abnormal. The reserve still stands, and will stand for many years to come unless circumstances arise of which we have no knowledge now. That reserve is earnest of the intention of the Government to preserve that great asset for the people of British Columbia."

THE TAXATION QUESTION.
Speaking of the fiscal policy, his honorable friend had asked why they should not give back the personal property tax to the municipalities. Well, it was a matter on which they should go slow. If present conditions were always in connection with the tax, but expenditures were increasing. In Northern British Columbia, with the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific, they had a vast country to open up, a country as yet without roads, bridges and schools, and the Government must be prepared to meet the case. Even if they had a surplus of a million and a half, they would have an ample opportunity to spend every cent of it within the next few months.

In regard to appropriations for public works, no estimates for the year had yet been made out. "That is a matter," said the Premier, with a smile, "in which we always take the Opposition into our confidence, and while no estimates have yet been struck, I may say at least that the appropriations will be larger than they were last year. My honorable

friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has accused the Government of starving Opposition constituencies, but if he will look up the money spent on bridges and trunk roads in their constituencies he will find this to be quite untrue."

The Premier continued that he had had his difficulties in the past in getting a trunk road built in Dewdney on the north bank of the Fraser and he sympathized with his friend from Cranbrook (Dr. King) who wanted a road built from Cranbrook into the heart of the Rockies. "I would be the last person in the world to treat the Opposition districts unfairly," said the Premier. "Why should I?"

MR. MACDONALD: "That is what we want to know."

THE PREMIER: "I am afraid that my honorable friend has listened too long to the tuneful voices of the member for Delta and he has not believed his statement is true. It is true that because of financial restrictions we have not been able to help out all the constituencies as we would have liked, but our policy will be in the future as it has been in the past to give them all a square deal and in reason they should ask for nothing more."

The Premier continued that during the past twelve months, owing to extraordinary circumstances they had been compelled to ask the Lieutenant-Governor for treasury warrants for the expenditure of money in various districts, and it would be seen that in these the Opposition constituencies had been well treated.

MR. MACDONALD asked if the issue of these warrants had any relation to the Federal election.

"None at all," said the Premier. "I only asked," said **MR. MACDONALD**, "because these treasury warrants have only been issued about three times before. The first time was in 1907, the second time was in 1907, and then again last Fall."

THE PREMIER: "Oh, that is a mere coincidence." (Laughter.)

MR. OLIVER asked for the production of the warrants.

HON. MR. TATLOW promised that he would bring them down as soon as possible.

THE PREMIER: "I am glad of that, because we are going to give the honorable member for Delta a chance to pay a compliment to this Government, something he has never done before." (Laughter.)

NO GRANT TO VICTORIA.

The Premier continued that it had been demanded that the Provincial Government should give a grant this session for the beautification of the City of Victoria, which he had the honor to represent as senior member. It was said that as first Minister and senior member for the city it was a matter he should attend to. He would be glad to do it if they had a treasury that would warrant it, but as long as there were districts in the country without roads and bridges he could not consent to starve those places for luxuries in the Capital. "I would rather lose my seat than that," he declared. "I am quite willing to meet the people of Victoria and discuss this question with them and if they think I am wrong I will step down and out from the Ministry of British Columbia." (Applause.)

The Premier continued that if they had the money to spend he would rather spend it on roads and trails to bring the outlying portion of Vancouver Island in closer touch with the City of Victoria until the time occurred when they could fairly spend money for its beautification. Till then he was not going to ask the Province to do it. He thought the citizens of Victoria had sufficient public spirit to grapple with the subject themselves. It was a left-handed compliment to the people of Victoria to say that they were not able to look after this expenditure.

He agreed with his honorable friend in respect to expenditures in municipalities. It was true that for some years the Government had not been able to spend money in municipalities. Last year, however, a beginning had been made, and some money had been spent in districts south of the Fraser. He agreed that the Government should if it could assist the construction of trunk roads, and promised that provision would be found in the estimates for that purpose.

"It was true that five years ago the Government had promised to look into the question of the mineral tax. They had done so, but could not see their way to reduce the tax. He did not believe that it would be the hardship his honorable friend said. If a better system could be devised, he would be pleased to hear of it. Perhaps his honorable friend could suggest a scheme."

MR. MACDONALD said that five years ago he had suggested a scheme.

MEXING PROSPERING.
HON. MR. McBRIDE: "But my

honorable friend must admit it was not a good plan, and he has himself shown that he was not proud of it, because he has been silent about it ever since. He was sorry to hear the pessimistic view taken by his honorable friend in speaking of the mining industry. While the production may have fallen off for a time, every mine in British Columbia was in a solid and solvent condition, and the industry was branching out and everywhere showing signs of revival and extension. Development was going on rapidly in Queen Charlotte Islands, and the whole of the Northern country was only awaiting the advent of the railway. Mr. Corbin had only recently developed another large coal mine in Southeastern Kootenay, and coal measures as well as metalliferous mines were being developed in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The outlook for the mining industry in British Columbia had never been brighter than now in January, 1909.

His honorable friend had said that the present system of administering liquor licences in unorganized districts was a discreditable one. So far, however, it had worked with the greatest success, and instead of licences being granted in a haphazard way, every licence was now carefully considered by Mr. Hussey, and he was advised by the Attorney-General that during the year 25 licences had been cancelled, and most of these were held by Conservatives. If there could be manipulation for political purposes under the present system, there could be just as much under the old, because the Government had the appointment of Commissioners, and naturally the people in the districts who were best fitted for this position, as they were for others, were always Conservatives. (Laughter.) He contended that the result had been most satisfactory, and had improved the hotel accommodation as never before.

His honorable friend had bitterly attacked the Government because civil servants took part in elections. He had listened to these charges with regret, because if there was anything he particularly desired it was to maintain a clean and efficient civil service. He could recall painful experiences himself, where Dominion civil servants had taken part in Provincial campaigns.

MR. OLIVER: "Will my honorable friend give names?"

HON. MR. McBRIDE: "Yes, I will give them privately. There have been more than one."

MR. OLIVER: "I know of none."

HON. MR. McBRIDE: "Of course, you were not looking for any." (Laughter.) He continued that the Leader of the Opposition had accused the Government Agent at Nelson of taking part. Well, there had been no complaints from that district, and everyone spoke of Mr. Wright as a most efficient agent. It was true that he had been in politics, and perhaps, in his enthusiasm for the good old cause, he might have overstepped himself and made a mistake. Conservatives sometimes did make mistakes. They were not perfect like the gentlemen on the opposite side, and though the gentlemen referred to might have been in the wrong, there was no common desire other than for criticism and a warning that these things must not be continued.

The Government desired a clean civil service, and during the years they had been in power had not dismissed a single civil servant except for good cause. They had already framed legislation to bring about more effective civil service and hoped to do more this session.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

His honorable friend would have the House believe that railway affairs in the Province were in a bad condition. "But let me tell my honorable friend there was not a time when there was such railway construction as now. There are branches of the V. V. & E. south of the Fraser, east of Hope Mountains and at Michel. There is Mr. Corbin's new railway in South-East Kootenay, which he wishes to extend to the Boundary, there is a new provincial section of a new transcontinental line under construction in the North. Then for the C. P. R., a line is under construction between Nanaimo and Alberni, and all this without a cent of subvention from this Government. Only a few weeks ago, I heard Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, standing in the Empress Hotel, say that the day for railway subsidies was gone."

MR. MACDONALD: "He meant so far as he was concerned."

HON. MR. McBRIDE: "He went further and said the claims and resources of the Province were such that railways would build without subsidies. I may say further that we have been trying for some time past to bring the Canadian Northern into this country, and I hope before many months we shall be able to enter into negotiations with them that will lead to such a bargain as will be in the best interests of British Columbia. The mountainous region which com-

prises a large portion of this Province makes it impossible to proceed with railway construction as rapidly and easily as east of the mountains, and those of us responsible for administration here must consider these things. I am now trying to make equitable arrangements with the Canadian Northern Railway Company that will shortly bring that system into this country. It is a company we should welcome. It is already done much for the farmers on the prairies, and can do a great deal for the Province of British Columbia. But I am not going to rush into these things. I want to go carefully, though in bringing in another transcontinental road some assistance will have to be given.

In regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific, I am informed that good progress is being made in construction, and by next Summer 100 miles of the road will be in operation in this Province. From information received from the Company further tenders will be asked for without delay, and it will be no far distant date when the whole system will be in operation. As a Western Canadian I welcome that road. I cannot say that I welcome the policy that brought it here. It was an unbusinesslike bargain, but the people have pronounced upon it, and being over we shall be glad to see the railway here.

Before taking my seat, I wish to refer to the death of Sir Henry Joly de Lotbiniere. Perhaps in a public capacity I was more intimately connected with him than any other Minister. I remember his appointment, and how anxious he was to be seized of all the facts relating to this Province. Particularly was he interested in our timber resources, and many, if not all of the things done to conserve our timber interests, may be largely attributed to his influence. As a distinguished Canadian, the press of the country during the past few months seem to have been unanimous in giving him a very high place in the history of Canadian politics. Kind and courteous, he was nevertheless determined and fearless, and there can be no doubt that every Canadian will echo the sympathy expressed for those dear to him in the speech from the Throne." (Loud and continued applause.)

MR. NADEN moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House adjourned at 5.15 p.m.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Hon. Mr. Tatlow—On Friday next: That the Speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the present session be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow to ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Horticultural Board Act."

Mr. Oliver to move the following resolution: That an order of the House be granted for a return of copies of judgments of any court, in each case of prosecution under authority of Chapter 22, 1898, intitled "An Act to Regulate Immigration into British Columbia."

Mr. Oliver to move the following resolution: That an order of the House be granted for a return of all correspondence, telegrams, agreements or other documents between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, and the Grand Trunk Pacific Town and Development Company, under the provisions of Chapter 13, Statutes of 1908.

Mr. Oliver to move the following resolution: That an order of the House be granted for a return of the names of officials appointed under authority of said Act; the length of service of each official; the rate and the amount of pay of each official; the travelling expenses or other allowances of each official; the names of firms obtaining licences, and the amounts paid in each case; the number of licences issued to an individual fisherman, and the amounts collected; the names of persons proceeded against for infractions of the Fisheries Act and Regulations; the offence charged in each case; the amount of cost in each case; by whom such costs were paid; names of prosecuting attorneys in each case; the amount of fees paid to prosecuting attorney in each case; the amount, if any, still due to prosecuting attorney in each case; the travelling and other expenses of prosecuting attorney in each case; the total amount received from issues of licences, and the total expenditure in connection with the enforcement of the Act.

GALLERY NOTES.

Mr. J. A. Harvey, the well-known Cranbrook lawyer, is here for the purpose of putting through a private bill to enable Mr. D. C. Corbin to extend his branch railway in South East Kootenay from its present termination on Michel Creek for another fourteen miles through to the Boundary. It is understood the proposal is being blocked by the South-

East Kootenay Railway which holds a charter over route, and who had succeeded royal with the Corbin into ago, but finally compromised. Judging from lobby on every appearance that Hon. pieman will have a fight Comox-Atlin. It is stated of the cannerymen in have already promised a fair portion of the no-paign funds. Men from in the city at present a to fight the seat. They lect to being tossed over pieman at the will of convention is shortly to Cumberland, when a will be taken toward p-dicate in the field.

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East Kootenay Railway Company which holds a charter over the same route, and who had such a battle royal with the Corbin interests a year ago, but finally compromised.

Judging from lobby gossip, there is every appearance that Hon. Mr. Templeman will have a fight for it in Comox-Atlin. It is stated that some of the cannerymen in the district have already promised to subscribe a fair portion of the necessary campaign funds. Men from the district in the city at present all seem keen to fight the seat. They say they object to being tossed over to Mr. Templeman at the will of Mr. Sloan. A convention is shortly to be held at Cumberland, when definite steps will be taken toward putting a candidate in the field.

Hon. Thomas Taylor, the new Minister of Works, has not yet been introduced to the House. A period of ten days must elapse before he can be, and as the election was held

Mr. Mr. Jardine—From W. K. Houston and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Co.

Mr. Mr. Macgowan—From the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the City's Corporate Act.

By Mr. Thomson—From John Hopp, for leave to introduce a private bill to consolidate certain placer mining holdings and water rights.

The Hon. Mr. Tatlow presented a statement of special warrants signed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, together with the expenditure incurred thereon between 31st May, 1908, and 25th January, 1909, required by the Revenue Act.

The petition from F. E. Sine and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Shuswap and Thompson River Boom Company, Limited, was received.

Mr. Ross presented the following

Government for refusing to put the townsite of Prince Rupert on the market last Autumn. They were also to be commended for deciding to plank some of the principal streets before selling any lots, and were still more to be commended for their refusal to grant liquor licences at Prince Rupert. This had been a distinct benefit and the citizens had asked him to present a petition praying that no licences should be granted till the city was incorporated. They were stories that liquor was being sold with the connivance of Government Agents, but so far as he knew it was only fair to say that the Government Agent at Prince Rupert was quite above such a practice. In the division of the waterfront, he considered the Government had been flim-flammed. With the exception of one 1,500 feet which was really good, the Grand Trunk Pacific had all the best of it, and the main part of the Government's waterfront was a high bluff where racked for years to

congratulated the Government on the appointment of Mr. Palmer as Deputy Minister of Agriculture. But he could do nothing without good men under him, and he hoped the Minister of Finance would make liberal appropriations for agricultural purposes. No other industry could add so much to the wealth of the Province, but those engaged in it were not getting their deserts. There had been good development in dairying and he would like to see some attention paid to poultry and fruit growing. Particularly would he like to see more attention paid to the raising of poultry.

"This Province," he declared, "imports \$200,000 worth of eggs annually, yet we have plenty of land and there is no reason why they should not all be raised here. It is, moreover, an industry in which a man of limited means can engage. The cost of clearing our timbered land is so great that it is impossible for the ordinary man to clear a large area, but he might be able to clear about an acre or so, and start a chicken ranch which would yield him quick returns. I hope the Government will pay close attention to this matter. There is no reason why they should not encourage it by the establishment of egg stations as has been done so successfully in Denmark."

While congratulating the Province on the success of its fruit exhibits, he thought that after advertising their fruit so successfully they should take some steps toward marketing it successfully. He would like to see a Government Agent stationed in the North-West to watch the fruit business. He heard reports that inferior fruit was being shipped over from the United States and sold as British Columbia fruit. This was against the Fruit Marks Act, and he hoped the Minister would see to it as it was injuring the reputation of British Columbia in its own market.

Speaking of the timber business, he deplored the wholesale destruction of trees by fire, and suggested that loggers should be compelled to clean up their litter after them, so that fires would be materially decreased.

SCHOOL ACT CRITICISED.

Referring to the working of the School Act in rural districts, he said its application was not fair to the farmer. The municipalities were unable to tax anything but land, and when they had mines, smelters and sawmills as in his district, they had many children attending the schools whose parents were not paying a cent towards their maintenance. Storekeepers and businessmen, some making \$10 a day, were also exempt, and all fell on the hardworking farmer. He instanced a man who working as a farmer and making about \$3 a day, gave it up and went to work as a carpenter for \$4 a day. Yet when earning bigger money he had to pay nothing for the education of his children. He held that every municipality should have the power to tax not only real property, but personal property and income tax also for school purposes alone. At present a great injustice was being done.

Speaking of the liquor business, he was not in favor of ending it, but certainly believed in mending it. He would like to see an Inspector appointed who should have the power to go into every bar and analyse the stuff sold, and if it were impure the vendor should be punished for a first offence and his licence taken away for the second. "Good liquor will hurt no one," he said, "but some of the stuff sold here would kill anyone."

After attending the Irrigation Convention at Vernon last Summer, he appreciated the necessity for a change in the Water Laws, and was glad the Government intended to deal with it.

He would like to see a memorial erected in the Capital to such men as Fraser, Cook and Vancouver. It would be to the children an object lesson in what their forefathers had accomplished, and would be a graceful national tribute to these great men.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

MR. YORSTON was pleased to hear that the Government intended to take up the question of irrigation. In Cariboo they had thousands of acres of good land which could be made productive if water was put upon it. But there was a greater problem still. What was the use of land and settlements without transportation? Nature had been bountiful in Cariboo for the past year or two, and their granaries were full of grain they could not get to a market. While there were reports of a potato famine on the Coast, their cellars were full of potatoes, but they could not get them to market. Transportation was their prime necessity.

Another matter of complaint was want of information for settlers. People had come in hundreds of miles to the Nechaco and Chilcotin countries only to find the land

of the Board of Trade recently a resolution asking the Government to incorporate the City, not at least within a so they asked the bring in a bill to incorporate it by pro- present school accom- was up to require- government should try the game and make greatly added popu- ner by building an cool at least on one had failed to men- out the representa- lumbia at the Al- Exposition. He steps should be province represent- Governor should, it- ve inserted a para- each congratulating ll servants on the ser in which they ervative candidates elections. While exceptions, as in the Agent was lces, most of the ra election agents the year round. d to Mr. Borden's to the "Colonist" l, pledging him to don of Asiatic. He atulated the Con- n having papers nothing to win an ughter and ap-

INDIANA MATTERS.

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RURAL DOINGS.

VARD, as a farmer,

No. 4.

No. 5.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Wednesday, 27th January, 1909.

Two o'clock, P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. W. L. Clay.

The following petitions were presented:—

- By Mr. Thomson—From the Corporation of the City of Victoria, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to amend the "Victoria Water-works Act, 1873," and amending Acts. (No. 16.)
- By Mr. Schofield—From E. V. Bodwell and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to Incorporate the Goat River Water, Power and Light Company, Limited. (No. 11.)
- By Dr. Kergin—From M. King and H. B. Robertson, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate the Prince Rupert and Port Simpson Railway Company. (No. 5.)
- By Dr. Kergin—From E. M. Tracksell and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate the Graham Island Railway Company. (No. 15.)

The following petitions were received:—

- From the Coldstream Estate Company, Limited, and the White Valley Irrigation and Power Co., for leave to introduce a Private Bill for amalgamation and confirmation of their powers. (No. 7.)
- From W. K. Houston and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Co. (No. 15.)
- From the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to amend the City's Corporate Act. (No. 9.)
- From John Hopp, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to consolidate certain placer mining holdings and water rights. (No. 4.)
- From D. C. Corbin and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to Incorporate the Flathead Valley Railway Co. (No. 1.)
- From Malcolm B. King and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to Incorporate the Meadow Creek Logging Railway Co. (No. 2.)

The Hon. Mr. Tatlow presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:—

JAMES DUNSMUIR,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith a Bill intitled "An Act to amend the 'Horticultural Board Act,'" and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
27th January, 1909.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

means by it. For my part, I have always held that we are all more or less speculators. Most of us, if we have anything to sell, and can make a good profit, will not hold on to it. I know I would not because I am a poor man, and I don't think my honorable friend would throw a chance over his shoulder." (Laughter.)

The Premier continued that one definition of a speculator might apply to Mr. Burrows, who had secured such concessions from the Dominion Government that he had controlled nearly all the timber in the Northwest. For his part he believed that at present the holder of timber licences in British Columbia had better protection than in any other province in Canada. The one objection seemed to be that the term of 21 years was too limited, and it was said that if the term were only made indefinite timber law. The Government was looking into this question and had received various suggestions from Boards of Trade and other public bodies throughout the country, but preferred to go slowly in an important matter. It had been said that last Summer Mr. Gifford Pinchot, one of the greatest experts on forestry in the United States, was coming through British Columbia, and they had intended to get his advice on the situation. But at the last hour Mr. Pinchot failed to come West and the Government could not avail themselves of his advice, but they felt that in a matter of such importance a delay of twelve or eighteen months was no great hardship nor could it impair investments.

TIMBER NOT NEGLECTED.

"We feel that this is a tremendous asset, and the interests of the public should not be overlooked, and we should not approach it without getting the best possible advice. I have read in newspapers that our timber supply is not sufficient to last more than a quarter of a century. I do not know whether that is so, nor can I promise any particular timber legislation during this session, but I can assure my friends opposite that the Government is anxious to do everything possible to conserve the timber resources of the Province."

The Premier said that he had read somewhere that President Roosevelt had been trying to secure another interstate conference for the discussion of common interests in these matters. He himself would like to see some such conference arranged in Canada, where they might discuss matters of general interest to the welfare of the country.

"My friend from Victoria (Mr. Davy) the other day suggested the formation of a Bureau of Forestry to take over all matters in connection with the timber interests. This, of course, would necessitate the appointment of a skilled Superintendent of Forestry to look after our timber resources, and take the best means for their conservation. I don't think there can be any question as to the necessity for such a move or its advisability at this time. Our standing timber is altogether different from anything of the same nature in the sister provinces, and we will have to rely on our own genius as to what should be done in a Department of Forestry. We shall be glad to hear suggestions along that line. In particular from this subject I wish to say the Government has done all it can to conserve our timber resources by placing a reserve on all unalienated timber lands. It might be asked why the reserve was not placed earlier, but it was only about six months before it was placed that the demand for timber in the Province became abnormal. This reserve still stands, and will stand for many years to come unless circumstances arise of which we have no knowledge now. That reserve is earnest of the intention of the Government to preserve that great asset for the people of British Columbia."

THE TAXATION QUESTION.

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friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has secured the Government of starving Opposition constituencies, but if he will look up the money spent on bridges and trunk roads in their constituencies he will find this to be quite untrue."

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MR. MACDONALD: "That is what we want to know."

THE PREMIER: "I am afraid that my honorable friend has listened too long to the tuneful voice of the member for Delta and he has got to believe his statement is true. It is true that because of financial restrictions we have not been able to help out all the constituencies as we would have liked, but our policy will be in the future as it has been in the past to give them all a square deal and in reason they should ask for nothing more."

The Premier continued that during the past twelve months, owing to extraordinary circumstances they had been compelled to ask the Lieutenant-Governor for treasury warrants for the expenditure of money in various districts, and it would be seen that in these the Opposition constituencies had been well treated.

MR. MACDONALD asked if the issue of these warrants had any relation to the Federal case.

"None at all," said the Premier.

"I only asked," said Mr. Macdonald, "because these warrants have only been issued three times before. The first was in 1908, the second in 1907, and there again last year."

THE PREMIER: "Oh, mere coincidence." (Laughter.)

MR. OLIVER asked if the issue of the warrants was as possible.

HON. MR. TAYLOR said he would bring them as possible.

THE PREMIER: "I don't think we are going to have a chance to pay a complete Government, something done before." (Laughter.)

NO GRANT TO V.I.

The Premier continued that the Government should give a session for the beautiful City of Victoria, which honor to represent as a senior member for the matter he should attempt to be glad to do it as long as there were a country without roads, he could not consent to places for luxuries in "I would rather lose that," he declared, "willing to meet the people and discuss this question and if they think I am step down and out of forestry of British Columbia."

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MR. MACDONALD years ago he had come MINING PROHIBITION.

HON. MR. McBRIDE

honorable friend must admit it was not a good plan, and he has himself shown that he was not proud of it, because he has been silent about it ever since. He was sorry by his honorable friend in speaking of the mining industry. While the production may have fallen off for a time, every mine in British Columbia was in a solid and solvent condition, and the industry was branching out and everywhere showing signs of revival and extension. Development was going on rapidly in Queen Charlotte Islands, and the whole of the Northern country was only awaiting the advent of the railway. Mr. Corbin had only recently developed another large coal mine in Southeastern Kootenay, and coal measures as well as metalliferous mines were being developed in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The outlook for the mining industry in British Columbia had never been brighter than now in January, 1909.

His honorable friend had said that the present system of administering liquor licences in unorganized districts was a discreditable one. So far, however, it had worked with the greatest success, and instead of licences being granted in a haphazard way, every licence was now carefully considered by Mr. Hussey, and he was advised by the Attorney-General that during the year 28 licences had been cancelled, and most of these were held by Conservatives. If there could be manipulation for political purposes under the present system, there could be just as much under the old, because the Government had the appointment of Commissioners, and naturally the people in the districts were best fitted for this

prises a large portion of this Province makes it impossible to proceed with railway construction as rapidly and easily as east of the mountains, and those of us responsible for administration here must consider these things. I am now trying to make equitable arrangements with the Canadian Northern Railway Company that will shortly bring that system into this country. It is a company we should welcome. It is already done much for the farmers on the prairies, and can do a great deal for the Province of British Columbia. But I am not going to rush into these things. I want to go carefully, though in bringing in another transcontinental road some assistance will have to be given.

In regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific, I am informed that good progress is being made in construction, and by next Summer 100 miles of the road will be in operation in this Province. From information received from the Company further tenders will be asked for without delay, and it will be no far distant date when the whole system will be in operation. As a Western Canadian I welcome that road. I cannot say that I welcome the policy that brought it here. It was an unbusinesslike bargain, but the people have pronounced upon it, and being over we shall be glad to see the railway here.

Before taking my seat, I wish to refer to the death of Sir Henry Joly de Lotbiniere. Perhaps in a public capacity I was more intimately connected with him than any other Minister. I remember his appointment, and how anxious he was to be seized of all the facts relating to this Pro-

East Kootenay Railway which holds a charter of route, and who had so royal with the Corbin into ago, but finally compromise. Judging from lobby go every appearance that Hon. Comox-Atlin. It is state of the cannerymen in have already promised a fair portion of the campaign funds. Men from in the city at present to fight the seat. They ject to being tossed overpleman at the will of convention is shortly to Cumberland, when will be taken toward candidate in the field. Hon. Thomas Tait Minister of Works, has introduced to the House of ten days must else can be, and as the ele

(IN THE COMMITTEE.)

Resolved, That the Committee rise and report to the House, recommending the introduction of a Bill (No. 3) intitled "An Act to amend the 'Horticultural Board Act,'" a draft of which is annexed to this Resolution.

Report adopted.
Bill introduced and read a first time.
Second reading to-morrow.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.
The debate was again adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

The name of Mr. Munro was added as a Member of the Mining Committee.

The name of Mr. Naden was added as a member of the Agricultural and Municipal Committees.

And then the House adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

D. M. EBERTS, Speaker.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Oliver—On Friday next—Question of the Hon. the Attorney-General—
How many new liquor licences were issued during the calendar year 1908?

By Dr. Kergin—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Attorney-General—
1. Was the commission to Robert L. McIntosh, of Prince Rupert, as Stipendiary Magistrate, cancelled?
2. If so, for what cause?

By Mr. Oliver—On Friday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands—
1. How many acres of Crown lands were sold during the year 1908?
2. How many acres of Crown lands were pre-empted during the year 1908?
3. How many acres of Crown lands sold were deeded during the year 1908?
4. How many acres of Crown lands pre-empted were deeded during the year 1908?
5. Has the Government taken any action to see that the provisions of section 34, subsection (11), of the Land Act has been complied with?
6. If so, what action has been taken?

By Dr. Kergin—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Minister of Finance—
1. What amount was collected from Timber Royalties and Timber Licences from the District of Skeena during the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1907?
2. What amount was collected from Timber Royalties and Timber Licences from the District of Skeena during the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1908?

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—
1. What amounts of moneys were paid during the fiscal year 1907-8 to C. W. Gamble, and for what service in each case?
2. What amount of moneys were paid to C. W. Gamble during the six months ending December 31st, 1908, and for what purpose in each case?

East Kootenay Railway Company which holds a charter over the same route, and who had such a battle royal with the Corbin interests a year ago, but finally compromised.

Judging from lobby gossip, there is every appearance that Hon. Mr. Templeman will have a fight for it in Comox-Atlin. It is stated that some of the cannerymen in the district have already promised to subscribe a fair portion of the necessary campaign funds. Men from the district in the city at present all seem keen to fight the seat. They say they object to being tossed over to Mr. Templeman at the will of Mr. Sloan. A convention is shortly to be held at Cumberland, when definite steps will be taken toward putting a candidate in the field.

Hon. Thomas Taylor, the new Minister of Works, has not yet been introduced to the House. A period of ten days must elapse before he can be, and as the election was held

Mr. Mr. Jardine—From W. K. Houston and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Co.

Mr. Mr. Macgowan—From the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the City's Corporate Act.

By Mr. Thomson—From John Hopp, for leave to introduce a private bill to consolidate certain placer mining holdings and water rights.

The Hon. Mr. Tatlow presented a statement of special warrants signed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, together with the expenditure incurred thereon between 21st May, 1908, and 25th January, 1909, required by the Revenue Act.

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GENA MATTERS. and he would con- some matters that ed. Sheens district preceded him was a. Rupert and had me of the needs of agreed as to the iding for the in- ince Rupert, which le scene of a great r. The bill would or some departures al Clauses Act. One he people of Prince to say whether it- should not be grant- fusing to grant il- gladly joined the nwood in his com- the Government's joined in the re- schools at Prince hey might be ready come.

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pleased to hear the of the great possi- ern British Columbia, and the surrounding ally treasure islands, ver Island itself. The of the North was be found anywhere, that one in so prom- as the Premier rec- was glad of the prom- for fair appropria- works, since he pro- ing season would be ble that of previous

RURAL DOINGS. DARD, as a farmer,

congratulated the Government on the appointment of Mr. Palmer as Deputy Minister of Agriculture. But he could do nothing without good men under him, and he hoped the Minister of Finance would make liberal appropriations for agricultural purposes. No other industry could add so much to the wealth of the Province, but those engaged in it were not getting their deserts. There had been good development in dairying and he would like to see some attention paid to poultry and fruit growing. Particularly would he like to see more attention paid to the raising of poultry.

"This Province," he declared, "im- ports \$200,000 worth of eggs an- nually, yet we have plenty of land and there is no reason why they should not all be raised here. It is, moreover, an industry in which a man of limited means can engage. The cost of clearing out timbered land is so great that it is impossible for the ordinary man to clear a large area, but he might be able to clear about an acre or so, and start a chicken ranch which would yield him quick returns. I hope the Govern- ment will pay close attention to this matter. There is no reason why they should not encourage it by the establishment of egg stations as has been done so successfully in Den- mark."

While congratulating the Pro- vince on the success of its fruit ex- hibits, he thought that after advan- tising their fruit so successfully they should take some steps toward mar- keting it successfully. He would like to see a Government Agent sta- tioned in the North-West to watch the fruit business. He heard re- ports that inferior fruit was being shipped over from the United States and sold as British Columbia fruit. This was against the Fruit Marks Act, and he hoped the Minister would see to it, as it was injuring the rep- utation of British Columbia in its own market.

Speaking of the timber business, he deplored the wholesale destruction of trees by fire, and suggested that loggers should be compelled to clean up their litter after them, so that fires would be materially decreased.

SCHOOL ACT CRITICIZED.

Referring to the working of the School Act in rural districts, he said its application was not fair to the farmer. The municipalities were unable to tax anything but land, and when they had mines, smelters and sawmills as in his district, they had many children attending the schools whose parents were not paying a cent towards their maintenance. Storekeepers and businessmen, some making \$10 a day, were also exempt, and all fell on the hardworking farmer. He instanced a man who working as a farmer and making about \$2 a day, gave it up and went to work as a carpenter for \$4 a day. Yet when earning bigger money he had to pay nothing for the educa- tion of his children. He held that every municipality should have the power to tax not only real property, but personal property, and income tax also for school purposes alone. At present a great injustice was being done.

Speaking of the liquor business, he was not in favor of ending it, but certainly believed in mending it. He would like to see an Inspector ap- pointed who should have the power to go into every bar and analyse the stuff sold, and if it were impure the vendor should be punished for a first offence and his licence taken away for the second. "Good liquor will hurt no one," he said, "but some of the stuff sold here would kill any- one."

After attending the Irrigation Convention at Vernon last Summer, he appreciated the necessity for a change in the Water Laws, and was glad the Government intended to deal with it.

He would like to see a memorial erected in the Capital to such men as Fraser, Cook and Vancouver. It would be to the children an object lesson in what their forefathers had accomplished, and would be a grace- ful national tribute to these great men.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

MR. YORSTON was pleased to hear that the Government intended to take up the question of irri- gation. In Cariboo they had thousands of acres of good land which could be made produc- tive if water was put upon it. But there was a greater problem still. What was the use of land and set- tlers without transportation? Nature had been bountiful in Cariboo for the past year or two, and their granaries were full of grain they could not get to a market. While there were re- ports of a potato famine on the Coast, their cellars were full of potatoes, but they could not get them to market. Transportation was their prime neces- sity.

Another matter of complaint was want of information for settlers. People had come in hundreds of miles to the Nechaco and Chilcats countries only to find the land con-

By Mr. Oliver—On Friday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—

1. What portion of the \$25,378 expended upon the Canoe Pass Bridge was for labour?
2. What amounts were for each kind of material?
3. Does this expenditure include all the material required in construction of said bridge?

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—

1. What did the beach road in Cowichan cost to construct, and what has it cost the Government yearly since completion to keep it in repair?
2. How many miles of roads do each of the five road foremen have to maintain in South Cowichan, and how many men do each employ?
3. What men did Reid employ, and what sums did he pay in wages to each man in 1907 and 1908?
4. How much per yard does it cost the Government to gravel the roads in Reid's division of the road district?

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands—

1. How many acres of land have been granted in each land district to holders of South African war scrip?
2. What number of scrip have been applied to the purchase of land?

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...tains by it. For my part, I have always held that we are all more or less speculators. Most of us, if we have anything to sell, and can make a good profit, will not hold on to it. I know I would not because I am a poor man, and I don't think my honorable friend would throw a chance over his shoulder." (Laughter.)

The Premier continued that one definition of speculator might apply to Mr. Burrows, who had secured such concessions from the Dominion Government that he had cornered nearly all the timber in the Northwest. For his part he believed that as present the holder of timber licences in British Columbia had better protection than in any other province in Canada. The one objection seemed to be that the term of 21 years was too limited, and it was said that if the term were only made indefinite they would have an almost perfect timber law. The Government was looking into this question and had received various suggestions from Boards of Trade and other public bodies throughout the country, but preferred to go slowly in so important a matter. It had been said that last Summer Mr. Gifford Pinchot, one of the greatest experts on forestry in the United States, was coming through British Columbia, and they had intended to get his advice on the situation. But at the last hour Mr. Pinchot failed to come West and the Government could not avail themselves of his advice, but they felt that in a matter of such importance a delay of twelve or eighteen months was no great hardship nor could it impair investments.

TIMBER NOT NEGLECTED.

"We feel that this is a tremendous asset, and the interests of the public should not be overlooked, and we should not approach it without getting the best possible advice. I have read in newspapers that our timber supply is not sufficient to last more than a quarter of a century. I do not know whether that is so, nor can I promise any particular timber legislation during this session, but I can assure my friends opposite that the Government is anxious to do everything possible to conserve the timber resources of the Province."

The Premier said that he had read somewhere that President Roosevelt had been trying to secure another interstate conference for the discussion of common interests in these matters. He himself would like to see some such conference arranged in Canada, where they might discuss matters of general interest to the welfare of the country.

"My friend from Victoria (Mr. Davy) the other day suggested the formation of a Bureau of Forestry to take over all matters in connection with the timber interests. This, of course, would necessitate the appointment of a skilled Superintendent of Forestry to look after our timber resources, and take the best means for their conservation. I don't think there can be any question as to the necessity for such a move or its advisability at this time. Our standing timber is altogether different from anything of the same nature in the sister provinces, and we will have to rely on our own genius as to what should be done in a Department of Forestry. We shall be glad to hear suggestions along that line. In parting from this subject I wish to say the Government has done all it can to conserve our timber resources by placing a reserve on all unalienated timber lands. It might be asked why the reserve was not placed earlier, but it was only about six months before it was placed that the demand for timber in the Province became abnormal. These reserves still stand, and will stand for many years to come unless circumstances arise of which we have no knowledge now. That reserve is earnest of the intention of the Government to preserve that great asset for the people of British Columbia."

THE TAXATION QUESTION.

Speaking of the fiscal policy, his honorable friend had asked why they should not give back the personal property tax to the municipalities. Well, it was a matter on which they should go slow. If present conditions were always to continue they might remit the tax, but expenditures were increasing. In Northern British Columbia, with the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific, they had a vast country to open up, a country as yet without roads, bridges and schools, and the Government must be prepared to meet the case. Even if they had a surplus of a million and a half, they would have an ample opportunity to spend every cent of it within the next few months.

In regard to appropriations for public works, no estimates for the year had yet been made out. "That is a matter," said the Premier, with a smile, "in which we always take the Opposition into our confidence, and while no estimates have yet been struck, I may say at least that the appropriations will be larger than they were last year. My honorable

friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has accused the Government of starving Opposition constituencies, but if he will look up the money spent on bridges and trunk roads in their constituencies he will find this to be quite untrue."

The Premier continued that he had had his difficulties in the past in getting a trunk road built in Dewdney on the north bank of the Fraser and he sympathised with his friend from Cranbrook (Dr. King) who wanted a road built from Cranbrook into the heart of the Rockies. "I would be the last person in the world to treat the Opposition districts unfairly," said the Premier. "Why should I?"

MR. MACDONALD: "That is what we want to know."

THE PREMIER: "I am afraid that my honorable friend has listened too long to the unusual voice of the member for Delta and has got to believe his statement is true. It is true that because of financial restrictions we have not been able to help out all the constituencies as we would have liked, but our policy will be in the future as it has been in the past to give them all a square deal and in season they should ask for nothing more."

The Premier continued that during the past twelve months, owing to extraordinary circumstances they had been compelled to ask the Lieutenant-Governor for treasury warrants for the expenditure of money in various districts, and it would be seen that in these the Opposition constituencies had been well treated.

MR. MACDONALD asked if the issue of these warrants had any relation to the Federal election.

"None at all," said the Premier. "I only asked," said MR. MACDONALD, "because these warrants have only been issued three times before. The first was in 1905, the second in 1907, and then again last year." THE PREMIER: "Of course, coincidence." (Laughter.)

MR. OLIVER asked if the issue of the warrants had any relation to the Federal election.

HON. MR. TATLOW said he would bring them down as possible.

THE PREMIER: "I am glad that, because we are giving the honorable member a chance to pay a compliment to the Government, something is done before." (Laughter.)

NO GRANT TO VICTORIA.

The Premier continued that the Government should give consideration for the beautiful City of Victoria, which he would be glad to do it, but that as first senior member for the matter he should attend to the treasury that would be as long as there were no country without roads he could not consent to places for luxuries in Victoria. "I would rather lose that," he declared. "I am willing to meet the people and discuss this question, and if they think I am step down and out of the Ministry of British Columbia (plause)."

The Premier continued that he had the money to spend rather than spend it on roads to bring the outlying parts of Vancouver Island in closer touch with the City of Victoria until they were cured when they could then be used for the Province to do it. He complimented the citizens of Victoria for their public spirit to grasp the subject themselves. He handed a compliment to Victoria to say that he was able to look after this matter.

He agreed with his friend in respect to municipalities. It was some years the Government had been able to spend money on municipalities. Last year beginning had been made, but money had been spent south of the Fraser. The Government should assist the construction of roads and promised that they would be found in the estimates.

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pleased to hear the of the great possi- bilities of Northern British Columbia. Queen Charlotte and the surrounding islands were really treasure islands, equal to Vancouver Island itself. The mineral wealth of the North was equal to that to be found anywhere, and was pleased that one in so prominent a position as the Premier recognised it. He was glad of the promise of the Premier for fair appropriation for public works, since he pro- phesied the development of the North during the coming season would be double and treble that of previous years.

AGRICULTURAL DOINGS.

MR. HAYWARD, as a farmer,

congratulated the Government on the appointment of Mr. Palmer as Deputy Minister of Agriculture. But he could do nothing without good men under him, and he hoped the Minister of Finance would make liberal appropriations for agricultural purposes. No other industry could add so much to the wealth of the Province, but those engaged in it were not getting their deserts. There had been good development in dairying and he would like to see some attention paid to poultry and fruit growing. Particularly would he like to see more attention paid to the raising of poultry.

"This Province," he declared, "im- ports \$300,000 worth of eggs an- nually, yet we have plenty of land and there is no reason why they should not all be raised here. It is, moreover, an industry in which a man of limited means can engage. The cost of clearing our timbered land is so great that it is impossible for the ordinary man to clear a large area, but he might be able to clear about an acre or so, and start a chicken ranch which would yield him quick returns. I hope the Government will pay close attention to this matter. There is no reason why they should not encourage it by the establishment of egg stations as has been done so successfully in Den- mark."

While congratulating the Pro- vince on the success of its fruit ex- hibits, he thought that after adver- tising their fruit so successfully they should take some steps toward mar- keting it successfully. He would like to see a Government Agent sta- tioned in the North-West to watch the fruit business. He heard re- ports that inferior fruit was being shipped over from the United States and sold as British Columbia fruit. This was against the Fruit Marks Act, and he hoped the Minister would see to it, as it was injuring the repu- tation of British Columbia in its own market.

Speaking of the timber business, he deplored the wholesale destruction of trees by fire, and suggested that loggers should be compelled to clean up their litter after them, so that fires would be materially decreased.

SCHOOL ACT CRITICISED.

Referring to the working of the School Act in rural districts, he said its application was not fair to the farmer. The municipalities were un- able to tax anything but land, and when they had mines, smelters and sawmills as in his district, they had many children attending the schools whose parents were not paying a cent towards their maintenance. Storekeepers and businessmen, some making \$10 a day, were also exempt, and all fell on the hardworking farmer. He instanced a man who working as a farmer and making about \$2 a day, gave it up and went to work as a carpenter for \$4 a day. Yet when earning bigger money he had to pay nothing for the educa- tion of his children. He held that every municipality should have the power to tax not only real property, but personal property and income tax also for school purposes alone. At present a great injustice was being done.

Speaking of the liquor business, he was not in favor of ending it, but certainly believed in mending it. He would like to see an Inspector ap- pointed who should have the power to go into every bar and analyse the stuff sold, and if it were impure the vendor should be punished for a first offence and his licence taken away for the second. "Good liquor will hurt no one," he said, "but some of the stuff sold here would kill any- one."

After attending the Irrigation Convention at Vernon last Summer, he appreciated the necessity for a change in the Water Laws, and was glad the Government intended to deal with it.

He would like to see a memorial erected in the Capital to such men as Fraser, Cook and Vancouver. It would be to the children an object lesson in what their forefathers had accomplished, and would be a grace- ful national tribute to these great men.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

MR. YORSTON was pleased to hear that the Government intended to take up the question of irri- gation. In Cariboo they had thousands of acres of good land which could be made produc- tive if water was put upon it. But there was a greater problem still. What was the use of land and set- tlers without transportation? Nature had been bountiful in Cariboo for the past year or two, and their granaries were full of grain they could not get to a market. While there were re- ports of a potato famine on the Coast, their cellars were full of potatoes, but they could not get them to market. Transportation was their prime neces- sity.

Another matter of complaint was want of information for settlers. People had come in hundreds of miles to the Nechako and Chilcotin countries only to find the land

No. 4.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Tuesday, 26th January, 1909.

Two o'clock, P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. W. L. Clay.

The following Petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Ellison—From the Coldstream Estate Company, Limited, and the White Valley Irrigation and Power Co., for leave to introduce a Private Bill for amalgamation and confir- mation of their powers. (No. 7.)

By Mr. Jardine—From W. K. Houston and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Co. (No. 15.)

By Mr. Macgowan—From the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to amend the City's Corporate Act. (No. 9.)

By Mr. Thomson—From John Hopp, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to consolidate certain placer mining holdings and water rights. (No. 4.)

The Hon. Mr. Tatlow presented a Statement of Special Warrants signed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, together with the expenditure incurred thereon between 21st May, 1908, and 25th January, 1909, required by the Revenue Act.

The petition from F. E. Sine and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incor- porate the Shuswap and Thompson River Boom Company, Limited (No. 6), was received.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session. The debate was again adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Mr. Ross presented the following Petitions:—

From D. C. Corbin and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to Incorporate the Flathead Valley Railway Company. (No. 1.)

From Malcolm B. King and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to Incorporate the Meadow Creek Logging Railway Company. (No. 2.)

The following Members were appointed on the Standing Committees:—

Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders—Messrs. Ross, Garden, Thomson, Shatford, Henderson, Jones and Williams.

mirably served the purpose for which it was built, namely to conserve Con- servative votes; but for any practical use it might as well be at the North Pole.

The Attorney-General had announc- ed that under his system of licensing, 25 licences had been cancelled dur- ing the past year, and most of them were held by Conservatives. This was not surprising, as no one but a Conservative could get a licence in an unorganised district.

BILLS AND PETITIONS.

The following petitions were pre- sented:— By Mr. Ellison—From the Cold- stream Estate Company, Limited, and the White Valley Irrigation and Power Co., for leave to introduce a private bill for amalgamation and confirmation of their powers.

PRINCE RUPERT AFFAIRS.

Speaking of arrangements between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, he commended the

pleased to hear the of the great possi- bilities of Northern British Columbia. Queen Charlotte and the surrounding islands were really treasure islands, equal to Vancouver Island itself. The mineral wealth of the North was equal to that to be found anywhere, and was pleased that one in so prominent a position as the Premier recognised it. He was glad of the promise of the Premier for fair appropriation for public works, since he pro- phesied the development of the North during the coming season would be double and treble that of previous years.

AGRICULTURAL DOINGS.

MR. HAYWARD, as a farmer,

means by it. For my part, I have always held that we are all more or less speculators. Most of us, if we have anything to sell, and can make a good profit, will not hold on to it. I know I would not because I am a poor man, and I don't think my honorable friend would throw a chance over his shoulder." (Laughter.)

The Premier continued that one definition of speculation might apply to Mr. Burrows, who had secured such concessions from the Dominion Government that he had cornered nearly all the timber in the Northwest. For his part he believed that at present the holder of timber licences in British Columbia had better protection than in any other province in Canada. The one objection seemed to be that the term of 21 years was too limited, and it was said that if the term were only made indefinite they would have an almost perfect timber law. The Government was looking into this question and had received various suggestions from Boards of Trade and other public bodies throughout the country, but preferred to go slowly in so important a matter. It had been said that last Summer Mr. Gifford Pinchot, one of the greatest experts on forestry in the United States, was coming through British Columbia, and they had intended to get his advice on the situation. But at the last hour Mr. Pinchot failed to come West and the Government could not avail themselves of his advice, but they felt that in a matter of such importance a delay of twelve or eighteen months was no great hardship nor could it impair investments.

TIMBER NOT NEGLECTED.

"We feel that this is a tremendous asset, and the interests of the public should not be overlooked, and we should not approach it without getting the best possible advice. I have read in newspapers that our timber supply is not sufficient to last more than a quarter of a century. I do not know whether that is so, nor can I promise any particular timber legislation during this session, but I can assure my friends opposite that the Government is anxious to do everything possible to conserve the timber resources of the Province."

The Premier said that he had read somewhere that President Roosevelt had been trying to secure another interstate conference for the discussion of common interests in these matters. He himself would like to see some such conference arranged in Canada, where they might discuss matters of general interest to the welfare of the country.

"My friend from Victoria (Mr. Davey) the other day suggested the formation of a Bureau of Forestry, to take over all matters in connection with the timber interests. This, of course, would necessitate the appointment of a skilled Superintendent of Forestry to look after our timber resources, and take the best means for their conservation. I don't think there can be any question as to the necessity for such a move or its advisability at this time. Our standing timber is altogether different from anything of the same nature in the sister provinces, and we will have to rely on our own genius as to what should be done in a Department of Forestry. We shall be glad to hear suggestions along that line. In particular from this subject I wish to say the Government has done all it can to conserve our timber resources by placing a reserve on all unalienated timber lands. It might be asked why the reserve was not placed earlier, but it was only about six months before it was placed that the demand for timber in the Province became abnormal. These reserves still stand, and will stand for many years to come unless circumstances arise of which we have no knowledge now. That reserve is earnest of the intention of the Government to preserve that great asset for the people of British Columbia."

THE TAXATION QUESTION.

Speaking of the fiscal policy, his honorable friend had asked why they should not give back the personal property tax to the municipalities. Well, it was a matter on which they should go slow. If present conditions were always to continue they might remit the tax, but expenditures were increasing. In Northern British Columbia, with the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific, they had a vast country to open up, a country as yet without roads, bridges and schools, and the Government must be prepared to meet the case. Even if they had a surplus of a million and a half, they would have an ample opportunity to spend every cent of it within the next few months.

In regard to appropriations for public works, no estimates for the year had yet been made out. "That is a matter," said the Premier, with a smile, "in which we always take the Opposition into our confidence, and while no estimates have yet been struck, I may say at least that the appropriations will be larger than they were last year. My honorable

friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has accused the Government of starving Opposition constituencies, but if he will look up the money spent on bridges and trunk roads in their constituencies he will find this to be quite untrue."

The Premier continued that he had had his difficulties in the past in getting a trunk road built in Dewdney on the north bank of the Fraser and he sympathized with his friend from Cranbrook (Dr. King) who wanted a road built from Cranbrook into the heart of the Rockies. "I would be the last person in the world to treat the Opposition districts unfairly," said the Premier. "Why should I?"

MR. MACDONALD: "That is what we want to know."

THE PREMIER: "I am afraid that my honorable friend has listened too long to the tuneful voice of the member for Delta and he has got to believe his statement is true. It is true that because of financial restrictions we have not been able to help out all the constituencies would have liked, but we will be in the future as it has been in the past to give them all what they want and in reason they should be satisfied."

The Premier continued the past twelve months, extraordinary circumstances had been compelled to ask the Governor for treasury to the expenditure of money in these the Opposition had been well treated.

MR. MACDONALD: "The issue of these warrants issued to the Federal Government at all," said the Premier, "because these warrants have only been three times before, the first was in 1907, and then again in 1908, and then again in 1909."

THE PREMIER: "It is a mere coincidence." MR. OLIVER asked the question of the warrant. HON. MR. TATLOW: "He would bring them as possible."

THE PREMIER: "That, because we are the honorable members chance to pay a cost Government, something done before." (Laughter.)

NO GRANT TO

The Premier continued had demanded that Government should grant the City of Victoria, who honor to represent as it was said that as the senior member for the matter he should attend would be glad to do so as long as there were country without road he could not consent places for luxuries in that," he declared, "I would rather lose the money to meet the proposal and discuss this question and if they think I am step down and out of the City of Victoria (Mr. Davey) (plause.)"

The Premier continued had the money to spend rather spend it on roads to bring the outlying Vancouver Island in closer to the City of Victoria until cured when they could money for its beautification then he was not going Province to do it. He citizens of Victoria in public spirit to grasp subject themselves, a handed compliment to Victoria to say that I able to look after this."

He agreed with his friend in respect to municipalities. It was some years the Government been able to spend municipalities. Last year beginning had been money had been spent south of the Fraser. The Government should be the construction of and promised that it be found in the estimates purposes. It was true that the Government had proposed into the question of the They had done so, but their way to reduce it. He not believe that it would ship his honorable friend a better system could be worked to his hope his honorable friend get a scheme."

MR. MACDONALD: "Years ago he had some MINEING PROSPECTS."

HON. MR. McBRIDE

honorable friend must admit it was not a good plan, and he has himself shown that he was not proud of it, because he has been silent about it ever since. He was sorry to hear the pessimistic view taken by his honorable friend in speaking of the mining industry. While the production may have fallen off for a time, every mine in British Columbia was in a solid and solvent condition, and the industry was branching out and everywhere showing signs of revival and extension. Development was going on rapidly in Queen Charlotte Islands, and the whole of the Northern country was only awaiting the advent of the railway. Mr. Corbin had only recently developed another large coal mine in Southeastern Kootenay, and coal measures as well as metalliferous mines were being developed in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The outlook for the mining industry in British Columbia had never been brighter than now in January, 1909.

His honorable friend had said that the present system of administering

prises a large portion of this Province makes it impossible to proceed with railway construction as rapidly and early as east of the mountains, and those of us responsible for administration here must consider these things. I am now trying to make equitable arrangements with the Canadian Northern Railway Company that will shortly bring that system into this country. It is a company we should welcome. It is a thoroughly Canadian line, and has already done much for the farmers on the prairies, and can do a great deal for the Province of British Columbia. But I am not going to rush into these things. I want to go carefully, though in bringing in another transcontinental road some assistance will have to be given.

In regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific, I am informed that good progress is being made in construction, and by next Summer 100 miles of the road will be in operation in this Province. From information received

East Kootenay Railway which holds a charter of route, and who had su royal with the Corbin int ago, but finally compr

Judging from lobby go every appearance that H pleman will have a fig Comox-Atlin. It is stat of the canarymen in have already promised a fair portion of the ne paign funds. Men from in the city at present a to fight the seat. They ject to being tossed over pleman at the will of convention is shortly to Cumberland, when d will be taken toward p dicate in the field.

Hon. Thomas Tait Minister of Works, has introduced to the Hou of ten days must el can be, and as the ele

Committee on Mining Messrs. Mackay, Grant, Parsons, Schofield, Hunter, Thomson, McGuire, Behusen, Macgowan, Davey, Ellison, Kergin, Brewster, Jones, Macdonald, Hall, King, Henderson, Eagleson and McInnis.

Committee on Agriculture Messrs. Ellison, Parson, Grant, Hayward, Yorston and Eagleson.

Committee on Municipal Matters Messrs. Schofield, Manson, Macgowan, Mackay, Gifford, Behusen, McGuire, Davey, Hayward, Oliver, Naden, Kergin, Hall and Brewster.

Committee on Railways Messrs. McPhillips, Metcalf, Gifford, Hayward, Shatford, Ellison, Hunter, Macgowan, Behusen, Grant, Parson, Manson, Schofield, Jardine, Henderson, King, Naden, Brewster, Yorston, Eagleson, Kergin, Hall and Hawthornthwaite.

Committee on Public Accounts Messrs. Parson, Manson, Schofield, Mackay, Henderson, Oliver and Naden.

Committee on Printing Messrs. Macgowan, Garden, Davey, Henderson and Jones.

The Hon. Mr. Bousler presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:—

JAMES DUNSMUIR, Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith a Bill intituled "An Act to License Clubs to sell Intoxicating Liquor," and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House, 26th January, 1909.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith. The Committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again. Leave granted for to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. Bousler presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:—

JAMES DUNSMUIR, Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith a Bill intituled "An Act to Authorise the Revision of the Statutes of British Columbia," and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House, 26th January, 1909.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

(IN THE COMMITTEE.)

Resolved, That the Committee rise and report to the House, recommending the introduction of a Bill (No. 5) intituled "An Act to Authorise the Revision of the Statutes of British Columbia," a draft of which is annexed to this Resolution.

Report adopted. Bill introduced and read a first time. Second reading to-morrow.

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:—

- 1. What roads or bridges were made or repaired in Delta District during the present fiscal year?
- 2. What was the amount expended on each road or bridge, and under what foreman?

3. In what The Hon. "1, 2, 3, a Name.

Brown Road Coast Meridian F Hjorth Road Johnston Road

Yale Trunk Road Canoe Pass Brid

Mr. Olive 1. What 2. For wh 3. To wh The Hon. "1. \$37,3 "2. To co "3. Vote

Mr. Olive 1. What Bridge at Nev 2. Who v during the sau 3. Is it t Westminster t Westminister 4. Has a Co. for the us 5. If so, for its inform The Hon. "1. \$25, "2. G. F Kingsley, \$10 "3. The the traffic inc "4. Yes. "5. Yes.

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BILLS AND

The following p sented: T

By Mr. Ellison-stream Estate C and the White Va Power Co. for a private bill for confirmation of

East Kootenay Railway Company which holds a charter over the same route, and who had such a battle royal with the Corbin interests a year ago, but finally compromised.

Judging from lobby gossip, there is every appearance that Hon. Mr. Templeman will have a fight for it in Comox-Atlin. It is stated that some of the cannerymen in the district have already promised to subscribe a fair portion of the necessary campaign funds. Men from the district in the city at present all seem keen to fight the seat. They say they object to being tossed over to Mr. Templeman at the will of Mr. Sloan. A convention is shortly to be held at Cumberland, when definite steps will be taken toward putting a candidate in the field.

Hon. Thomas Taylor, the new Minister of Works, has not yet been introduced to the House. A period of ten days must elapse before he can be, and as the election was held

Mr. Mr. Jardine—From W. K. Houston and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Co.

Mr. Mr. Macgowan—From the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the City's Corporate Act.

By Mr. Thomson—From John Hopp, for leave to introduce a private bill to consolidate certain placer mining holdings and water rights.

The Hon. Mr. Tatlow presented a statement of special warrants signed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, together with the expenditure incurred thereon between 21st May, 1908, and 25th January, 1909, required by the Revenue Act.

The petition from F. E. Sine and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Shuswap and Thompson River Boom Company, Limited, was received.

Mr. Ross presented the following

Government for refusing to put the townsite of Prince Rupert on the market last Autumn. They were also to be commended for deciding to plank some of the principal streets before selling any lots, and were still more to be commended for their refusal to grant liquor licences at Prince Rupert. This had been a distinct benefit and the citizens had asked him to present a petition praying that no licences should be granted till the city was incorporated. There were stories that liquor was being sold with the connivance of Government Agents, but so far as he knew it was only false to say that the Government Agent at Prince Rupert was quite above such a practice. In the division of the waterfront, he considered the Government had been film-flammed. With the exception of one 1,500 feet which was really good, the Grand Trunk Pacific had all the best of it, and the main part of the Government's waterfront was a high bluff where

congratulated the Government on the appointment of Mr. Palmer as Deputy Minister of Agriculture. But he could do nothing without good men under him, and he hoped the Minister of Finance would make liberal appropriations for agricultural purposes. No other industry could add so much to the wealth of the Province, but those engaged in it were not getting their deserts. There had been good development in dairying and he would like to see some attention paid to poultry and fruit growing. Particularly would he like to see more attention paid to the raising of poultry.

"This Province," he declared, "imports \$300,000 worth of eggs annually, yet we have plenty of land and there is no reason why they should not all be raised here. It is, moreover, an industry in which a man of limited means can engage. The cost of clearing out timbered land is so great that it is impossible for the ordinary man to clear a large area, but he might be able to clear about an acre or so, and start a chicken ranch which would yield him quick returns. I hope the Government will pay close attention to this matter. There is no reason why they should not encourage it by the establishment of egg stations as has been done so successfully in Denmark."

While congratulating the Province on the success of its fruit exhibits, he thought that after advertising their fruit so successfully they should take some steps toward marketing it successfully. He would like to see a Government Agent stationed in the North-West to watch the fruit business. He heard reports that inferior fruit was being shipped over from the United States and sold as British Columbia fruit. This was against the Fruit Marks Act, and he hoped the Minister would see to it as it was injuring the reputation of British Columbia in its own market.

Speaking of the timber business, he deplored the wholesale destruction of trees by fire, and suggested that loggers should be compelled to clean up their litter after them, so that fires would be materially decreased.

3. In what month was the work done in each case?
 4. To what votes were the respective amounts charged?

The Hon. Mr. Fulton replied as follows:—

"1, 2, 3, and 4 answered as follows:—

Name.	Expended.	Month.	Foreman.	Vote.
Brown Road	\$ 12 00	July		139
Coast Meridian Road	827 50		W. Figg & C. B. McKenzie	139
Hjorth Road	191 25	October		139
Johnston Road	152 85	September	J. Johnston	139
Yale Trunk Road	9,089 20	July to Oct.	G. I. Blair C. W. McCallum R. D. McKenzie	164
Canoe Pass Bridge	25,378 80	July to Oct.	W. A. Willisroff	189

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:—

1. What moneys have been expended in Dewdney Riding during the present fiscal year?
2. For what purpose was such expenditure made?
3. To what vote has such expenditure been charged?

The Hon. Mr. Fulton replied as follows:—

- "1. \$37,335.61.
- "2. To construct and maintain public roads, streets, bridges, wharves and ferry.
- "3. Votes 140, 162, 163, 189 and 198."

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:—

1. What amount of money was collected by way of tolls for the use of the Government Bridge at New Westminster during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1908?
2. Who were the Toll Collectors employed, and what amount was paid to each Collector during the same period?
3. Is it the intention of the Government to accede to the wishes of the people of the New Westminster City and District by discontinuing the imposition of tolls for the use of the New Westminster Bridge?
4. Has any agreement been made between the Government and the B. C. Electric Railway Co. for the use of the New Westminster Bridge?
5. If so, will the Government cause copies of such agreement to be laid before the House, for its information, forthwith?

The Hon. Mr. Fulton replied as follows:—

- "1. \$25,702.60, including \$15,000 rental from the V. Y. & E. Railway Company.
- "2. G. Hargreaves, \$900; C. Eagles, \$720; E. Oddy, \$720; T. Anderson, \$720; W. Kingsley, \$10; T. Dominy, \$92.50.
- "3. The Government is prepared to make reductions in the tolls from time to time as the traffic increases.
- "4. Yes.
- "5. Yes."

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

D. M. EBERTS, Speaker.

the Board of Trade recently a resolution asking the Government to incorporate the City, not at least within a so they asked the bring in a bill to incorporate it by present school accom- was up to require- government should try the game and make greatly added popu- lar by building an pool at least on one had reserved. had failed to men- out the representa- Columbia at the Af- fic Exposition. He it steps should be Province represent- Governor should, it have inserted a para- graph congratulating civil servants on the aner in which they servative candidates elections. While a exceptions, as in srs the Agent was cices, most of the ere election agents ll the year round. red to Mr. Borden's to the "Colonist" on, pledging him to usion of Asiatic. He gratulated the Con- on having papers at nothing to win an laughter and ap-

KEENA MATTERS. said he would con- some matters that cted Skeena district. preceded him was a Rupert and had one of the needs of agreed as to the oviding for the in- prince Rupert, which the scene of a great er. The bill would for some departures pal Clauses Act. One the people of Prince or to say whether li- should not be grant- refusing to grant li- is gladly joined the senwood in his com- the Government's joined in the re- schools at Prince they might be ready come. in that the Govern- ock Queen Charlotte r. The islands were ated for game as volves or destructive caribou deer had re since last session, nferior to the Main- l needed restocking. government would at-

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AGRICULTURAL DOINGS. MR. HAYWARD, as a farmer,

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Referring to the working of the School Act in rural districts, he said its application was not fair to the farmer. The municipalities were unable to tax anything but land, and when they had mines, smelters and sawmills as in his district, they had many children attending the schools whose parents were not paying a cent towards their maintenance. Storekeepers and businessmen, some making \$10 a day, were also exempt, and all fell on the hardworking farmer. He instanced a man who working as a farmer and making about \$2 a day, gave it up and went to work as a carpenter for \$4 a day. Yet when earning bigger money he had to pay nothing for the educa- tion of his children. He held that every municipality should have the power to tax not only real property, but personal property and income tax also for school purposes alone. At present a great injustice was being done.

Speaking of the liquor business, he was not in favor of ending it, but certainly believed in mending it. He would like to see an Inspector appointed who should have the power to go into every bar and analyse the stuff sold, and if it were impure the vendor should be punished for a first offence and his licence taken away for the second. "Good liquor will hurt no one," he said, "but some of the stuff sold here would kill any- one."

After attending the Irrigation Convention at Vernon last Summer, he appreciated the necessity for a change in the Water Laws, and was glad the Government intended to deal with it.

He would like to see a memorial erected in the Capital to such men as Fraser, Cook and Vancouver. It would be to the children an object lesson in what their forefathers had accomplished, and would be a grace- ful national tribute to these great men.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

MR. YORSTON was pleased to hear that the Government intended to take up the question of irri- gation. In Cariboo they had thousands of acres of good land which could be made produc- tive if water was put upon it. But there was a greater problem still. What was the use of land and set- tlers without transportation? Nature had been bountiful in Cariboo for the past year or two, and their granaries were full of grain they could not get to a market. While there were re- ports of a potato famine on the Coast, their cellars were full of potatoes, but they could not get them to market. Transportation was their prime neces- sity.

Another matter of complaint was want of information for settlers. People had come in hundreds of miles to the Nechaco and Chilwac countries only to find the land

Macgowan for a private bill to enable the City of Vancouver to secure certain charter amendments. Mr. Ross presented a petition for a bill to enable Mr. D. C. Corbin to extend his railway along Michel Creek, out along the Flathead Valley to the boundary.

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The following petitions were presented:

By Mr. Ellison—From the Coldstream Estate Company, Limited, and the White Valley Irrigation and Power Co., for leave to introduce a private bill for amalgamation and confirmation of their powers.

The Skeena River bridge had admirably served the purpose for which it was built, namely to conserve Con- servative votes; but for any practical use it might as well be at the North Pole.

The Attorney-General had announced that under his system of licensing 25 licences had been cancelled dur- ing the past year, and most of them were held by Conservatives. This was not surprising as no but a Conservative could get a licence in an unorganized district.

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Speaking of arrangements between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, he commended the

Government for refusing to put the townsite of Prince Rupert on the market last Autumn. They were also to be commended for deciding to plank some of the principal streets before selling any lots, and were still more to be commended for their refusal to grant liquor licences at Prince Rupert. This had been a distinct benefit and the citizens had asked him to present a petition praying that no licences should be granted till the city was incorporated. There were stories that liquor was being sold with the connivance of Government Agents, but so far as he knew it was only false to say that the Government Agent at Prince Rupert was quite above such a practice. In the division of the waterfront, he considered the Government had been film-flammed. With the exception of one 1,500 feet which was really good, the Grand Trunk Pacific had all the best of it, and the main part of the Government's waterfront was a high bluff where

means by it. For my part, I have always held that we are all more or less speculators. Most of us, if we have anything to sell, and can make a good profit, will not hold on to it. I know I would not because I am a poor man, and I don't think my honorable friend would throw a chance over his shoulder." (Laughter.)

The Premier continued that one definition of speculator might apply to Mr. Burrows, who had secured such concessions from the Dominion Government that he had controlled nearly all the timber in the Northwest. For his part he believed that at present the holder of timber licences in British Columbia had better protection than in any other province in Canada. The one objection seemed to be that the term of 21 years was too limited, and it was said that if the term were only made indefinite they would have an almost perfect timber law. The Government was looking into this question and had received various suggestions from Boards of Trade and other public bodies throughout the country, but preferred to go slowly in so important a matter. It had been said that last summer Mr. Gifford Pinchoff, one of the greatest experts on forestry in the United States, was coming through British Columbia, and they had intended to get his advice on the situation. But at the last hour Mr. Pinchoff failed to come West and the Government could not avail themselves of his advice, but they felt that in a matter of such importance a delay of twelve or eighteen months was no great hardship nor could it impair investments.

TIMBER NOT NEGLECTED.

"We feel that this is a tremendous asset, and the interests of the public should not be overlooked, and we should not approach it without getting the best possible advice. I have read in newspapers that our timber supply is not sufficient to last more than a quarter of a century. I do not know whether that is so, nor can I promise any particular timber legislation during this session, but I can assure my friends opposite that the Government is anxious to do everything possible to conserve the timber resources of the Province."

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"My friend from Victoria (Mr. Davy) the other day suggested the formation of a Bureau of Forestry to take over all matters in connection with the timber interests. This, of course, would necessitate the appointment of a skilled Superintendent of Forestry to look after our timber resources, and take the best means for their conservation. I don't think there can be any question as to the necessity for such a move or its advisability at this time. Our standing timber is altogether different from anything of the same nature in the sister provinces, and we will have to rely on our own genius as to what should be done in a Department of Forestry. We shall be glad to hear suggestions along that line. In particular from this subject I wish to say the Government has done all it can to conserve our timber resources by placing a reserve on all unalienated timber lands. It might be asked why the reserve was not placed earlier, but it was only about six months before it was placed that the demand for timber in the Province became abnormal. This reserve still stands, and will stand for many years to come unless circumstances arise of which we have no knowledge now. That reserve is earnest of the intention of the Government to preserve that great asset for the people of British Columbia."

THE TAXATION QUESTION.

Speaking of the fiscal policy, his honorable friend had asked why they should not give back the personal property tax to the municipalities. Well, it was a matter on which they should go slow. If present conditions were always to continue they might remit the tax, but expenditures were increasing. In Northern British Columbia, with the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific, they had a vast country to open up, a country as yet without roads, bridges and schools, and the Government must be prepared to meet the case. Even if they had a surplus of a million and a half, they would have an ample opportunity to spend every cent of it within the next few months.

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friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has accused the Government of starving Opposition constituencies, but if he will look up the money spent on bridges and trunk roads in their constituencies he will find this to be quite untrue."

The Premier continued that he had had his difficulties in the past in getting a trunk road built in Dewdney on the north bank of the Fraser and he sympathized with his friend from Cranbrook (Dr. King) who wanted a road built from Cranbrook into the heart of the Rockies. "I would be the last person in the world to treat the Opposition districts unfairly," said the Premier. "Why should I?"

MR. MACDONALD: "That is what we want to know."

THE PREMIER: "I am afraid that my honorable friend has listened too long to the tuneful voice of the member for Delta and he has got to believe his statement is true. It is true that because of financial restrictions we have not been able to help out all the constituencies we would have liked, but we will be in the future as it has been in the past to give them all a hand—in reason they should not grudge."

The Premier continued the past twelve months, extraordinary circumstances had been compelled to ask the Governor for treasury expenditure of more than £1,000,000 in these the Opposition districts, and it would have been well treated."

MR. MACDONALD: "I have a question to ask the Premier about the issue of these warrants issued to the Federal police."

"None at all," said the Premier, "because these warrants have only been issued three times before."

MR. MACDONALD: "That was in 1903, the second time, and then again in 1904, and then again in 1905."

THE PREMIER: "That is a mere coincidence."

MR. OLIVER asked a question of the warrant issued to the Federal police.

HON. MR. TATLOTT: He would bring them as possible.

THE PREMIER: "That, because we are the honorable member for Delta, a Government, something done before." (Laughter.)

NO GRANT TO VICTORIA.

The Premier continued he had demanded that the Government should grant money to the City of Victoria, which honor to represent as a senior member for the matter he should also be glad to do for the treasury that would be as long as there were country without road he could not consent to places for luxuries in "I would rather lose that," he declared. "I would rather lose the money and discuss this question and if they think I am slow down and out of the City of British Columbia."

The Premier continued he had the money to spend it on a road to bring the outlying corner of Victoria in closer touch with the rest of the City of Victoria, until he was not going to do it. He had a public spirit to be subject themselves. He handed compliment to Victoria to say that it was able to look after this matter.

He agreed with his friend in respect to municipalities. He was sure the Government had been able to spend money on municipalities. Last year beginning had been slow. Money had been spent on the Government should aid the construction of a road and promised that he would be found in the same purpose.

It was true that five years ago he had suggested the question of the City of Victoria. They had done so, but their way to reduce the cost of the road was not believe that it would be a better system could be found in the same purpose.

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HON. MR. MCBRIDE:

honorabie friend must admit it was not a good plan, and he has himself shown that he was not proud of it, because he has been silent about it ever since. He was sorry to hear the pessimistic view taken by his honorable friend in speaking of the mining industry. While the production may have fallen off for a time, every mine in British Columbia was in a solid and solvent condition, and the industry was branching out and everywhere showing signs of revival and extension. Development was going on rapidly in Queen Charlotte Islands, and the whole of the Northern country was only awaiting the advent of the railway. Mr. Corbin had only recently developed another large coal mine in Southeastern Kootenay, and coal measures as well as metalliferous mines were being developed in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The outlook for the mining industry in British Columbia had never been brighter than now in January, 1909.

His honorable friend had said that he would like to see a large portion of this Province makes it impossible to proceed with railway construction as rapidly and easily as east of the mountains, and those of us responsible for administration here must consider these things. I am now trying to make equitable arrangements with the Canadian Northern Railway Company that will shortly bring that system into this country. It is a company we should welcome. It is a thoroughly Canadian line, and has already done much for the farmers on the prairies, and can do a great deal for the Province of British Columbia. But I am not going to rush into these things. I want to go carefully, though in bringing in another transcontinental road some assistance will have to be given.

In regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific, I am informed that good progress is being made in construction, and by next summer 100 miles of the road will be in operation in this Province. From information received

East Kootenay Railway which holds a charter of route, and who had royal with the Corbin into ago, but finally compromised. Judging from lobby every appearance that Hon. pleman will have a fight Comox-Atlin. It is state of the cannermen in have already promised a fair portion of the ne paign funds. Men fro in the city at present, to fight the seat. They ject to being tossed ove pleman at the will of convention is shortly t Cumberland, when c will be taken toward i dicate in the field.

Hon. Thomas Tait, Minister of Works, has introduced to the Hou of ten days must elap can be, and as the ele

Committee on Mining—Messrs. Mackay, Grant, Parsons, Schofield, Hunter, Thomson, McGuire, Behusen, Macgowan, Davy, Ellison, Kergin, Brewster, Jones, Macdonald, Hall, King, Henderson, Eagleson and McInnis.

Committee on Agriculture—Messrs. Ellison, Parson, Grant, Hayward, Yorston and Eagleson.

Committee on Municipal Matters—Messrs. Schofield, Manson, Macgowan, Mackay, Gifford, Behusen, McInnis, Davy, Hayward, Oliver, Naden, Kergin, Hall and Brewster.

Committee on Railways—Messrs. McPhillips, McGuire, Gifford, Hayward, Shatford, Ellison, Hunter, Macgowan, Behusen, Grant, Parson, Manson, Schofield, Jardine, Henderson, King, Naden, Brewster, Yorston, Eagleson, Kergin, Hall and Hawthornthwaite.

Committee on Public Accounts—Messrs. Parson, Manson, Schofield, Mackay, Henderson, Oliver and Naden.

Committee on Printing—Messrs. Macgowan, Garden, Davy, Henderson and Jones.

The Hon. Mr. Bowers presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

JAMES DUNSMUIR,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith a Bill intituled "An Act to License Clubs to sell Intoxicating Liquor," and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
26th January, 1909.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

The Committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Leave granted for to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. Bowers presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

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The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith a Bill intituled "An Act to Authorise the Revision of the Statutes of British Columbia," and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
26th January, 1909.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

(IN THE COMMITTEE.)

Resolved, That the Committee rise and report to the House, recommending the introduction of a Bill (No. 5) intituled "An Act to Authorise the Revision of the Statutes of British Columbia," a draft of which is annexed to this Resolution.

Report adopted.
Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second reading to-morrow.

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:

1. What roads or bridges were made or repaired in Delta District during the present fiscal year?
2. What was the amount expended on each road or bridge, and under what foreman?

gowan for a privy the City of Vancouver charter amended presented: a patch enable Mr. D. C. his railway along along the Flats boundary.

BILLS AND

The following is sent:
By Mr. Elliott—Stream Estate C and the White Va Power Co., for private bill for confirmation of

3. In what
 4. To what
- The Hon.
"1, 2, 3, 4"
Name.
Brown Road
Coast Meridian 1
Hjorth Road
Johnston Road
Vale Truck Road
Canoe Pass Brid
Mr. Olive
1. What
2. For wh
3. To wh
The Hon.
"1. \$37;
"2. To ce
"3. Vote

- Mr. Olive
1. What
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Westminster
Westminster
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5. If so,
for its inform
The Hon.
"1. \$25,
"2. G. I
Kingsley, \$10
"3. The
the traffic inc
"4. Yes
"5. Yes

Resolved

And the

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East Kootenay Railway Company which holds a charter over the same route, and who had such a battle royal with the Corbin interests a year ago, but finally compromised.

Judging from lobby gossip, there is every appearance that Hon. Mr. Templeman will have a fight for it in Comox-Atlin. It is stated that some of the cannermen in the district have already promised to subscribe a fair portion of the necessary campaign funds. Men from the district in the city at present all seem keen to fight the seat. They say they object to being tossed over to Mr. Templeman at the will of Mr. Sloan. A convention is shortly to be held at Cumberland, when definite steps will be taken toward putting a candidate in the field.

Hon. Thomas Taylor, the new Minister of Works, has not yet been introduced to the House. A period of ten days must elapse before he can be, and as the election was held

Mr. Mr. Jardine—From W. K. Houston and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Co.

Mr. Mr. Macgowan—From the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the City's Corporate Act.

By Mr. Thomson—From John Hopp, for leave to introduce a private bill to consolidate certain placer mining holdings and water rights.

The Hon. Mr. Tatlow presented a statement of special warrants signed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, together with the expenditure incurred thereon between 21st May, 1908, and 25th January, 1909, required by the Revenue Act.

The petition from F. E. Sine and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Shuswap and Thompson River Boom Company, Limited, was received.

Mr. Ross presented the following

Government for refusing to put the townsite of Prince Rupert on the market last Autumn. They were also to be commended for deciding to plank some of the principal streets before selling any lots, and were still more to be commended for their refusal to grant liquor licences at Prince Rupert. This had been a distinct benefit and the citizens had asked him to present a petition praying that no licences should be granted till the city was incorporated. There were stories that liquor was being sold with the connivance of Government Agents, but so far as he knew it was only false to say that the Government Agent at Prince Rupert was quite above such a practice. In the division of the waterfront, he considered the Government had been firm-flamed. With the exception of one 1,500 feet which was really good, the Grand Trunk Pacific had all the best of it, and the main part of the Government's waterfront was a high bluff where

congratulated the Government on the appointment of Mr. Palmer as Deputy Minister of Agriculture. But he could do nothing without good men under him, and he hoped the Minister of Finance would make liberal appropriations for agricultural purposes. No other industry could add so much to the wealth of the Province, but these engaged in it were not getting their deserts. There had been good development in dairying and he would like to see some attention paid to poultry and fruit growing. Particularly would he like to see more attention paid to the raising of poultry.

"This Province," he declared, "imports \$300,000 worth of eggs annually, yet we have plenty of land and there is no reason why they should not all be raised here. It is, moreover, an industry in which a man of limited means can engage. The cost of clearing out timbered land is so great that it is impossible for the ordinary man to clear a large area, but he might be able to clear about an acre or so, and start a chicken ranch which would yield him quick returns. I hope the Government will pay close attention to this matter. There is no reason why they should not encourage it by the establishment of egg stations as has been done so successfully in Denmark."

While congratulating the Province on the success of its fruit exhibits, he thought that after advertising their fruit so successfully they should take some steps toward marketing it successfully. He would like to see a Government Agent stationed in the North-West to watch the fruit business. He heard reports that inferior fruit was being shipped over from the United States and sold as British Columbia fruit. This was against the Fruit Marks Act, and he hoped the Minister would see to it as it was injuring the reputation of British Columbia in its own market.

Speaking of the timber business, he deplored the wholesale destruction of trees by fire, and suggested that loggers should be compelled to clean up their litter after them, so that fires would be materially decreased.

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He would like to see a memorial erected in the Capital to such men as Fraser, Cook and Vancouver. It would be to the children an object lesson in what their forefathers had accomplished, and would be a graceful national tribute to these great men.

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Another matter of complaint was want of information for settlers. People had come in hundreds of miles to the Nechane and Chilcotin countries only to find the land

3. In what month was the work done in each case?
4. To what votes were the respective amounts charged?

The Hon. Mr. Fulton replied as follows:—

"1, 2, 3, and 4 answered as follows:—

Name.	Expended.	Month.	Foreman.	Vote.
Brown Road	\$ 12 00	July		139
Coast Meridian Road	827 50		W. Figg & C. B. McKenzie	139
Hjorth Road	191 25	October		139
Johnston Road	152 85	September	J. Johnston	139
Yale Trunk Road	9,089 20	July to Oct.	G. I. Blair C. W. McCallum R. D. McKenzie	164
Canoe Pass Bridge	25,378 80	July to Oct.	W. A. Williscroft	189

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:—

1. What moneys have been expended in Dewdney Riding during the present fiscal year?
2. For what purpose was such expenditure made?
3. To what vote has such expenditure been charged?

The Hon. Mr. Fulton replied as follows:—

- "1. \$37,335.61.
- "2. To construct and maintain public roads, streets, bridges, wharves and ferry.
- "3. Votes 140, 162, 163, 189 and 198."

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:—

1. What amount of money was collected by way of tolls for the use of the Government Bridge at New Westminster during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1908?
2. Who were the Toll Collectors employed, and what amount was paid to each Collector during the same period?
3. Is it the intention of the Government to accede to the wishes of the people of the New Westminster City and District by discontinuing the imposition of tolls for the use of the New Westminster Bridge?
4. Has any agreement been made between the Government and the B. C. Electric Railway Co. for the use of the New Westminster Bridge?
5. If so, will the Government cause copies of such agreement to be laid before the House, for its information, forthwith?

The Hon. Mr. Fulton replied as follows:—

- "1. \$25,702.60, including \$15,000 rental from the V. Y. & E. Railway Company.
- "2. G. Hargreaves, \$900; C. Eagles, \$720; E. Oddy, \$720; T. Anderson, \$720; W. Kingsley, \$10; T. Dominy, \$92.50.
- "3. The Government is prepared to make reductions in the tolls from time to time as the traffic increases.
- "4. Yes.
- "5. Yes."

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

D. M. EBERTS, Speaker.

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Premier speak of the great possibilities of Northern British Columbia. Queen Charlotte and the surrounding islands were really treasure islands, equal to Vancouver Island itself. The mineral wealth of the North was equal to that to be found anywhere, and was pleased that one in so prominent a position as the Premier recognized it. He was glad of the promise of the Premier for fair appropriation for public works, since he prophesied the development of the North during the coming season would be double and treble that of previous years.

AGRICULTURAL DOINGS.

MR. HATWARD, as a farmer,

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In regard to appropriations for public works, no estimates for the year had yet been made out. "That is a matter," said the Premier, with a smile, "in which we always take the Opposition into our confidence, and while no estimates have yet been struck, I may say at least that the appropriations will be larger than they were last year. My honorable

friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has accused the Government of starving Opposition constituencies, but if he will look up the money spent on bridges and trunk roads in their constituencies he will find this to be quite untrue."

The Premier continued that he had had his difficulties in the past in getting a trunk road built in Dewdney on the north bank of the Fraser and he sympathized with his friend from Cranbrook (Dr. King) who wanted a road built from Cranbrook into the heart of the Rockies. "I would be the last person in the world to treat the Opposition districts unfairly," said the Premier. "Why should I?"

MR. MACDONALD: "That is what we want to know."

THE PREMIER: "I am afraid that my honorable friend has listened too long to the tuneful voices of the member for Delta and he has got to believe his statement is true. It is true that because of financial restrictions we have not been able to help out all the constituencies that would have liked, but I believe in the future as it has been in the past to give them all what they are entitled to, and in reason they are entitled to nothing more."

The Premier continued the past twelve months extraordinary circumstances had been compelled to ask the Governor for treasury assistance in the expenditure of money in the Opposition districts, and it would have been well treated."

MR. MACDONALD: "I only asked," said the Premier, "because these warrants have only been three times before. It was in 1905, the second time in 1907, and then again in 1908. The Premier: mere coincidence."

MR. OLIVER: asked the Premier the question of the warrant.

HON. MR. TATLOW: He would bring them as possible.

THE PREMIER: that because we are the honorable member chance to pay a cost of government, something else before." (Laughter.)

NO GRANT TO DELTA.

The Premier continued that the Government should give the City of Victoria, who honor to represent as it was said that as a senior member for that matter he should do would be glad to do treasury that would as long as there were country without road he could not consent places for luxuries in "I would rather lose that," he declared, "willing to meet the Premier and discuss this question and if they think I am step down and out of the Ministry of British Columbia."

The Premier continued that the money to spend rather than on the other to bring the outlying to cover Island in close City of Victoria until curbed when they cost money for its beautification then he was not going to do it. "I don't think the citizens of Victoria have public spirit to expose themselves subject themselves to handed commitment to Victoria to say that able to look after this He agreed with his friend in respect to municipalities. It was some years ago the Government had been able to spend in municipalities. Last year beginning had been money had been spent south of the Fraser. The Government should not be found in the settlements."

It was true that the Government had promised to do the job of the City of Victoria, but they had done so, but they way to reduce it not believe that it was a better system could be pleased to have a scheme."

MR. MACDONALD: years ago he had been

MINING PROSPECTS.

HON. MR. McBRIDE:

honorable friend must admit it was not a good plan, and he has himself shown that he was not proud of it, because he has been silent about it ever since. He was sorry to hear the pessimistic view taken by his honorable friend in speaking of the mining industry. While the production may have fallen off for a time, every mine in British Columbia was in a solid and solvent condition, and the industry was branching out and everywhere showing signs of revival and extension. Development was going on rapidly in Queen Charlotte Islands, and the whole of the Northern country was only awaiting the advent of the railway. Mr. Corbin had only recently developed another large coal mine in Southeastern Kootenay, and coal measures as well as metalliferous mines were being developed in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The outlook for the mining industry in British Columbia had never been brighter than now in January, 1909.

His honorable friend had said that the present system of administration

prices a large portion of this Province makes it impossible to proceed with railway construction as rapidly and easily as east of the mountains, and those of us responsible for administration here must consider these things. I am now trying to make equitable arrangements with the Canadian Northern Railway Company that will shortly bring that system into this country. It is a company we should welcome. It is a thoroughly Canadian line, and has already done much for the farmers on the prairies, and can do a great deal for the Province of British Columbia. But I am not going to rush into these things. I want to go carefully, though in bringing in another transcontinental road some assistance will have to be given.

In regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific, I am informed that good progress is being made in construction, and by next Summer 100 miles of the road will be in operation in this Province. From information received

East Kootenay Railway which holds a charter of route, and who had su royal with the Corbin in ago, but finally compr Judging from lobby go every appearance that Ho pleman will have a fight Comox-Atlin. It is state of the cannerymen in have already promised a fair portion of the ne paign funds. Men from in the city at present a to fight the seat. They ject to being tossed over pleman at the will of convention is shortly to Cumberland, when d will be taken toward p fidate in the field.

Hon. Thomas Tayl Minister of Works, has introduced to the Hou of ten days must elap can be, and as the elec last Saturday week, he troduced till Tuesday.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

- On Thursday next—
The Hon. Mr. Bowser to ask leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Ditches and Watercourses Act, 1907.'"
- On Thursday next—
The Hon. Mr. Bowser to ask leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Municipal Elections Act.'"
- On Thursday next—
The Hon. Mr. Bowser to ask leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Provincial Elections Act.'"
- On Thursday next—
The Hon. Mr. Bowser to ask leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Municipal Clauses Act.'"
- On Thursday next—
Mr. McInnis to ask leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Inspection of Metalliferous Mines Act, 1899.'"
- On Thursday next—
Mr. Hawthorthwaite to ask leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act.'"
- By Mr. Oliver—On Thursday next—
That an Order of the House be granted for a Return showing the receipts and expenditure for the period July 1st to December 31st, 1908.
- By Mr. Oliver—On Thursday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—
1. What amounts of money were expended during the calendar year 1908 in connection with painting the New Westminster bridge?
2. To whom were such moneys paid, and for what consideration?
- By Mr. Hawthorthwaite—On Thursday next—Questions of the Hon. the Provincial Secretary—
1. Has any action been taken by the Government in respect to a resolution carried during last Session of the House memorialising the Imperial Government to appoint a Royal Commission to fully inquire into all the circumstances in connection with Oriental immigration into the Province of British Columbia?
2. If not, why not?

VICTORIA, B.C.
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1909.

THURSDAY, JANU

HORTICUL DEVEL

Need of the Provinc Government—De Address Co

From Our Own Correspondent
Victoria, January 26—Address was House to-day by Mr. McInnis, Mr. Brewster, Mr. Jardine, Mr. C adjournment. He to-morrow by Hon. will close the debate ment.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow to amend the Hor Act. It creates f districts in the Prov board of four mem

PROVIN

School Act Ross, C

FOURTH
From a Staff Correspondent
Victoria, January noon sitting was occu tively by the debat in Reply to the S Throne. The first t Naden and Dr. Ke of whom is a res Rupert, and the lat son, both complime ment on the wise s used in the North real criticism of policy during the e one of his own sup wood, of Cowishan, the work of the Pu rural districts, hold tem of taxation st to allow them to purposes on perso income tax. Mr. Y offered some par. The debate was ad of Mr. McPhillips.

Hon. Mr. Bowse important bills. T for an annual lice clubs where liquor second authorises t a commission to r date the Provinc passed first reading. A statement of special warrant du was brought down low.

Several petitions among them being gowan for a priv the City of Vancou tain charter amend presented a petiti enable Mr. D. C. his railway along along the Finthes boundary.

BILLS AND

The following pr sented:
By Mr. Ellison— stream Estate Co and the White Va Power Co., for a private bill for confirmation of

East Kootenay Railway Company which holds a charter over the same route, and who had such a battle royal with the Corbin interests a year ago, but finally compromised.

Judging from lobby gossip, there is every appearance that Hon. Mr. Templeman will have a fight for it in Comox-Atlin. It is stated that some of the cannerymen in the district have already promised to subscribe a fair portion of the necessary campaign funds. Men from the district in the city at present all seem keen to fight the seat. They say they object to being tossed over to Mr. Templeman at the will of Mr. Sloan. A convention is shortly to be held at Cumberland, when definite steps will be taken toward putting a candidate in the field.

Hon. Thomas Taylor, the new Minister of Works, has not yet been introduced to the House. A period of ten days must elapse before he can be, and as the election was held last Saturday week, he cannot be introduced till Tuesday.

Mr. Mr. Jardine—From W. K. Houston and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Co.

Mr. Mr. Macgowan—From the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the City's Corporate Act.

By Mr. Thomson—From John Hopp, for leave to introduce a private bill to consolidate certain placer mining holdings and water rights.

The Hon. Mr. Tatlow presented a statement of special warrants signed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, together with the expenditure incurred thereon between 31st May, 1908, and 25th January, 1909, required by the Revenue Act.

The petition from F. E. Sine and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Shuswap and Thompson River Boom Company, Limited, was received.

Mr. Ross presented the following petitions: From D. C. Corbin and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Flathead Valley Railway Company; From Malcolm B. King and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Meadow Creek Logging Railway Company.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The following members were appointed on the Standing Committees: Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders—Messrs. Ross, Garden, Thomson, Shattford, Henderson, Jones and Williams.

Committee on Mining—Messrs. Mackay, Grant, Parsons, Schofield, Hunter, Thomson, McGuire, Behnen, Macgowan, Davey, Ellison, Kergin, Brewster, Jones, Macdonald, Hall, King, Henderson, Eagleson and McInnis.

Committee on Agriculture—Messrs. Ellison, Parson, Grant, Hayward, Yorston and Eagleson.

Committee on Municipal Matters—Messrs. Schofield, Manson, Macgowan, Mackay, Gifford, Behnen, McGuire, Davey, Hayward, Oliver, Naden, Kergin, Hall and Brewster.

Committee on Railways—Messrs. McPhillips, McGuire, Gifford, Hayward, Shattford, Ellison, Hunter, Macgowan, Behnen, Grant, Parson, Manson, Schofield, Jardine, Henderson, King, Naden, Brewster, Yorston, Eagleson, Kergin, Hall and Hawthornthwaite.

Committee on Public Accounts—Messrs. Parson, Manson, Schofield, Mackay, Henderson, Oliver and Naden.

Committee on Printing—Messrs. Macgowan, Garden, Davey, Henderson and Jones.

DEBATE RESUMED.

MR. NADEN resumed the debate on the Address in Reply. He said it was rather hard lines for a novice to follow such speakers as the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier. He was not surprised that the debate had wandered rather far from the speech from the Throne, as to get up a lively debate on that would be as difficult as it was reported to be to get a drink at Prince Rupert. He was pleased by the appointment of Mr. Taylor as Minister of Public Works, as it would give the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works more opportunity to devote himself to his work and perhaps supply intending settlers with information that they now asked for in vain.

Speaking locally, he noted an improvement of mining conditions in his own constituency of Greenwood. Two of the mines were now running in full blast, though, unfortunately, a third line had gone into liquidation during the depression. He asked the Attorney-General to give them better police protection along the Boundary Line, as there had been a number of crimes committed, particularly the murder of an estimable citizen at Midway.

The Kettle River bridge had admirably served the purpose for which it was built, namely to conserve Conservative votes; but for any practical use it might as well be at the North Pole.

The Attorney-General had announced that under his system of licensing, 25 licences had been cancelled during the past year, and most of them were held by Conservatives. This was not surprising, as no one but a Conservative could get a licence in an unorganized district.

PRINCE RUPERT AFFAIRS.

Speaking of arrangements between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, he commended the

Government for refusing to put the townsite of Prince Rupert on the market last autumn. They were also to be commended for deciding to plank some of the principal streets before selling any lots, and were still more to be commended for their refusal to grant liquor licences at Prince Rupert. This had been a distinct benefit and the citizens had asked him to present a petition praying that no licences should be granted till the city was incorporated. There were stories that liquor was being sold with the connivance of Government Agents, but so far as he knew it was only false to say that the Government Agent at Prince Rupert was quite above such a practice. In the division of the waterfront, he considered the Government had been flim-flammed. With the exception of one 1,500 feet which was really good, the Grand Trunk Pacific had all the best of it, and the main part of the Government's waterfront was situated out past a high bluff where it would be sidetracked for years to come.

At a meeting of the Board of Trade in Prince Rupert recently a resolution was passed asking the Government to incorporate the City, not immediately, but at least within a year from now, so they asked the Government to bring in a bill to enable them to incorporate it by proclamation. At present school accommodation there was up to requirements, but the Government should try to be ahead of the game and make provision for a greatly added population this Summer by building an eight-roomed school at least on one of the sites they had reserved.

The Premier had failed to mention anything about the representation of British Columbia at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. He certainly thought steps should be taken to have the Province represented there.

The Lieutenant-Governor should, it seemed to him, have inserted a paragraph in the speech congratulating the Provincial Civil Servants on the very efficient manner in which they had assisted Conservative candidates in the Federal elections. While there were some exceptions, as in Greenwood, where the Agent was above such practices, most of the civil servants were election agents for their party all the year round.

He then referred to the "Colonist" before the election, pledging him to the absolute exclusion of Asiatics. He sarcastically congratulated the Conservative party on having papers that would stick at nothing to win an election. (Laughter and applause).

DISCUSSED SKEENA MATTERS.

DR. KERGIN said he would confine himself to some matters that particularly affected Skeena district. The speaker who preceded him was a resident of Prince Rupert and had spoken well of some of the needs of that town. He agreed as to the necessity of providing for the incorporation of Prince Rupert, which was sure to be the scene of a great rush-heat summer. The bill would need to provide for some departures from the Municipal Clauses Act. One was to leave to the people of Prince Rupert the power to say whether licences should or should not be granted there. For refusing to grant licences, so far he gladly joined the member for Greenwood in his commendation of the Government's policy. He also joined in the request for larger schools at Prince Rupert so that they might be ready for what might come.

He urged again that the Government try to stock Queen Charlotte Islands with deer. The islands were splendidly situated for game as there were no wolves or destructive animals. Some caribou deer had been found there since last session, but they were inferior to the Mainland breed and needed restocking. He hoped the Government would attend to that.

He asked that the Government should make surveys of various valleys in Skeena district. Men had gone there with the intention of settling, and had gone away disgusted because of conditions they found in the valleys and the meagre information they received. He considered the reserve of Crown Lands for pre-emption purposes was a move in the right direction.

He had been pleased to hear the Premier speak of the great possibilities of Northern British Columbia. Queen Charlotte and the surrounding islands were really treasure islands, equal to Vancouver Island itself. The mineral wealth of the North was equal to that to be found anywhere, and was pleased that one so prominent a position as the Premier recognized it. He was glad of the promise of the Premier for fair appropriation for public works, since he prophesied the development of the North during the coming season would be double and treble that of previous years.

AGRICULTURAL DOINGS.

MR. HAYWARD, as a farmer,

congratulated the Government on the appointment of Mr. Palmer as Deputy Minister of Agriculture. But he could do nothing without good men under him, and he hoped the Minister of Finance would make liberal appropriations for agricultural purposes. No other industry could add so much to the wealth of the Province, but those engaged in it were not getting their deserts. There had been good development in dairying and he would like to see some attention paid to poultry and fruit growing. Particularly would he like to see more attention paid to the raising of poultry.

"This Province," he declared, "imports \$800,000 worth of eggs annually, yet we have plenty of land and there is no reason why they should not all be raised here. It is, moreover, an industry in which a man of limited means can engage. The cost of clearing our timbered land is so great that it is impossible for the ordinary man to clear a large area, but he might be able to clear about an acre or so, and start a chicken ranch which would yield him quick returns. I hope the Government will pay close attention to this matter. There is no reason why they should not encourage it by the establishment of egg stations as has been done so successfully in Denmark."

While congratulating the Province on the success of its fruit exhibits, he thought that after advancing their fruit so successfully they should take some steps toward marketing it successfully. He would like to see a Government Agent stationed in the North-West to watch the fruit business. He heard reports that inferior fruit was being shipped over from the United States and sold as British Columbia fruit. This was against the Fruit Marks Act, and he hoped the Minister would see to it as it was injuring the reputation of British Columbia in its own market.

Speaking of the timber business, he deplored the wholesale destruction of trees by fire, and suggested that loggers should be compelled to clean up their litter after them, so that fires would be materially decreased.

SCHOOL ACT CRITICIZED.

Referring to the working of the School Act in rural districts, he said its application was not fair to the farmer. The municipalities were unable to tax anything but land, and when they had mines, smelters and sawmills as in his district, they had many children attending the schools whose parents were not paying a cent towards their maintenance. Storekeepers and businessmen, some making \$10 a day, were also exempt, and all fell on the hardworking farmer. He instanced a man who worked as a farmer and making about \$2 a day, gave it up and went to work as a carpenter for \$4 a day. Yet when earning bigger money he had to pay nothing for the education of his children. He held that every municipality should have the power to tax not only real property, but personal property and income tax also for school purposes alone. At present a great injustice was being done.

Speaking of the liquor business, he was not in favor of ending it, but certainly believed in mending it. He would like to see an Inspector appointed who should have the power to go into every bar and analyse the stuff sold, and if it were impure the vendor should be punished for a first offence and his licence taken away for the second. "Good liquor will hurt no one," he said, "but some of the stuff sold here would kill anyone."

After attending the Irrigation Convention at Vernon last Summer, he appreciated the necessity for a change in the Water Laws, and was glad the Government intended to deal with it.

He would like to see a memorial erected in the Capital to such men as Fraser, Cook and Vancouver. It would be to the children an object lesson in what their forefathers had accomplished, and would be a graceful national tribute to these great men.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

MR. YORSTON was pleased to hear that the Government intended to take up the question of irrigation. In Cariboo they had thousands of acres of good land which could be made productive if water was put upon it. But there was a greater problem still. What was the use of land and settlers without transportation? Nature had been bountiful in Cariboo for the past year or two, and their granaries were full of grain they could not get to a market. While there were reports of a potato famine on the Coast, their cellars were full of potatoes, but they could not get them to market. Transportation was their prime necessity.

Another matter of complaint was want of information for settlers. People had come in hundreds of miles to the Naches and Chilhowee countries only to find the

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1909.

HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Need of the Province Recognized by Government—Debate on the Address Continued.

From Our Own Correspondent.
Victoria, January 27.—The debate on the Address was continued in the House to-day by Mr. McPhillips, Mr. McInnis, Mr. Brewster, Mr. Ross and Mr. Jardine. Mr. Oliver moved the adjournment. He will be followed to-morrow by Hon. Mr. Bowser, who will close the debate for the Government.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow introduced a Bill to amend the Horticultural Boards Act. It creates four horticultural districts in the Province, each with a board of four members.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

School Act Criticized by Mr. Hayward—Mr. Ross, Conservative Whip, Mr. Thompson, Second Whip.

FOURTH DAY.
From a Staff Correspondent in the Press Gallery at Victoria.

Victoria, January 28.—The afternoon sitting was occupied almost entirely by the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. The first two speakers, Mr. Naden and Dr. Kergin, the former of whom is a resident of Prince Rupert, and the latter of Port Simpson, both complimented the Government on the wise policy it had pursued in the North. Indeed, the only real criticism of the Government's policy during the debate came from one of its own supporters, Mr. Hayward, of Cowichan, who condemned the work of the Public School Act in rural districts, holding that the system of taxation should be changed to allow them to levy for school purposes on personal property and income tax. Mr. Yorston, of Cariboo, offered some parochial criticisms. The debate was adjourned on motion of Mr. McPhillips.

Hon. Mr. Bowser introduced two important bills. The first provides for an annual licence fee of \$100 on clubs where liquor is sold, and the second authorizes the appointment of a commission to revise and consolidate the Provincial Statutes. Both passed first reading.

A statement of expenditure under special warrant during the past year was brought down by Hon. Mr. Tatlow.

Several petitions were introduced, among them being one by Mr. Macgowan for a private bill to enable the City of Vancouver to secure certain charter amendments. Mr. Ross presented a petition for a bill to enable Mr. D. C. Corbin to extend his railway along Michel Creek, out along the Flathead Valley to the boundary.

BILLS AND PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:

By Mr. Ellison—From the Coldstream Estate Company, Limited, and the White Valley Irrigation and Power Co., for leave to introduce a private bill for amalgamation and confirmation of their powers.

and with the stakes of speculators. One man had spent \$1,500 in surveys and travel, only to find after six months that another man had a prior record and his claim was cancelled. In another instance a man had pre-empted land and started to cultivate when he was told there was a prior claimant and he had to get out. He would like the Commissioner of Lands to take a trip for himself and view conditions there. They should also have a land office.

The appropriation of \$5,500 for public works in Cariboo last year was entirely inadequate. Out of this two Road Superintendents were paid \$120 a month to do nothing, and another gentleman was paid for riding round in an automobile to survey things, while the Conservative party leaders bossed the whole lot. (Laughter.) The money was really spent for party purposes. The road bosses went round with voters' lists in their pockets, and if they came to a section where there were few Conservatives very little work would be done. He claimed that in Cariboo, even the administration of Justice was not free from partisanship, since before the election any poor Grit who was hauled up before a Magistrate was almost sure to be sent to gaol. The Government had sent up a foreman to build a road, whose only qualification for the work was that he was a good Tory. His method was to send a man to climb a tree to see how the country lay ahead of them, and when that was reached he would climb another tree and look ahead again. In this way they got a road with 18 per cent. grades, that would wash away with the first rains. A man whose wagon got stuck on one of these roads, had to hitch three teams on the end of the tongue to pull it out. A man present with a kodak took a picture of it, but unfortunately he took the pictures to a good Tory photographer to develop and that was the last of them. (Laughter.) "What is the good of such roads?" asked Mr. Yostan. "We either want roads that we can use or none at all."

MR. MCPHILLIPS moved the adjournment of the debate.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

On Thursday next—
The Hon. Mr. Bowser to ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Ditches and Watercourses Act, 1907."

On Thursday next—
The Hon. Mr. Bowser to ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act."

On Thursday next—
The Hon. Mr. Bowser to ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Municipal Clauses Act."

On Thursday next—
Mr. McInnis to ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Inspection of Metalliferous Mines Act, 1892."

On Thursday next—
Mr. Hawthornthwaite to ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act."

By Mr. Bowser—On Thursday next—
That an Order of the House be granted for a return showing the receipts and expenditure for the period July 1st to December 31st, 1905.

By Mr. Oliver—On Thursday next—
Questions of the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Works—
1. What amounts of money were expended during the calendar year 1905 in connection with painting the New Westminster bridge?
2. To whom were such moneys paid, and for what consideration?

By Mr. Hawthornthwaite—On Thursday next—Questions of the Hon. the Provincial Secretary.
1. Has any action been taken by the Government in respect to a resolution carried during the last session of the House memorialising the Imperial Government to appoint a Royal Commission to fully inquire into all the circumstances in connection with Oriental immigration into the Province of British Columbia?
2. If not, why not?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:
1. What moneys have been expended in Dewdney Riding during the present fiscal year?
2. For what purpose was such expenditure made?
3. To what vote has such expenditure been charged?

The Hon. Mr. Taylor replied as follows:
"1. \$47,353.61.
"2. To construct and maintain public roads, streets, bridges, wharves and ferries.
"3. Votes 150, 162, 163, 189 and 192."

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:
1. What amount of money was collected by way of tolls for the use of the Government bridge at New

Westminster during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1905?
2. Who were the Toll Collectors employed, and what amount was to each collector during the same period?
3. Is it the intention of the Government to accede to the wishes of the people of the New Westminster City and district by discontinuing the imposition of tolls for the use of the New Westminster bridge?
4. Has any agreement been made between the Government and the E. C. Electric Railway for the use of the New Westminster bridge?
5. If so, will the Government cause copies of such agreement to be laid before the House, for its information, forthwith?

The Hon. Mr. Taylor replied as follows:
"1. \$25,702.60, including \$15,000 rental from the V. Y. & E. Railway Company.
"2. G. Hargreaves, \$200; C. Eagles, \$720; E. Oddy, \$720; T. Anderson, \$720; W. Kingsley, \$10; T. Dornay, \$82.50.
"3. The Government is prepared to make reductions in the tolls from time to time as the traffic increases.
"4. Yes.
"5. Yes."

GALLERY NOTES.

Mr. W. R. Ross, M. P. for Fernie, has been chosen whip of the Conservative party with Mr. H. E. Thompson, M. P. for Victoria, as second whip. The selection was made in caucus on Monday evening. The appointment of Mr. Ross is considered very satisfactory, as he is a man of genial personality and is very popular in the House.

A return has been received from Ottawa with reports on the Immigration Bill or Natal Act passed last session. Mr. Aylesworth, Minister of Justice, reserves the Immigration Act for further report. He also reports that a bill authorizing the construction of a railway from the northern coast of British Columbia to Hudson's Bay exceeds the jurisdiction of the Province, which only extends to its own boundaries. He is willing to allow the Bill to become operative so far as it can, but declares the rest to be ultra vires.

Of the two Bills just introduced by Attorney-General Bowser, the one to license clubs for selling intoxicating liquor has already been explained. The Bill to authorize the revision and consolidation of the appointment of a commissioner or commissioners whose duty it shall be to go through all the statutes of the Province and eliminate such as have been repealed or cancelled by other Acts. They shall also have power to change the language to make it more explicit, and shall tabulate and index the whole.

SPECIAL WARRANTS.

Details of Provincial Expenditures Made Under This Head.

On Tuesday afternoon Hon. Mr. Tatlow handed down a statement in the Legislature of expenditures under special warrants from May 21st, 1904, to January 21st, 1905.

Service	Amount of Warrant	Expenditure
July 30 Hospitals and charities	\$15,000	\$11,000.00
June 23 Education	15,000	15,000.00
Sept. 3 Education	10,000	6,028.17
May 14 Public works	5,000	5,000.00
Oct. 6 Public works	80,000	59,000.00
Oct. 27 Public works	200,000	
Dec. 26 Public works	106,000	44,000.82
Dec. 26 Public works	196,750	95,385.56
Dec. 23 Public works	75,000	38,543.90
May 21 Miscellaneous	10,000	10,000.00
Sept. 3 Miscellaneous	10,000	10,000.00
Oct. 12 Miscellaneous	5,000	3,000.00
Dec. 23 Miscellaneous	10,000	10,000.00
Total	707,750	299,558.39

The amount of \$200,000 for public works on which no expenditure was made was drawn by the Government after its agreement with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company regarding the towage of Prince Rupert. The money was intended for doing the Government's share of sewerage and street work, and is being held for that purpose. It will be seen that the Government did not spend half the money for which warrants were issued, \$408,192 being still left in hand.

THE WAR-DRUM OF THE DELTA

Booms in the Legislative Halls Once More—Mr. Oliver Sounds a General Attack.

MR. BOWSER'S CHANCE TO REPLY TO-DAY.

Yankee and Victoria Both Omitted Technically in Regard to Charter Amendment Notices.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Victoria, January 28.—It was Mr. Oliver's field day in the House this afternoon. In the course of a long speech, criticising the Government's policy, he indulged in a slashing attack on the Attorney-General, especially in regard to the fishery policy. He also attacked the Government's land policy, asserting that the only effect would be to keep out settlers. He attacked Hon. Mr. Bowser bitterly, saying that he had tried to obtain votes at the last election on false pretences.

Hon. Mr. Bowser moved the adjournment of the debate and will reply to-morrow.

Mr. Oliver's speech was both denunciatory and amusing.

When the Bill for Vancouver Charter amendments came up in the Private Bills Committee it was found that the Standing Orders requiring six weeks' advertisement had not been complied with, and unless an exception is made the City must pay the double fee.

Mr. Thomson, Victoria, said that his city was in the same predicament, and intimated that he would move for a rebate in both cases in the House.

THIRD DAY.

From a Staff Correspondent in the Press Gallery at Victoria.

Victoria, January 27.—The debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, which again occupied practically the whole afternoon, presented no very salient features of interest. The speakers were Messrs. McPhillips, McInnis, Brewster, Ross, and Jardine. Mr. Ross contributed an interesting description of how affairs had been handled in Fernie following the great fire last August, and was full of prophetic hopes for the future. Mr. McInnis naturally dilated on the iniquities of the present economic system, and told what they would do when the co-operative commonwealth was achieved. The criticisms of the Government's policy indulged in by Messrs. Brewster and Jardine were rather parochial and touched no vital points. Mr. Oliver moved the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow's Bill to amend the Horticultural Board Act, by dividing the Province into four horticultural districts, with a board of four members for each, passed first reading.

PETITIONS.

At the opening of the House, the following petitions were presented:

By Mr. Thomson—From the Corporation of the City of Victoria, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the "Victoria Waterworks Act 1873," and amendments Acts.

By Mr. Schofield—From E. V. Bodwell and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Goat River Water, Power and Light Company, Limited.

By Dr. Kergin—From M. King and H. B. Robertson, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Prince Rupert and Port Simpson Railway Company.

By Dr. Kergin—From E. M. Trackwell and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Graham Island Railway Company.

The following petitions were received:

From the Coldstream Estate Company, Limited, and the White Valley Irrigation and Power Company, for leave to introduce a private bill for amalgamation and confirmation of their powers.

From W. K. Houston and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Company.

From the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the City's Corporation Act.

From John Hopp, for leave to introduce a private bill to consolidate certain placer mining holdings and water rights.

From D. C. Coffin and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Meadow Valley Railway Company.

From Mackinnon B. King and others, or leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Meadow Creek Logging Railway Company.

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE.

MR. MCPHILLIPS resumed the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. He opened by complimenting the mover and seconder of the Address on their efforts. Though criticised by the Leader of the Opposition for lauding the Government, their praise was justified by the actions of the Government. As a Minister of the Crown under Sir Hugh Joly de Lotbiniere, he could echo every word of regret for his death. A Frenchman of the pre-Republican school, he was courteous and kindly to all and was one of Nature's perfect gentlemen, and moreover ever since his appointment he had always borne the interests of British Columbia at heart.

The Tercentenary celebration at Quebec brought into strong relief all the good work that had been done for the upbuilding of Canada by valiant exertions in the past. When one thought of such names as Champlain and Marquette, Cartier and La Salle, they must recognise that they were entitled to a great deal of credit, and our French fellow citizens were fully entitled to take every advantage of the advancement of Canada to-day. The Western explorations of La Verandrye brothers in 1741 had been followed by Lewis and Clark, the anniversary of whose discoveries had been celebrated in Portland a few years ago. Simon Fraser was another man of this stamp, and one they well might honor. But for the bulwark raised by the French in Lower Canada in 1812, Canada would not be the country it is to-day. In the North-West rebellion of 1885, the French had shown their loyalty, and it was fitting their needs should be recognised. He deplored divisions of race and creed, and regretted that during the recent Federal contest certain misguided persons had attempted to raise this cry. "In Canada we have no more room for the bigot than we have for the assassin," he declared.

POLICY JUSTIFIED.

Turning to Provincial politics, he justified the policy of the Government in 1904 in negotiating the million dollar loan. While he would be in favor of increasing the tenure of timber licenses, there were many things to be considered and they should go carefully. He was pleased to hear the members for Greenwood and Skeena speak in praise of the Government administration of the licence laws in the North, while he did not usually believe in depending on a person of the right to get liquor, as believed in strictest regulation, and if a dealer supplied a man with liquor till he became intoxicated and persisted in it his licence should be taken away for all time. "The worst kind of criminal is he who makes a criminal," was his comment.

While he regretted to hear of civil servants taking part in elections, it was by no means confined to Conservatives. Messrs. Brewster had promised that it should be stopped so far as his party was concerned, and he would be pleased to hear the Opposition Leader would make the same promise for his party.

The Government policy in the settlement of Crown lands had been attacked, but the Government was not to be blamed if some settlers had suffered from going too soon into the Nechaco and other Northern valleys. When the lands had been surveyed and mapped out, the Government would be in a position to give any information asked for. Already a good beginning had been made, and when the work was completed the Government might be blamed if information was not given, but not now. Most of the men going in now were not genuine settlers, but speculators who hoped to obtain townships on fertile lands and hold them for sale. The Government had done its duty in reserving pre-emption lands for settlers, and that was earnest of their intention to help the bona fide settlers.

Has the policy of the Dominion Government been followed, Dickey Island would have been obtained by the Grand Trunk Pacific for its ferries; but the Province fought the Dominion's claim, and as a result the Province owned one-fourth of the ferries in a place on which would be built one of the greatest cities in the whole Dominion.

While generally praising the Government's general policy, he had reason to believe that sometimes fruit had been commenced unnecessarily, but the Minister of Agriculture had informed him that while complaints were made he would consider and investigate them.

While the great burden of representing the country at the Alaska-Taku-Pacfic Exhibition should

properly fall upon the Dominion Government to see the Province also.

He felt no fear, our people would influx of America other hand, these laws just and free, became themselves.

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properly fall upon the shoulders of the Dominion Government, he would like to see the Province do something also.

He felt no fear that the loyalty of our people would be affected by any influx of American settlers. On the other hand, these people found the laws just and free, and in a few years became themselves loyal British subjects.

He was pleased to see the olive branch of co-operation held out by the Leader of the Opposition, and he would like to see the same olive branch held out by the Federal Government at Ottawa. He saw no reason why all differences between the Dominion and the Province could not be amicably settled.

THE TAXATION PROBLEM.

Speaking of the fiscal policy, he

leave the country. Practically the whole waterfront of Quatsino Sound was covered with pulp and timber licences, and there was no room for the farmer they were spending so much time to get here.

He attacked the change in the licence system, saying that unless a licence walked straight politically, he would, to maintain his licence, have to come down to Victoria and interview the Attorney-General. The Government had stolen the Liberal policy of free text-books, but they might be forgiven if they would give a larger grant to allow them the use of travelling libraries in out-of-the-way places.

He was pleased to state that in the northern part of the district in Texada Island, the mining industry had never been so brisk since the days of the Van Andes. One thing he saw

ern portion of the Province, they, in the Southern portion had also their needs, and as they had done much by their own energy to open up the country, he hoped they would not be forgotten.

In conclusion, he congratulated the new Minister of Public Works on his appointment and felt sure he would discharge his duties in an efficient and business-like way. (Applause).

MR. JARDINE'S COMPLAINTS.

MR. JARDINE said that at the last session the Attorney-General had stated that he had a scheme by which he meant to bring to justice one Gun-a-Noot, who was wanted for murder in the Northern wilds, but through a great deal of money had been spent in chasing him, the Attorney-General had no announcement

of his capture. While detaching time to Gun-a-Noot, the Attorney-General and his friends had paid attention to the needs of an important class in the workingmen. He criticized the waste of money on the part of his constituency, and called for the need for better arrangements. He re-iterated his objection to the beautification of the grounds on the Parliament building at the Province by Douglas, and he thought at least grant \$50 towards the erection of his monument. He saw such rapid alienation of acres by capitalists, and saw some scheme adopted which would give to the workingmen the profits they were their ordinary wages.

MR. JARDINE moved the adjournment of the House, and the House adjourned.

of Dr. Kergin was added to the Agricultural Commission, and that of Mr. H. J. Parkin was appointed to the

ON OF THE RULES. At the adjournment, Mr. Parkin said that he was one of those appointed at the end of the session to revise the rules of the House. Since the House had met since then, a draft copy of the rules for approval, the amendments having been done by Mr. Parkin and Mr. Fell.

Mr. Kergin explained that it had been impossible to get together all the members of the Committee on the Rules as they were scattered all over the Province, and he and Mr. Parkin had undertaken to revise the rules of the committee and the House. He had been away for a few days before the opening of the session and had asked Mr. Fell to prepare sheets to the members of the House, which he had done.

MR. JARDINE said he had no objection to a committee of that kind, but he considered there was justification for the course of revising the rules. It would be very inconvenient to members of the committee from different parts of the Province and as the rules submitted were a draft and subject to amendment, he considered the course entirely proper one.

QUESTION PAPER. Mr. Oliver is again a busy man, and is shown by the following questions:

Oliver—On Friday next, the Hon. the Attorney-General, how many new liquor licences were issued during the calendar year 1908?

Kergin—On Monday next, the Hon. the Attorney-General, was the commission to Mr. McIntosh, of Prince Rupert, stipendiary magistrate, cancelled, and if so, for what cause?

Oliver—On Friday next, the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands, how many acres of Crown lands were sold during the year 1908?

How many acres of Crown lands were sold during the year 1908?

How many acres of Crown lands were sold during the year 1908?

Has the Government taken any action to see that the provisions of section 48, subsection (11), of the Land Act has been complied with?

If so, what action has been taken?

By Dr. Kergin—On Monday next, Questions of the Hon. the Minister of Finance—

What amount was collected from timber royalties and licence fees from the District of Skeena during the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1907?

What amount was collected

from timber royalties and licence fees from the District of Skeena during the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1907?

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next, Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—

1. What amounts of moneys were paid during the fiscal year 1907-8 to C. W. Gamble, and for what services in each case?

2. What amounts of moneys were paid to C. W. Gamble during the six months ending December 31st, 1908, and for what purpose in each case?

By Mr. Oliver—On Friday next, Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—

1. What portion of the \$25,378 expended upon the Canoe Pass Bridge was for labor?

2. What amounts were for each kind of material?

3. Does this expenditure include all the material required in construction of said bridge?

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next, Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—

1. What did the beach road in Cowichan cost to construct, and what has it cost the Government yearly since completion to keep it in repair?

2. How many miles of roads do each of the five road foremen have to maintain in South Cowichan, and how many men do each employ?

3. What men did Reid employ, and what sums did he pay in wages to each man in 1907 and 1908?

4. How much per yard does it cost the Government to gravel the roads in Reid's division of the road district?

BILL TO LICENSE CLUBS.
New Bill of Attorney-General to Permit Sale of Liquor.

A bill that had for its purpose the licensing of clubs to sell intoxicating liquor has been introduced in the Legislature by Attorney-General Bower. The bill as drafted provides that "club licences" may be issued by the Superintendent of Provincial Police to any society, association or club, which is not by its charter of incorporation, or otherwise, prohibited from selling liquor to the members thereof, upon payment of a fee of one hundred dollars. Such licence shall remain in force until the thirty-first day of December then next ensuing, and shall authorize the sale of liquor by the society, association or club, its officers or servants, to any member of such society, association or club, or to any person named in the licence, or to any person named in the licence, or to any person named in the licence.

The Superintendent of Provincial Police, or any person authorized by him in writing to do so, may at any time enter upon and inspect the premises and books of any society, association or club licensed under the provisions of this Act.

The Attorney-General may, at any time, cancel any licence issued under the provisions of this Act when it is made to appear to him that the society, association or club, or its members, officers or servants, have violated any provision of this Act, or that the society, association or club is not being conducted in a proper manner.

Any incorporated society, association or club, and any officer or servant thereof, who is a member of an unincorporated society, association or club, and any officer or servant thereof, who sells or supplies liquor on the premises of the society, association or club, or who is a member thereof, or who is an officer or servant thereof, shall be liable, upon summary conviction before a stipendiary magistrate, police magistrate or justice of the peace, to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars and costs, and in default of payment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.

This Act shall apply to the whole of the Province.

HORTICULTURAL BOARDS.
Composition of Bodies—Delimitation of the Four Districts.

Hon. Mr. Tallow's new Horticultural Boards Act is one of those bills that speed for itself. The gist is contained in the following excerpts:

There is hereby created a Provincial Board of Horticulture, to consist of three ex-officio members, namely, the Minister of Agriculture, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture (who shall act as secretary of the Board), the chief inspector of fruit pests (who shall act for the province at large), and four members who shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, one from each of the horticultural districts which are hereby created, to wit:

1. The first district shall comprise the provincial electoral districts and portions of provincial electoral districts embraced in Vancouver Island and the adjacent islands.

2. The second district shall comprise that portion of the provincial electoral district of Comox, situated on the Mainland, the provincial electoral districts of Richmond, Dawson, Delta, Chilliwack, Lillooet, Skeena and Garibaldi, and the City of Vancouver.

3. The third district shall comprise the provincial electoral districts of Kamloops, Yale, Similkameen and Okanagan, and the City of Nelson.

4. The fourth district shall comprise the provincial electoral districts of Revelstoke, Columbia, Kootenai, Shuswap, Greenwood, Grand Forks, Yale, Cranbrook and Fernie, and the City of New Westminster.

No. 6.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Thursday, 28th January, 1909.

TWO O'CLOCK, P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. W. L. Clay.

The following petitions were received:—

From the Corporation of the City of Victoria, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to amend the "Victoria Water-works Act, 1873," and amending Acts. (No. 16.)

From E. V. Bodwell and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate the Goat River Water, Power and Light Company, Limited. (No. 11.)

From M. King and H. B. Robertson, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate the Prince Rupert and Port Simpson Railway Company. (No. 5.)

From E. M. Tractsell and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate the Graham Island Railway Company. (No. 14.)

Mr. Ross presented the First Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
January 28th, 1909.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That the Standing Orders in connection with the undermentioned Petitions have been complied with:—

Petition No. 6—An Act to Incorporate "The Shuswap and Thompson Rivers Boom Company, Limited."

Petition No. 15—An Act to Incorporate "The Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Company."

Your Committee further report—

That the Standing Orders in connection with Petition No. 2, "Meadow Creek Logging Railway Company," have been complied with, but with reference to this Petition your said Committee beg leave to call the attention of your Railway Committee to the discrepancy between the prayer of the Petition and the notice of same as they appear in the newspapers and British Columbia Gazette.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. R. Ross,
Chairman.

The report was received.

MR. BREWSTER said that practically every question of vital importance to the Province had been carefully omitted by Government speakers during the debate. The second member for Victoria (Mr. Davy) had said he hoped to see the income and personal property taxes abolished. He (Mr. Brewster) had asked that the small farmers should be exempted from taxation up to a thousand dollars of their property. He still thought that this would be better than abolishing the income tax, which was imposed on those who could afford to pay for it.

He regretted that so much good agricultural land in his constituency was taken up under timber licences. He knew of settlers who, unable to obtain land at all, were compelled to

leave the province, and he hoped that there were to-day as many permanent buildings constructed and occupied as existed on the day of the fire. The business centre of the city has to a large extent been re-established in a permanent way. Where frame buildings stood before the fire there are now substantial structures of brick and concrete, and within two years you will see a larger and better Fernie than ever we had before. It is I think a tribute to the energy and pluck of the people of Fernie whom I have the pleasure and pride to represent." (Applause).

He continued that the Government had drawn money by special warrant to assist them, and he hoped the House would not hesitate to ratify those warrants when called upon.

While they were gratified by the promised development of the North-

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(SIXTH DAY)

This was Mr. John Oliver's field day. He and his aids occupied the centre of the stage, and to do him justice the speech he made was one of the best heard so far in the debate on the Address in reply to the Throne. While he travelled near a great trail of old ground, he had also some new points which he utilised with wit and emphasis. He was particularly severe in his censures on the Attorney-General, who listened and took them all good humoredly. Mr. Oliver ranged over a wide field attacking the fiscal policy and land policy of the Government in detail. He provoked a good deal of amusement by his reference to the Attorney-General's Bill for licensing clubs to sell liquor, and twitted Hon. Mr. Bowers with not having yet met Mr. Duncan Ross. He blamed the Government's land policy for keeping the farmers off the land, and wound up with a strong peroration appealing to them to make the land accessible to the farmer, and assuring them that they would have his co-operation if they did so.

Hon. Mr. Bowers moved the adjournment of the debate, and will reply at Friday's sitting.

BILLS AND PETITIONS.

The following petitions were received:

From the corporation of the City of Victoria, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the "Victoria Waterworks Act, 1875," and amending Acts.

From E. V. Bodwell and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Goat River Water Power and Light Company, Limited.

From M. King and H. B. Robertson, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Prince Rupert and Port Simpson Railway Company.

From E. M. Tracksell and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Graham Island Railway Company.

The Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders reported that the standing orders in connection with the undermentioned petitions have been complied with.

Petition No. 4—An Act to incorporate "The Shuswap and Thompson Rivers Boom Company, Limited."

Petition No. 14—An Act to incorporate "The Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Company."

It further reported that the standing orders in connection with Petition No. 2, "Meadow Creek Logging Railway Company," have been complied with, but with reference to this petition your said committee beg leave to call the attention of your Railway Committee to the discrepancy between the prayer of the petition and the notice of same as they appear in the newspapers and British Columbia "Gazette."

The following private bills were introduced:

By Mr. Jardine—Bill No. 84 intitled "An Act to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Company."

Read first time and referred to the Railway Committee.

By Mr. Farnon—Bill No. 55 intitled "An Act to incorporate the Shuswap and Thompson Rivers Boom Company, Limited."

Read first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

MR. OLIVER STANDS ALONE.

MR. OLIVER resumed the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. He said he presumed to speak for two reasons. The first was that last session he had refrained from taking part in the debate, and consequently the speech which the Attorney-General had prepared in reply to him was inflicted on the House in instalments all through the session. He rose now to give the Attorney-General a chance to deliver himself and save the House from a repetition of last session's inflictions. Secondly, he rose because there were many important questions to discuss, and he wished to have something to say on them.

He complimented the mover and seconder of the Address, and after hearing the member for Columbia felt sorry that he had chosen to remain silent for the past two years. The seconder (Mr. Davey) had acquitted himself with credit as a public speaker, but it had been his misfortune to present to the House a series of figures which had evidently been supplied to him from outside sources, and consequently he was not to blame if they were nearly all inaccurate. As it was, that gentleman had not been able to get through his speech without condemning the Government, and instancing the fact that coal mined on Vancouver Island sold cheaper in Seattle than in Vancouver and Victoria. Yet the party he supported was responsible for this very grievance. Two years ago they had been elected on a platform which provided for the setting aside for

public use of a portion of all coal areas alienated, and yet last session the very same party had voted down a resolution of one of their own members asking for a commission to inquire into the question of coal prices. That was the Government's record on the coal question.

The Opposition had also been supported in their condemnation of the Public School Act by the member for Cowichan in his criticism of the working of the School Act in rural districts. He hoped that gentlemen would support a resolution condemning the Government for their action in this matter, as the Opposition had time and time again called attention to the ridiculous working of the Act in rural districts without avail.

CONTINUAL CRITICISM.

Mr. Oliver then turned to the public accounts, claiming that Mr. Davey had been quite incorrect when he was decrying the Government's fiscal policy. He had claimed that the increase in revenue came from the development of natural resources only, but while there had been an increase in revenue from timber of \$1,125,000, it was simply an advance made by timber speculators that they might better exploit the natural resources of the Province afterwards. Among the increases of revenue were the increased appropriations amounting to \$225,000 in Dominion Government subsidies; and \$328,000 from Chinese head tax. Did they call that a result of the development of the natural resources of the Province? (Laughter.) Then there was an increase of wild land tax that increased nothing more than that 700,000 more acres of the wild land of the Province had been alienated to speculators. There was an increase from coal mining of \$18,000, as against a decrease of \$25,000 from mining and \$23,000 from timber royalties. Did all this show that there was an increased development of the natural resources of the Province as claimed by the second member for Victoria? He had shown himself a good old story by advocating the abolition of the personal property and income tax. The income tax had always been regarded by Liberals as an equitable way of raising revenue from those who could best afford to pay it.

LAND HELD BY ABSENTEES.

The Leader of the Opposition, on the other hand, instead of asking that these taxes be abolished, advocated handing them over to the municipalities in which they were levied. The expenses of municipalities were so heavy that taxation under any circumstances must be heavier within municipalities than outside. Even in his own district of Delta one of the oldest in the Province, the roads were in such shape that on his way out he had to get out of his buggy and walk mile after mile, while his horse dragged the empty buggy through the mud. The trouble was that so much land was held by absentees, on whom they could not levy a high taxation, and most whose lands roads had to be built. The fault lay not so much in this instance with the Government as with laws that needed changing.

"This is a question above party," said Mr. Oliver, "and it is one that this House should grapple with. By handing over to the municipalities the personal property and income tax amounting to a quarter of a million dollars, a solution would be found and the Government would not be continually bothered by delegations constantly coming down here and asking for more help."

"What can the municipalities do? Even in this beautiful City of Victoria, they are asking the Government to assist them to beautify the City. The streets of this city are in a disgraceful condition for want of funds. It does not speak very well for this Province that strangers coming to the Capital find themselves up to their knees in mud. They naturally go away with the impression that it rains all the time here. But if it is so in a city as wealthy as this, how much worse must it be in the rural districts where many settlers are just struggling to get on a footing, and I ask in the face of all this, how can the Government reasonably refuse the municipalities the assistance they ask?"

The seconder of the Address had also said that this year the farmers had been blessed with bounteous crops and had much to be thankful for. Well, he was a farmer and knew something about it, and he could tell the honorable gentleman that the crops in British Columbia during the past season had been below the level of ordinary years, and many farmers had their potatoes so frozen that they could not get more than \$10 a ton for them. This hardly coincided with the picture drawn by the seconder member for Vancouver, yet he agreed with him that there was still much to be thankful for as they

had at least sufficient for their needs. There was reason for thankfulness also that in spite of the disastrous fire at Fernie, the town was building up so well again.

PRE-EMPTION RECORDS.

It was said that 1,600 pre-emption records had been taken out this year as against 370 in the previous year. This was no indication of actual settlement. A year or two ago a company had been formed to assist men to pre-emption duties and to get titles for land which the company afterwards took over. Many of these records were fraudulently obtained, and it was the duty of the Chief Commissioner of Lands to see that the land laws were better enforced. The Premier had said that unsurveyed lands had been reserved from pre-emption. This simply meant that the speculator had a better chance to put in his stakes and make good his claims. How much of the land in the Nechako valley had been staked before a survey was made at all? What was the use of reserving lands for survey, if the land was already owned by someone else? The increase in wild land tax already showed that speculators had and even if the 1,600 pre-emption records were all genuine it would only mean 280,000 acres for actual settlement as against the 700,000 acres to speculators.

The Premier with his university education, said the other day that he could not define what a speculator was. To me it seems clear enough. A speculator is one who buys and holds something for a profitable turnover and not for use. I am not blaming the speculator. I would make money myself if I had a chance; but I do think it wrong that in British Columbia the interests of the many should suffer for the benefit of the few." (Opposition Applause.)

Mr. Oliver next turned his attention to the Government's bargain with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway on the division of Prince Rupert townsite. He had been there, and held that the Government instead of retaining one-fourth of the value of the waterfront principally only retained one-eighth. The Government had one good block of 1,500 feet in the middle of the town, but as to the rest there had been no soundings taken of the water in front of it and they could not say whether it was of any value or not.

The Government had become the financial backers of the Grand Trunk Pacific, through the Prince Rupert Townsite Company. They had drawn \$200,000 for the improvement of Prince Rupert townsite. He would like to ask if the Government intended to spend \$100,000 of this to improve Grand Trunk property, because they owned three-fourths of the townsite and that was what it amounted to. Then it had been frequently alleged that this would not be the permanent terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific. For his part he thought it would; but still there was a good harbor and townsite at Port Simpson, and what was to prevent the company after selling the land from moving the terminus there? If they did it would be a repetition of Fort Moody and Vancouver ever again. He mentioned this possibility only to show that the Government should exercise more care in making its bargains.

WASTE OF TIMBER.

Turning to the question of timber, Mr. Oliver denounced the wanton waste of forest resources by fire. One way to prevent this waste was to give security for tenure, and in so doing impose conditions that would eliminate this waste, and give stable conditions to the lumber industry. Referring to Dr. Judson Clark's address in Vancouver, he said the principles advocated by Dr. Clark were identical with those advocated by the Leader of the Opposition a year ago, in an amendment he had brought before that House.

"That motion was voted down by our friends opposite at that time, and yet the seconder of the Address tells us now that these proposals are worthy of serious consideration," said Mr. Oliver sarcastically.

He continued that it had been advertised that the Attorney-General was to follow him in that debate, and according to his friends he was simply going to eat him up. Well, if the Attorney-General did follow him he would only ask him to controvert the facts he (Mr. Oliver) was placing before the House. If he did that he would find enough to keep him occupied without dealing in Federal politics and telling how the Conservatives had won the recent election in British Columbia.

A great deal had been said about the Attorney-General's system of licensing, and the Premier had told them that 15 licences had been cancelled last year, and most of the holders were Conservatives. How did he know that? "I suppose" said

Mr. Oliver, "that the Government ascertained their politics before licences were granted at all."

Why did they take the trouble to ascertain the politics of these licence holders at all, and why were their licences cancelled in the year of a Federal election? For what purpose was it, unless it was that political pressure was brought to bear upon them?" (Opposition applause.)

Through an inspired article in the "Colonist" the Attorney-General had also advertised the club licences which he was going to impose, and which he could cancel at his will. The article stated that the licence was not aimed at respectable clubs such as the Vancouver Club and the Union Club of Victoria, which were patronised by the upper ten. He did not know where the Government intended to draw the line of respectability. He ventured to say there were workmen on the streets of Victoria as respectable as any member of those clubs. (Applause.) The "Colonist" said the Bill was not aimed at frequenters of those "respectable institutions," but the Attorney-General had received constant complaints about clubs that were no better than dives. He understood that. There had been such a one in his municipality and they had closed it only after keeping at the Attorney-General's Department for about six months.

"I ask if the Railway Porters Club in Vancouver is not as respectable to its frequenters as the Union Club in Victoria is to its frequenters? This is a question that should be dealt with from the standpoint of principle and not from that of class legislation." (Applause.)

Mr. Oliver continued that in the inspired article in the "Colonist" certain clubs had been referred to as "dives." How far did they have to walk two years ago from the Union Club in Victoria to a dive, before Mayor Morley cleaned up the stirk of their iniquities. "The trouble with this Bill," declared Mr. Oliver, "is that the Attorney-General is sticking out all over it. The Attorney-General may grant or cancel the licences as he sees fit. An inspector is to be appointed to inspect these clubs, but he cannot enter the premises without permission from the Attorney-General. It is a good example of that gentleman's legislation, and I would like to know where it is to end. The second member for Victoria (Mr. Davey) said the Attorney-General was as inflexible as adamant. Well, not being a geologist I don't know how inflexible that is, (laughter), but he is both inflexible and infallible. He said a year ago that if the Dominion Government would keep its hands off his Bill not another Jap would land in British Columbia. Well, how is it that since that Bill has been declared ultra vires by our local courts it has never been carried to the highest court of all, the Privy Council, and tested? There has been plenty of time for that, but he is inflexible and has done nothing."

MR. BOWSER MADE THE BUTT.

He continued that the Attorney-General overhad shadowed George Washington in his reputation for truthfulness. It was on a par with the forged telegram alleged to be from Mr. Borden and published in the "Colonist" on the eve of the Federal elections. In these respectable clubs they had been talking about, he had been told that a man found cheating at cards was expelled. But what about the man who on the eve of a Provincial election held up the Liberal Party of this Province to ridicule and scorn by a false story about a contract to bring in fifty thousand Japanese? Yet the man who had done all this was rewarded by not being expelled, but by being given the position of Attorney-General of British Columbia.

"If it is not a question of expediency, where is the principle involved?" asked Mr. Oliver. "What is the difference between obtaining political advantage by false representation, or obtaining goods by false pretences, and the action of the man who obtains goods by false pretences are one, yet you reward one man by putting him behind prison bars and the other by putting him at the head of legal affairs in this Province." (Opposition applause.)

"Then my friend is called Napoleon. Well, he looks like Napoleon and is certainly like him in ambition. He never fails to impress on his party that it is in the interests of the Conservative Party of Canada as a whole that the Premier should withdraw from Provincial politics and go down to Ottawa in act as Mr. Borden's Premier. Does he imagine that people are so blind that they cannot see his reason for this? It is not that he may get the Premier's place? But if the Premier is a man

of such great abilities need him in this Province? Columbia needs the get, and if he is a mar ability, let us keep will be a sorry day for umbia; when the shall be supplanted, Attorney-General." (applause.)

Mr. Oliver continued Attorney-General might qualities of the Iron D the ambition of Napoleon of Wellington. He would last session be thro

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of such great abilities as he says, we need him in this Province. British Columbia needs the best she can get, and if he is a man of such great ability, let us keep him here. It will be a sorry day for British Columbia, when the present Premier shall be supplanted by the present Attorney-General." (Laughter and applause).

Mr. Oliver continued that the Attorney-General might have all the qualities of the Iron Duke, and add to the ambition of Napoleon the bravery of Wellington. He was so brave that last session he threatened to put...

were well known. This company advertised that they had acquired for sale 50,000 acres of fertile land in the Nechaco Valley. It would be interesting to know how it had been acquired. Anyhow these Appleton people were advertising this land, which lay hundreds of miles from a railway and ninety miles from a wagon road, at from \$12 to \$50 an acre, so that intending settlers after travelling in hundreds of miles along the Cariboo Road, were rewarded by finding all this land blanketed by the Appleton Investment Company, and held for sale at these high prices. Mr. Rattenbury,

ler & Bloomfield are representing one of the companies that want to get into the Flathead River country. The Kettle River Valley Railway Company will also seek authority to build a line from Midway to Penticton, a distance of 120 miles, and thence to the Nicola Valley, a distance of 150 miles.

Mr. Oliver passed up a typewritten copy to the Speaker, and there the incident closed.

MR. BOWSER IN REPLY.

HON. MR. BOWSER was greeted with loud applause when he rose to continue the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. Unlike the member for Delta, he began, "I do not think it is necessary to offer any apology for taking part in this debate, because it is one of our duties as members of the Cabinet to answer to this House for our sins of omission and commission since we last met here a year ago; and therefore when anyone criticises our policy it is the duty of every member of the Cabinet to explain to the satisfaction of the House the reason for the course he has taken."

According to his statement the member for Delta last year missed an opportunity to add another to the many speeches with which he enlivened the session. He said he had prepared a speech, but as I did not speak, the division bell was rung on him and the House was not afflicted with another of his many addresses. I regret to have been the innocent cause of preventing him from the pleasure he always finds in inflicting a speech on this House.

What are the reasons I may ask for the bitter speech against myself and the Chief Commissioner of Lands he delivered yesterday? Perhaps the members opposite think that during the coming year an election is in sight, and knowing how dark and cloudy their prospects are, the hon. gentleman delivered his bitter speech thinking he might affect the country to some degree. I may say that I felt particularly honored in being singled out for attack by the member for Delta. A few nights ago a Liberal love feast was held in this city, and I notice from the "Times" report that some of the Liberal members inflicted on that gathering the same style of speeches they have been using in this debate. The member for Delta, according to the "Times" report, said that if they did their duty there was no reason why the party should not give a good account of itself at the next election, even if they did not succeed in getting from power the worst Government this country ever had. That is not very rosy talk from the member for Delta. He practically admits that his party had no chance of being returned and the best he can hope for is that he may be able to give some account of itself. After the Leader of the Opposition and all these other members had spoken, it remained for the member for Chilliwack in those sacred tones of his to deliver the doxology (laughter). He expressed the confidence of the party in their leader, and said that notwithstanding the fact that he had been most unsuccessful ever since leading the party, still the Liberals in the House were a unit behind him.

LIBERAL VS. LIBERAL.

Hon. Mr. Bowser continued that it all reminded him of the saying in Shakespeare: "Methinks he doth protest too much, and so doth bring suspicion on himself." As proof of the loyalty of the Liberals to the Leader of the Opposition, he quoted a speech made by the late lamented Duncan Ross, during the recent Federal campaign, in which he unsparringly condemned the member for Rossland for supporting Premier McBride on Better Terms, and declared that the Liberal Party must get out of the Government hand wagon, and assert themselves as an Opposition and not drift with every effervescence of public opinion. That was the opinion Mr. Duncan Ross had of the member for Rossland, so no wonder it was necessary for the member for Chilliwack to protest their loyalty.

He next dealt with the speech of the Leader of the Opposition during this debate. It had been delivered in a dignified and candid manner and was worthy of some consideration from the Government side of the House. He had complained that in the speech from the Throne there was no suggestion of railway legislation. Surely the hon. gentlemen must have known that the policy of this Government since it came into power in 1903 was of such a sound and businesslike nature that they did not need to be delving into the treasury to develop railway construction. As a result of that policy population had flowed in, the natural resources had been developed and railway construction followed without a cent of aid from the Treasury.

As a proof of railway construction since the McBride Administration took office, he showed that the first 100 miles had been built on the E. & N. Railway from Wellington to French Creek, another 14 miles on the V. W. & Y. from New Westminster to Vancouver, 25 miles on the Great Northern cut-off to Blaine, 27 miles from Blaine to Soma, 41 miles on the Nicola Valley branch of

MR. BOWSER CONVINCING

Attorney-General to Mr. Oliver's Policy.

DELTA IS "TALKING JOHN."

Continues Debate—Attorney-General for Railway and Development.

Respondent.

January 29.—Hon. Mr. Oliver in the debate on the address to Mr. Oliver, occurred in the afternoon in the Attorney-General went on justifying his work in the departments. He spoke of the Provincial fishery, bringing down the net, had saved the fish-Province \$22.50 each last season. He also spoke of the Government, since he had reserved over 100,000 acres of land for pre-empted the liquor licence that licences were refused on an absolute basis. He scored heavily, saying that he was known as "Honest Talking John."

He followed with an ear-splitting and rail-rod. He moved the adjournment. In the galleries heard a speech, which was met with a loud applause.

JANUARY 31, 1909.

THE DAY.

January 29.—This was a busy day in reply to the Attorney-General's speech and powerfully convincing his policy on the subject of fisheries. He effected a saving of \$100,000 by operating in fishing districts during the past season.

Mr. Oliver's charge against the Government was withholding the licence to the member for Delta, who had reserved over seven acres for the use of the pre-empting with the liquor licence that his department had refused to issue. He refused to issue licences. In Prince Rupert they took charge of the board has issued three licences. He went into the details with the Grand Company in regard to the Prince Rupert town. He said that the results of the Government's policy had fixed the terms of the report for all time, and that there could be no repetition of Port Moody and Vancouver. He scored the member for Delta, who he declared had lost his soul in the "Honest Talking John" and was known throughout the length and breadth of the country as "Talking John."

MR. PARKER followed Hon. Mr. Bowser in an optimistic speech full of hope for his own district and for the Province generally, and concluded with an earnest appeal for assistance for the Canadian Northern Railway.

At the opening of the House Mr. Oliver rose to a question of privilege. He said that during the last session he had been the recipient of certain articles and literary efforts sent from unknown sources. The same practice was being repeated this session and he had no wish to be a monopolist of such things. He would send them up to the Speaker for his perusal and in return would edify the House by reading them aloud.

No. 7.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Friday, 29th January, 1909.

Two o'clock, P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. W. L. Clay.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Macgowan—From the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to amend the False Creek Foreshore Act, 1904. (No. 10.)

By Mr. Thomson—From the Pacific Coast Coal Mines, Ltd., for leave to introduce a Private Bill granting the Company enlarged powers. (No. 13.)

By Mr. Davey—From the South-East Kootenay Railway Company, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to extend the time limited for the construction of said railway. (No. 12.)

Mr. Ross presented the Second Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
January 29th, 1909.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That the Standing Orders in connection with the under-mentioned Petitions have been complied with:—

Petition No. 7—An Act to authorise the amalgamation of the Coldstream Estate Company, Limited, and the White Valley Irrigation and Power Company, Limited.

Petition No. 4—An Act to authorise the consolidation of certain Mining Leases in Cariboo by John Hopp.

Petition (No. 11)—An Act to Incorporate the Goat River Water, Power and Light Company.

Petition (No. 16)—An Act to amend the Victoria Water Works Act of 1873 and amending Acts.

Petition (No. 5)—The Prince Rupert and Port Simpson Railway Company.

Your Committee further report that the Standing Orders in connection with Petition (No. 1), An Act relative to the Flathead Valley Railway Company, have been complied with, but with reference to this Petition your said Committee begs leave to call the attention of your Railway Committee to the discrepancy between the prayer of the Petition and the notices of the same as they appear in the newspapers and the British Columbia Gazette.

Your Committee further recommend that the time limited for the receiving of Petitions for Private Bills be extended until February 8th, 1909.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Wm. R. Ross,
Chairman.

The report was received.

The Standing Rules were suspended, and that portion of the Report referring to the extension of time was adopted.

in estimation as a citizen, but politically they were as far apart as the poles. He (Mr. Oliver) was somewhat democratic, but his honorable friend was about 400 years back in his ideas. (Laughter.) He had said that settlers going into the Nechaco Valley now were going in too soon. He (Mr. Oliver) did not know about that. The men who went in there were mostly people of small means who naturally wished to get in and get land cheaply before the railway came there; but the trouble was that when they got in they found the land all blanketed over with the claims of speculators. Certain parties, among whom there seemed to be some friend of the Government who had got in ahead of them. As proof of this, Mr. Oliver produced a pamphlet issued by the Appleton Investment Agency of Seattle. One of the large shareholders of this company was described as Mr. J. A. Harvey, of Cranbrook, a gentleman who had large interests in this Province, and whose party leanings

something will be heard of them. D. C. Corbin has already built a line from Michel to McGillivray, where he is developing a coal mine that is owned by Spokane capitalists, and by means of a continuation of this line an entrance could be gained by the C. P. R. to Montana. Mr. J. J. Hill already has a Great Northern line into Fernie, but there is a shorter and better route into the Flathead district from the main line of the Great Northern, crossing the international boundary near Gateway. The Milwaukee & St. Paul are also in the field, and will build from Central Montana. The Flathead Valley extends south of the boundary, and affords easy routes.

A number of applications for charters is being made to the Legislature at the present session. Mr. F. C. Wade, K. C., is applying on behalf of clients for the right to run a line on Seymour Creek to the Pemberton Meadows, with outlets on the North Arm of the Inlet and Howe Sound. Messrs. Wilson, Bank-

they could be no repetition of Port Moody and Vancouver. He scored the member for Delta, who he declared had lost his soul in the "Honest Talking John" and was known throughout the length and breadth of the country as "Talking John."

MR. PARKER followed Hon. Mr. Bowser in an optimistic speech full of hope for his own district and for the Province generally, and concluded with an earnest appeal for assistance for the Canadian Northern Railway.

(SIXTH DAY)

This was Mr. John Oliver's field day. He and his alone occupied the centre of the stage, and to do him justice the speech he made was one of the best heard so far in the debate on the Address in reply to the Throne. While he travelled over a great deal of old ground, he had also some new points which he utilised with wit and emphasis. He was particularly severe in his censures on the Attorney-General, who listened and took them all good humouredly. Mr. Oliver ranged over a wide field attacking the fiscal policy and land policy of the Government in detail. He provoked a good deal of amusement by his reference to the Attorney-General's Bill for licensing clubs to sell liquor, and twitted Hon. Mr. Bowser with not having yet met Mr. Duncan Ross. He blamed the Government's land policy for keeping the farmers off the land, and wound up with a strong peroration appealing to them to make the land accessible to the farmer, and assuring them that they would have his co-operation if they did so.

Hon. Mr. Bowser moved the adjournment of the debate, and will reply at Friday's sitting.

BILLS AND PETITIONS.

The following petitions were received:

From the corporation of the City of Victoria, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the "Victoria Waterworks Act, 1872," and amending Acts.

From E. V. Bodwell and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Goat River Water, Power and Light Company, Limited.

From M. King and H. B. Robertson, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Prince Rupert and Port Simpson Railway Company.

From E. M. Trickle and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Graham Island Railway Company.

The Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders reported that the standing orders in connection with the undermentioned petitions have been complied with.

Petition No. 4—An Act to incorporate "The Shuswap and Thompson Rivers Boom Company, Limited."

Petition No. 14—An Act to incorporate "The Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Company."

It further reported that the standing orders in connection with Petition No. 2, "Meadow Creek Logging Railway Company," have been complied with, but with reference to this petition your said committee beg leave to call the attention of your Railway Committee to the discrepancy between the prayer of the petition and the notice of same as they appear in the newspapers and British Columbia "Gazette."

The following private bills were introduced:

By Mr. Jardine—Bill No. 54 intitled "An Act to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Company."

Read first time and referred to the Railway Committee.

By Mr. Parson—Bill No. 55 intitled "An Act to incorporate the Shuswap and Thompson Rivers Boom Company, Limited."

Read first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

MR. OLIVER STANDS ALONE.

MR. OLIVER resumed the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. He said he presumed to speak for two reasons. The first was that last session he had refrained from taking part in the debate, and consequently the speech which the Attorney-General had prepared in reply to him was inflicted on his House in instalments all through the session. He rose now to give the Attorney-General a chance to deliver himself, and save the House from a repetition of last session's inflictions. Secondly, he rose because there were many important questions to discuss, and he wished to have something to say on them.

He complimented the mover and seconder of the Address, and after hearing the member for Columbia felt sorry that he had chosen to remain silent for the past two years. The seconder (Mr. Daver) had acquitted himself with credit as a public speaker, but it had been his misfortune to present to the House a series of figures which had evidently been supplied to him from outside sources, and consequently he was not to blame if they were nearly all inaccurate. As it was that gentleman had not been able to get through his speech without condemning the Government, and instancing the fact that coal mined on Vancouver Island sold cheaper in Seattle than in Vancouver and Victoria. Yet the party he supported was responsible for this very grievance. Two years ago they had been elected on a platform which invited the Government to sell for

public use of a portion of all coal areas alienated, and yet last session the very same party had voted down a resolution of one of their own members asking for a commission to inquire into the question of coal prices. That was the Government's record on the coal question.

The Opposition had also been supported in their condemnation of the Public School Act by the member for Cowichan in his criticism of the working of the School Act in rural districts. He hoped that gentleman would support a resolution condemning the Government for their action in this matter, as the Opposition had time and time again called attention to the delinquencies of the Act in rural districts with avail.

CONTINUAL CRITICISM.

Mr. Oliver then turned to the public accounts, claiming that Mr. Daver had been quite incorrect when he had been defending the Government's fiscal policy. He had claimed that increase in revenue came from development of natural resources only, but while there had been increase in revenue from timber \$1,125,000, it was simply an advance made by timber speculators that might better exploit the natural resources of the Province, after the increased appropriations amounting to \$225,000 in Dominion Government subsidies; and \$225,000 of Chinese head tax. Did they call a result of the development of natural resources of the Province (laughter). Then there was an increase of wild land tax that indicated nothing more than that 900 more acres of the wild land the Province had been alienated to speculators. There was an advance from coal mining of \$18,000, against a decrease of \$25,000 in mining and \$23,000 from timber duties? Did all this show that there was an increased development of natural resources of the Province claimed by the second member for Victoria? He had shown himself a good old Tory by advocating abolition of the personal property and income tax. The income had always been regarded by Liberals as an equitable way of raising revenue from those who could best afford to pay it.

LAND HELD BY ABSENTEES.

The Leader of the Opposition, on the other hand, instead of abolishing these taxes he advocated handing them over to municipalities in which they levied. The expenses of municipalities were so heavy that taxes under any circumstances must be heavier within municipalities outside. Even in his own district of Delta one of the oldest in the Province, the roads were in shape that on his way out he got out of his buggy and a mile after mile, while his horse gazed the empty buggy through mud. The trouble was that so much land was held by absentees, on which they could not levy a high rate, and past whose lands had to be built. The fault lay so much in this instance with the Government as with laws that were changing.

"This is a question above party," said Mr. Oliver, "and it is one which this House should grapple with, handing over to the municipalities the personal property and income tax amounting to a quarter of a million dollars, a solution would be continually bothered by delegates constantly coming down here asking for more help."

"What can the municipalities do? Even in this beautiful City of Victoria, they are asking the Government to assist them to beautify City. The streets of this city are in a disgraceful condition for want of funds. It does not speak very highly for this Province that strangers coming to the Capital find themselves up to their knees in mud. They usually go away with the impression that it rains all the time here. But if it is so in a city as wealthy as this, how much worse must it be in the rural districts where many settlers are just struggling to get on a footing, and I ask in the face of all this, how can the Government reasonably refuse the municipalities the assistance they ask?"

The seconder of the Address had also said that this year the farmers had been blessed with bounteous crops and had much to be thankful for. Well, he was a farmer and knew something about it, and he could tell the honorable gentleman that the crops in British Columbia during the past season had been below the level of ordinary years, and many farmers had their potatoes so frozen that they could not get more than \$10 a ton for them. This hardly coincided with the picture drawn by the seconder member for Vancouver, yet he agreed with him that there was still much to be thankful for as they

had at least sufficient for their needs. There was reason for thankfulness also that in spite of the disastrous fire at Fernie, the town was building up so well again.

PRE-EMPTION RECORDS.

It was said that 1,600 pre-emption records had been taken out this year as against 270 in the previous year. This was no indication of actual settlement. A year or two ago a company had been formed to assist men to pre-emption duties and to get titles for land which the company afterwards took over. Many of

Mr. Oliver, that the Government ascertained their politics before licences were granted at all.

Why did they take the trouble to ascertain the politics of these licence holders at all, and why were their licences cancelled in the year of a Federal election? For what purpose was it, unless it was that political pressure was brought to bear upon them? (Opposition applause.)

Through an inspired article in the "Colonist" the Attorney-General had also advertised the club licences which he was going to impose, and which he could cancel at his will.

of such great abilities need him in this Province. Columbia needs the best, and if he is a man of ability, let us keep him. It will be a sorry day for Columbia when the province shall be supplanted by an Attorney-General's applause.

Mr. Oliver continued to praise the qualities of the Iron Dredger of Wellington. He was last session he threatened to

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session. The debate was again adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

The following Private Bills were introduced and read a first time:—

By Mr. Ross—Bill (No. 50) intitled "An Act to Incorporate the Flathead Valley Railway Company." Referred to the Railway Committee.

By Mr. Ross—Bill (No. 51) intitled "An Act to Incorporate the Meadow Creek Logging Railway Company." Referred to the Railway Committee.

By Mr. Schofield—Bill (No. 60) intitled "An Act to Incorporate the Goat River Water, Power and Light Company, Limited." Referred to the Private Bills Committee.

On the motion of Mr. Hawthorthwaite, Bill (No. 10) intitled "An Act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act," was introduced, read a first time and Ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

On the motion of Mr. McLinnis, Bill (No. 11) intitled "An Act to amend the Inspection of Metalliferous Mines Act, 1899," was introduced, read a first time and Ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:—

- 1. What portion of the \$25,378 expended upon the Canoe Pass Bridge was for labour?
2. What amounts were for each kind of material?
3. Does this expenditure include all the material required in construction of said bridge?

The Hon. Mr. McBride replied as follows:—

- 1. \$5,031.97.
2. Lumber, \$42.98; tools, etc., \$135.27; rock, \$768; tools, etc., \$30.50; board and expenses, \$26.30; tools, etc., \$56.20; freight, \$15.50; livery, \$5; tools, \$2.75; freight, .25; engineering, \$9.35; rock, \$650.40; piles, \$1,193.73; board and expenses, \$22.70; lumber, \$544.45; scow rent, \$81.50; freight, \$6; tools, \$4.75; steel-work, \$8,071.53; lumber, \$4.12; livery, \$7.50; board and expenses, \$13.90; tools, etc., \$24.05; iron bolts, etc., \$172.92; lumber, \$117.41; lumber, \$250.86; lumber, \$146.16; lumber, \$472.99; board and expenses, \$58.95; tools, \$8.50; engineering, \$9.35; fuel, \$106.88; lumber, \$24; lumber, \$249.90; lumber, \$440.57; bolts, etc., \$385.39; W. & C. iron, \$682.95; W. & C. iron, \$9.18; freight, \$9; livery, \$15; iron-work, \$115.75; scow rent and towing, \$70; board, \$30.55; horse hire, \$19.50; engineering, \$19.90; board, 27.80; coal, \$52.50; bolts, supplies, etc., \$251.07; lumber, \$293.85; lumber, \$687.13; bolts, \$4.75; lumber, \$506.80; piles, \$580.65; board, \$17; lumber, \$269.62; lumber, \$341.42; lumber, 537.73; piles, \$588.84; board, \$32.55; spikes, nails, supplies, \$253.38; engineering, \$9.85; coal, \$121.05; towing, \$80; piles, \$477.60.
3. Yes.

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Works the following questions:—

- 1. What amounts of money were expended during the calendar year 1908 in connection with painting the New Westminster bridge?
2. To whom were such moneys paid, and for what consideration?

The Hon. Mr. McBride replied as follows:—

- 1. \$3,109.50, \$155.50, \$4, \$1,177.30, \$385, \$204.75, \$100.65, \$103.25, \$53.40, 42.90, \$3.50, \$15, \$160.
2. F. Darling, purchase sand blast plant; M. H. Rushton, erection of sand blast plant; B. C. Transfer Co., hauling; B. A. Paint Co., purchase of paint; W. S. Phipps, purchase of sand; D. Marshall, foreman painter; W. Costigan, A. Robertson, J. Sinclair, R. Curnew, painters; J. Rennie, engineer.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

D. M. EBERTS, Speaker.

before that House.

"That motion was voted down by our friends opposite at that time, and yet the seconder of the Address tells us now that these proposals are worthy of serious consideration," said Mr. Oliver sarcastically.

He continued that it had been advertised that the Attorney-General was to follow him in that debate, and according to his friends he was simply going to eat him up. Well, if the Attorney-General did follow him he would only ask him to controvert the facts he (Mr. Oliver) was placing before the House. If he did that he would find enough to keep him occupied without dealing in Federal politics and telling how the Conservatives had won the recent election in British Columbia.

A great deal had been said about the Attorney-General's system of licensing, and the Premier had told them that 25 licences had been cancelled last year, and most of the holders were Conservatives. How did he know that? "I suppose," said

of obtaining representations. The statement made in the Victoria theatre before the last Provincial election in order to obtain votes by false pretences, and the action of the man who obtains goods by false pretences are one, yet you reward one man by putting him behind prison bars, and the other by putting him at the head of legal affairs in this Province." (Opposition applause.)

"Then my friend is called Napoleon. Well, he looks like Napoleon and is certainly like him in ambition. He never fails to impress on his party that it is in the interests of the Conservative Party of Canada as a whole that the Premier should withdraw from Provincial politics and go down to Ottawa to act as Mr. Borden's lieutenant, if not as Mr. Borden's Premier. Does he imagine that people are so blind that they cannot see his reason for this? It is not that he may get the Premier's place? But if the Premier is a man

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Mr. Oliver continued that the Attorney-General might have all the qualities of the Iron Duke, and add to the ambition of Napoleon the bravery of Wellington. He was so brave that last session he threatened to pursue Mr. Duncan through Yale

were well known. This company advertised that they had acquired for sale 50,000 acres of fertile land in the Nechaco Valley. It would be interesting to know how it had been acquired. Anyhow, these Appleton people were advertising this land, which lay hundreds of miles from a railway and ninety miles from a wagon road, at from \$12 to \$30 an acre, so that intending settlers after travelling in hundreds of miles along the Cariboo Road, were rewarded by finding all this land blanketed by the Appleton Investment Company, and held for sale at these high prices. Mr. Rattenbury,

ler & Bloomfield are representing one of the companies that want to get into the Flathead River country. The Kettle River Valley Railway Company will also seek authority to build a line from Midway to Penticton, a distance of 120 miles, and thence to the Nicola Valley, a distance of 150 miles.

Mr. Oliver passed up a handwritten slip to the Speaker, and these the incident closed.

MR. BOWSER IN REPLY

HON. MR. BOWSER was greeted with loud applause when he rose to continue the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. "Unlike the member for Delta," he began, "I do not think it is necessary to offer any apology for taking part in this debate, because it is one of our duties as members of the Cabinet to answer to this House for our sins of omission and commission since we last met here a year ago; and therefore, when anyone criticises our policy it is the duty of every member of the Cabinet to explain to the satisfaction of the House the reason for the course he has taken."

According to his statement, the member for Delta last year missed an opportunity to add another to the many speeches with which he enlivened the session. He said he had prepared a speech, but as I did not speak the division bell was rung on him and the House was not afflicted with another of his many addresses. I regret to have been the innocent cause of preventing him from the pleasure he always finds in inflicting a speech on this House.

What are the reasons I may ask for the bitter speech against myself and the Chief Commissioner of Lands he delivered yesterday? Perhaps the members opposite think that during the coming year an election is in sight, and knowing how dark and cloudy their prospects are, the hon. gentleman delivered his bitter speech thinking he might affect the country to some degree. I may say that I felt particularly honored in being singled out for attack by the member for Delta. A few nights ago a Liberal love feast was held in this city, and I notice from the "Times" report that some of the Liberal members inflicted on that gathering the same style of speeches they have been using in this debate. The member for Delta, according to the "Times" report, said that if they did their duty there was no reason why the party should not give a good account of itself at the next election, even if they did not succeed in ousting from power the worst Government this country ever had. That is not very rosy talk from the member for Delta. He practically admits that his party had no chance of being returned and the best he can hope for is that he may be able to give some account of himself. After the Leader of the Opposition and all these other members had spoken, if remnant for the member for Chilliwack in those sacred tones of his to deliver the doxology. (Laughter.) He expressed the confidence of the party in their leader, and said that notwithstanding the fact that he had been most unsuccessful ever since leading the party, still the Liberals in the House were a unit behind him.

LIBERAL VS. LIBERAL

Hon. Mr. Bowser continued that it all reminded him of the saying in Shakespeare: "Methinks he doth protest too much, and so doth bring suspicion on himself." As proof of the loyalty of the Liberals to the Leader of the Opposition, he quoted a speech made by the late lamented Duncan Ross, during the recent Federal campaign, in which he unapologetically condemned the member for Rossland for supporting Premier McBride on Better Terms, and declared that the Liberal Party must get out of the Government band wagon and assert themselves as an Opposition and not drift with every effervescence of public opinion. That was the opinion Mr. Duncan Ross had of the member for Rossland, so no wonder it was necessary for the member for Chilliwack to protest their loyalty.

He next dealt with the speech of the Leader of the Opposition during this debate. It had been delivered in a dignified and candid manner and was worthy of some consideration from the Government side of the House. He had complained that in the Speech from the Throne there was no suggestion of railway legislation. Surely the hon. gentlemen must have known that the policy of this Government since it came into power in 1903 was of such a sound and businesslike nature that they did not need to be delving into the Treasury to develop railway construction. As a result of that policy population had flowed in, the natural resources had been developed and railway construction followed without a cent of aid from the Treasury. As a proof of railway construction since the McBride Administration took office, he showed that the first 10 miles had been built on the E. & N. Railway from Wellington to French Creek, another 14 miles on the V. W. & Y. from New Westminster to Vancouver, 25 miles on the Great Northern cut-off to Blaine, 26 miles from Blaine to Soma, 21 miles on the Nicola Valley branch

MR. BOWSER CONVINCING

Attorney-General to Mr. Oliver's Policy.

DELTA IS "TALKING JOHN"

Continues Debate for Railway and Development.

Respondent.

January 29.—Hon. Mr. Oliver in the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, the Attorney-General went into the details of his policy on the fisheries. He was bringing down the hammer on the member for Delta, who had saved the fishery from the Province \$22,500 each season. He also pointed out that the Government, since the member for Delta had reserved over 100,000 acres of land for pre-empted the liquor licence were refused on an absolute basis. He scored severely, saying that he was known as "Honest Talking John."

He followed with an earnest horticultural and rail-roads speech, which was met with loud applause.

JANUARY 31, 1909.

ENTH DAY

January 29.—This was the first day in reply to the Attorney-General's speech on the fisheries. He produced figures to show the value of fisheries in the Province as a whole, and the value of fishing boats operating in fishing districts during the past season.

Mr. Oliver's charge against the member for Delta, he showed that the Government had reserved over seven for the use of the pre-empting with the liquor licence under the Government had refused seventy-odd licences and cancelled licences. In Prince George they took charge, the board has issued three licences. He went into the details of the Grand Trunk Company in regard to the Flathead River country. He said that the results of the Government's policy had fixed the terms of the contract for all time, and that the member for Delta could do nothing to alter them.

Mr. Bowser followed the member for Delta, who, he declared, had lost his soul to the "Honest Talking John" and was known throughout the length and breadth of the country as "Talking John."

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At the opening of the debate Mr. Oliver rose to a question of privilege. He said that during the last session he had been recipient of certain anonymous and literary efforts sent from unknown sources. The same practice was being repeated this session and he had only wish to be a motorist on such things. He would send them up to the Speaker for his personal use, and in return would edify the House by reading them aloud.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of copies of all leases granted under the provisions of sub-section (5) of Chapter 30, Statutes of 1901; also, for copies of all correspondence, telegrams or other papers or documents between the Government, or any member thereof, and any other person or persons, in relation to such leases; also, for copies of any regulations, restrictions and conditions established by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council in connection with such leases.

By Mr. Oliver—On Monday next—Questions of the Hon. the Commissioner of Works—

1. What public works have been executed in each Electoral District and paid for under authority of Special Warrants? And what amount has been paid on account of each such work?
2. What public works have been authorised in each Electoral District to be paid for under authority of Special Warrants, beyond those mentioned in the answer to question 1?
3. Will the Government bring down a statement forthwith showing the details of the expenditures under authority of Special Warrants?

VICTORIA, B. C.

Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, L.S.O., V.D., Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1909.

in estimation as a citizen, but politically they were as far apart as the poles. He (Mr. Oliver) was somewhat democratic, but his honorable friend was about 100 years back in his ideas. (Laughter.) He had said that settlers going into the Nechaco Valley now were going in too soon. He (Mr. Oliver) did not know about that. The men who went in there were mostly people of small means who naturally wished to get in and get land cheaply before the railway came there; but the trouble was that when they got in they found the land all blanketed over with the claims of speculators. Certain parties, among whom there seemed to be some friend of the Government who had got in ahead of them. As proof of this, Mr. Oliver produced a pamphlet issued by the Appleton Investment Agency of Seattle. One of the large shareholders of this company was described as Mr. J. A. Harvey, of Cranbrook, a gentleman who had large interests in this Province, and whose party leanings

something will be heard of them. D. C. Corbin has already built a line from Michel to McGillivray, where he is developing a coal mine that is owned by Spokane capitalists, and by means of a continuation of this line an entrance could be gained by the C. P. R. to Montana. Mr. J. A. Hill already has a Great Northern line into Fernie, but there is a shorter and better route into the Flathead district from the main line of the Great Northern, crossing the International boundary near Gateway. The Milwaukee & St. Paul are also in the field, and will build from Central Montana. The Flathead Valley extends south of the boundary, and affords easy routes.

A number of applications for charters is being made to the Legislature at the present session. Mr. F. C. Wade, K. C., is applying on behalf of clients for the right to run a line up Seymour Creek to the Pemberton Meadows, with outlets on the North Arm of the Inlet and Howe Sound. Messrs. Wilson, Bank-

these could be no objection to Port Moody and Vancouver. He scored the member for Delta, who, he declared, had lost his soul to the "Honest Talking John" and was known throughout the length and breadth of the country as "Talking John."

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(SIXTH DAY)

This was Mr. John Oliver's field day. He and he alone occupied the centre of the stage, and to do him justice the speech he made was one of the best heard so far in the debate on the Address in reply to the Throne. While he travelled over a great deal of old ground, he had also some new points which he utilised with wit and emphasis. He was particularly severe in his censures on the Attorney-General, who listened and took them all good humoredly. Mr. Oliver ranged over a wide field attacking the fiscal policy and land policy of the Government in detail. He provoked a good deal of amusement by his reference to the Attorney-General's Bill for licensing clubs to sell liquor, and twitted Hon. Mr. Bowser with not having yet met Mr. Duncan Ross. He blamed the Government's land policy for keeping the farmers off the land, and wound up with a strong peroration appealing to them to make the land accessible to the farmer, and assuring them that they would have his co-operation if they did so.

Hon. Mr. Bowser moved the adjournment of the debate, and will reply at Friday's sitting.

BILLS AND PETITIONS.

The following petitions were received:

From the corporation of the City of Victoria, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend the "Victoria Waterworks Act, 1872," and amending Acts.

From E. V. Badwell and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Goat River Water, Power and Light Company, Limited.

From M. King and H. B. Robertson, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Prince Rupert and Port Simpson Railway Company.

From E. M. Trackson and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Graham Island Railway Company.

The Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders reported that the standing orders in connection with the undermentioned petitions have been complied with.

Petition No. 6—An Act to incorporate "The Shuswap and Thompson Rivers Boom Company, Limited."

Petition No. 14—An Act to incorporate "The Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Company."

It further reported that the standing orders in connection with Petition No. 2, "Meadow Creek Logging Railway Company," have been complied with, but with reference to this petition your said committee beg leave to call the attention of your Railway Committee to the discrepancy between the prayer of the petition and the notice of name as they appear in the newspapers and British Columbia "Gazette."

The following private bills were introduced:

By Mr. Jardine—Bill No. 84 intitled "An Act to incorporate the Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway Company."

Read first time and referred to the Railway Committee.

By Mr. Farrow—Bill No. 85 intitled "An Act to incorporate the Shuswap and Thompson Rivers Boom Company, Limited."

Read first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

MR. OLIVER STANDS ALONE.

MR. OLIVER resumed the debate on the Address in Reply to the speech from the Throne. He said he presumed to speak for two reasons. The first was that last session he had refrained from taking part in the debate, and consequently the speech which the Attorney-General had prepared in reply to him was inflicted on the House in instalments all through the session. He rose now to give the Attorney-General a chance to deliver himself and save the House from a repetition of last session's inflictions. Secondly, he rose because there were many important questions to discuss, and he wished to have something to say on them.

He complimented the mover and seconder of the Address, and after hearing the member for Columbia felt sorry that he had chosen to remain silent for the past two years. The seconder (Mr. Daver) had acquitted himself with credit as a public speaker, but it had been his misfortune to present to the House a series of figures which had evidently been supplied to him from outside sources, and consequently he was not to blame if they were nearly all inaccurate. It was, that gentleman had not been able to get through his speech without condemning the Government, and insinuating the fact that coal mined on Vancouver Island sold cheaper in Seattle than in Vancouver and Victoria. Yet the party he supported was responsible for this very grievance. Two years ago they had been elected on a platform which promised for the coming year to

public use of a portion of all coal areas alienated, and yet last session the very same party had voted down a resolution of one of their own members asking for a commission to inquire into the question of coal prices. That was the Government's record on the coal question.

The Opposition had also been supported in their condemnation of the Public School Act by the member for Cowichan in his criticism of the working of the School Act in rural districts. He hoped that gentleman would support a resolution condemning the Government for their action in this matter, as the Opposition had time and time again called attention to the iniquitous working of the Act in rural districts with avail.

CONTINUAL CRITICISM.

Mr. Oliver then turned to the public accounts, claiming that Mr. D. had been quite incorrect when he had been defending the Government's fiscal policy. He had claimed that increase in revenue came from development of natural resources only, but while there had been an increase in revenue from timber \$1,125,000, it was simply an advance made by timber speculators that might better exploit the natural resources of the Province, after the increase of revenue from the increased appropriations amounting to \$225,000 in Dominion Government subsidies; and \$228,000 Chinese head tax. Did they call a result of the development of natural resources of the Province (laughter). Then there was an increase of wild land tax that indicated nothing more than that 500 more acres of the wild land the Province had been alienated to speculators. There was an increase from coal mining of \$18,000, against a decrease of \$25,000 from mining and \$23,000 from timber duties? Did all this show that there was an increased development of natural resources of the Province claimed by the second member for Victoria? He had shown him a good old story by advocating abolition of the personal property and income tax. The income had always been regarded by Liberals as an equitable way of raising revenue from those who could best afford to pay it.

LAND HELD BY ABSENTEES.

The Leader of the Opposition, on the other hand, instead of advocating that these taxes be abolished, advocated handing them over to municipalities in which they were levied. The expenses of municipalities were so heavy that tax under any circumstances must be heavier within municipalities outside. Even in his own district of Delta one of the oldest in the Province, the roads were in such a shape that on his way out he had to get out of his buggy and walk a mile after mile, while his horse galloped the empty buggy through mud. The trouble was that so much land was held by absentees, on which they could not levy a high tax, and past whose lands they had to be built. The fault lay so much in this instance with the Government as with laws that were changing.

"This is a question above party," said Mr. Oliver, "and it is one that this House should grapple with, handing over to the municipalities the personal property and income tax amounting to a quarter of a million dollars, a solution would be continually bothered down by delegations coming down here asking for more help."

"What can the municipalities do? Even in this beautiful City of Victoria, they are asking the Government to assist them to beautify the City. The streets of this city are in a disgraceful condition for want of funds. It does not speak very highly for this Province that strangers visiting to the Capital find themselves up to their knees in mud. They usually go away with the impression that it rains all the time here. But if it is so in a city as wealthy as this, how much worse must it be in the rural districts where many settlers are just struggling to get on a footing, and I ask in the face of all this, how can the Government reasonably refuse the municipalities the assistance they ask?"

The seconder of the Address had also said that this year the farmers had been blessed with bounteous crops and had much to be thankful for. Well, he was a farmer and knew something about it, and he could tell the honorable gentleman that the crops in British Columbia during the past season had been below the level of ordinary years, and many farmers had their potatoes so frozen that they could not get more than \$10 a ton for them. This hardly coincided with the picture drawn by the seconder member for Vancouver, yet he agreed with him that there was still much to be thankful for as they

had at least sufficient for their needs. There was reason for thankfulness also that in spite of the disastrous fire at Fernie, the town was building up so well again.

PRE-EMPTION RECORDS.

It was said that 1,800 pre-emption records had been taken out this year as against 970 in the previous year. This was no indication of actual settlement. A year or two ago a company had been formed to assist men to pre-empt duties and to get titles for land which the company afterwards took over. Many of

Mr. Oliver, that the Government ascertained their politics before licences were granted at all.

Why did they take the trouble to ascertain the politics of these licence holders at all, and why were their licences cancelled in the year of a Federal election? For what purpose was it, unless it was that political pressure was brought to bear upon them? (Opposition applause).

Through an inspired article in the "Colonist" the Attorney-General had also advertised the club licences which he was going to impose, and which he could cancel at his will.

of such great abilities I need him in this Province. Columbia needs the get, and if he is a man ability, let us keep I will be a sorry day for Umbria, when the pre shall be supplanted, Attorney-General." (applause).

Mr. Oliver continued to attack the Attorney-General, might, qualities of the Iron Duke the ambition of Napoleon of Wellington. He was last session he threatened Mr. Duncan Ross Cariboo at the next election fairly eat him up. He has passed; Mr. Ross to Vancouver to speak not heard that the A had tried to get on I Oliver sadly, "I suppose the dim and distant in this world, then (Laughter).

FISHERY POLICY.

He next attacked the Attorney-General's fishery policy. He had encouraged a battle between the Dominion fishery officials. He imposed a double tax on men who had to their living in all whose returns were taken. The Attorney-General framed regulations, possibly framed regulations, strife with the Dominion and the fishermen were He had been present in Court in New Westminster of these men were, without a Provincial never saw more proceedings. The case was not ready to these men deprived labor in the thick of son. When they were found that they had out licences, and the fishing at wrong hours cutting attorney had mouths of these men meant to use, and case of persecution.

"These men were," said Mr. Oliver, "and about it that I brought to the notice of the Province. And as a result of those men demand of the Attorney he hold an inquiry."

He continued that who tried the case, old man, and in it had accepted the prosecuting attorney time to pay it in. He sent them to gaol the case would not be brought on an application corpus. "My constant been deprived of the last past season of the Attorney Mr. Oliver, "and I deal with this matter, House whether this continue or not." ingenuity in finding sir, my life is on the shoulders by the agreement of this Premier).

The Premier had Opposition had not the Government on interest to the Province to point out a situation which we have not the interests of the concerned. If the advantage of our not our fault, but density of our (Laughter).

AFTER MR. OLIVER.

After his annual Government's timber ver turned his attention for the Island in estimation as a literally they were the poles. He (somewhat democratic) friend was back in his ideas, had said that north of the Valley not too soon. He (Mr. know about that, went in there with small means was to get in and get fore the railway as trouble was that they found the over with the claret Carlin parties, and seemed to be soon Government who them. As proof produced a pamphlet Appleton Investment title. One of the of this company was J. A. Harvey, of C men who had large practices, and who

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of such great abilities as he says, we need him in this Province. British Columbia needs the best she can get, and if he is a man of such great ability, let us keep him here. It will be a sorry day for British Columbia, when the present Premier shall be supplanted by the present Attorney-General." (Laughter and applause).

Mr. Oliver continued that the Attorney-General might have all the qualities of the Iron Duke, and add to the ambition of Napoleon the bravery of Wellington. He was so brave that last session he threatened to pursue Mr. Duncan Ross through Yale-Cariboo at the next election and fairly eat him up. But the election has passed; Mr. Ross had even come to Vancouver to speak, and he had not heard that the Attorney-General had tried to get on his platform or had met him yet. "I don't know when these two will meet," said Mr. Oliver sadly, "I suppose some time in the dim and distant future. If not in this world, then in the next." (Laughter).

FISHERY POLICY ATTACKED.

He next attacked the Attorney-General's fishery policy, holding that he had encouraged a policy of strife between the Dominion and Provincial fishery officials. Moreover, he had imposed a double tax on a class of men who had to work hard for their living in all weathers, and whose returns were always uncertain. The Attorney-General had purposely framed regulations to create strife with the Dominion officials, and the fishermen were the sufferers. He had been present in the Police Court in New Westminster when two of these men were tried for fishing without a Provincial licence, and he never saw more disgraceful proceedings. The case had been twice postponed because the prosecution was not ready to go on, and these men deprived of two days' labor in the thick of the fishing season. When they were tried it was found that they had already taken out licences, and they were tried for fishing at wrong hours. The prosecuting attorney had put words in the mouths of these men that they never meant to use, and it was simply a case of persecution.

"These men were my constituents," said Mr. Oliver, "and I felt so keenly about it that I brought the matter to the notice of the Premier of this Province. And as the representative of those men in this House I demand of the Attorney-General that he hold an inquiry into this case."

He continued that the Magistrate who tried the case was an infirm old man, and in imposing the fine had accepted the suggestion of the prosecuting attorney, and given them time to pay it in instalments. Had he sent them to gaol he knew that the case would at once have been brought to a test and the men released on an application for habeas corpus. "My constituents, sir, have been deprived of their livelihood during the past season by the persecutions of the Attorney-General," said Mr. Oliver, "and I challenge him to deal with this matter and tell the House whether this persecution is to continue or not. They talk of my ingenuity in finding grievances. Why, sir, my life is made a burden by the injustices heaped upon my shoulders by the actions of the Government of this Province." (Laughter).

The Premier had stated that the Opposition had not co-operated with the Government on questions of interest to the Province. "I defy them to point out a single instance in which we have not co-operated where the interests of the Province were concerned. If they have not taken advantage of our suggestions it is not our fault, but is owing to the density of our friends opposite." (Laughter).

AFTER MR. McPHILLIPS.

After his annual attack on the Government's timber policy, Mr. Oliver turned his attention to the member for the Islands. He held him in estimation as a citizen, but politically they were as far apart as the poles. He (Mr. Oliver) was somewhat democratic, but his honorable friend was about 400 years back to his ideas. (Laughter). He had said that settlers going into the Nechaco Valley now were going in too soon. He (Mr. Oliver) did not know about that. The men who went in there were mostly people of small means who naturally wished to get in and get land cheaply before the railway came there; but the trouble was that when they got in they found the land all blanketed over with the claims of speculators. Certain parties, among whom there seemed to be some friends of the Government who had got in ahead of them. As proof of this, Mr. Oliver produced a pamphlet issued by the Appleton Investment Agency of Seattle. One of the large shareholders of this company was described as Mr. J. A. Harvey, of Cranbrook, a gentleman who had large interests in this Province, and whose party leanings

were well known. This company advertised that they had acquired for sale 50,000 acres of fertile land in the Nechaco Valley. It would be interesting to know how it had been acquired. Anyhow these Appleton people were advertising this land, which lay hundreds of miles from a railway and ninety miles from a wagon road, at from \$12 to \$50 an acre, so that intending settlers after travelling in hundreds of miles along the Cariboo Road, were rewarded by finding all this land blanketed by the Appleton Investment Company, and held for sale at these high prices. Mr. Rattenbury, of Victoria, was another gentleman who was described as having sold 13,000 acres of land to a company which again was holding it for higher prices. Another company had sold 11,000 acres of land to another set of speculators, who would also have their pound of flesh before the land could be touched by the actual settler. If meant that altogether 74,000 acres of the fertile land of the Nechaco Valley was tied up in the hands of speculators, and withheld from settlement by the high prices they asked.

SPECULATORS CONDEMNED.

"I ask whether this is a healthy state of affairs?" said Mr. Oliver. British Columbia has to import hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of farm produce every year, and while the most fertile land is tied up in this fashion 90 per cent. of the people are congregated in the towns. I claim that this crowding to the towns is partly a result of the policy of the Government which keeps the people from going on the land."

He compared conditions with Ireland, and declared that the Government by its land policy was laying the foundation of worse conditions than had ever existed in Ireland. American speculators were allowed to come in and secure the best of our timber, our mines and our land, and if this policy continued, the people of British Columbia would become mere hewers of wood and drawers of water to these men. (Applause).

He declared that by the timber royalties and licences, men who were actually engaged in developing the industry were taxed to the hilt, while men who tied up hundreds of acres of good timber land under pulp licences were let off with a tax of two cents an acre. Not only was the timber unused but a great deal of good and was thus held back from settlement.

"I want to appeal to you," he said, addressing the Government benches, "to give back the soil to the people. It is a right which God Almighty gave them, and if you withhold it from them I say that you are criminally guilty in that. (Cheers). Such a policy is not in the best interests of the country. This is a country immensely rich in natural advantages or it could never have stood the strain upon its resources of the last thirty years. I say it is the duty of the Government to cast aside its party predilections and view things from a patriotic standpoint, and make it their first principle that their policy shall be for the whole of the people without favor for any, and if the Premier will introduce such legislation we on this side will give it our most hearty support." (Loud and continued applause).

HON. MR. BOWSER moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

Coal Fields of the Flathead Valley Are an Attraction.

Three railways are seeking the business of conveying the coal of the Flathead country, in Canadian territory south of Fernie, to the smelters of Montana, and before the session of the Legislature is through something will be heard of them. D. C. Corbin has already built a line from Michel to McGillivray, where he is developing a coal mine that is owned by Spokane capitalists, and by means of a continuation of this line an entrance could be gained by the C. P. R. to Montana. Mr. J. J. Hill already has a Great Northern line into Fernie, but there is a shorter and better route into the Flathead district from the main line of the Great Northern, crossing the International boundary near Gateway. The Milwaukee & St. Paul are also in the field, and will build from Central Montana. The Flathead Valley extends south of the boundary, and affords easy routes.

A number of applications for charters is being made to the Legislature at the present session. Mr. F. C. Wade, K. C., is applying on behalf of clients for the right to run a line up Seymour Creek to the Pemberton Meadows, with outlets on the North Arm of the Inlet and Howe Sound. Messrs. Wilson, Sch-

ler & Bloomfield are representing one of the companies that want to get into the Flathead River country. The Kettle River Valley Railway Company will also seek authority to build a line from Midway to Penikese, a distance of 120 miles, and thence to the Nicola Valley, a distance of 150 miles.

MR. BOWSER CONVINCING

Reply of Attorney-General to Mr. Oliver's Criticisms of the Government's Policy.

MEMBER FOR DELTA IS NOW "TALKING JOHN."

Mr. Price Ellison Continues Debate—Urgent Appeal for Railway and Horticultural Development.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Victoria, January 29.—Hon. Mr. Bowser's speech in the debate on the Address, replying to Mr. Oliver, occupied nearly all the afternoon in the House. The Attorney-General went into details, fully justifying his work in the different departments. He showed that the Provincial fishery regulations, by bringing down the price of licences, had saved the fishermen of the Province \$22.50 each during the past season. He also showed that the Government, since assuming office, had reserved over seven million acres of land for pre-emption. He vindicated the liquor policy by showing that licences were cancelled and refused on an absolutely non-partisan basis. He scored Mr. Oliver severely, saying that he was no longer known as "Honest John" but as "Talking John."

Mr. Ellison followed with an earnest plea for horticultural and railway development.

Mr. Williams moved the adjournment of the debate.

A large crowd in the galleries heard Mr. Bowser's speech, which was greeted with frequent applause.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1909.

SEVENTH DAY.

Victoria, January 29.—This was Hon. Mr. Bowser's first day in reply to Mr. Oliver. The Attorney-General delivered an impressive and powerful speech, vindicating his policy on every point. He produced figures to show that his policy of fisheries regulations had effected a saving of \$2.50 on every fishing boat operating in the different fishing districts of the Province during the past season.

In answer to Mr. Oliver's charge that the Government was withholding land from settlement, he showed that since the Government came into power they had reserved over seven million acres for the use of the pre-emptor. Dealing with the liquor question, he showed that his department since taking the licences under their charge had refused seventy-five applications and cancelled twenty-five licences. In Prince Rupert, when they took charge, the old licence board had issued three licences, but the Department cancelled them at once. He went into the details of the bargain with the Grand Trunk Pacific Company in regard to the division of Prince Rupert town-site, and claimed that the results had fully justified the Government's policy. He had fixed the terms at Prince Rupert for all B.C. and there could be no objection to Port Moody and Vancouver. He scored the member for Delta, who, he declared, had lost his sobriquet of "Honest John" and was known throughout the length and breadth of the country as "Talking John."

Mr. Price Ellison followed Hon. Mr. Bowser in an optimistic speech full of hope for his own district and for the Province generally, and concluded with the earnest appeal for assistance for the Canadian Northern Railway.

Mr. Parker followed in the adjournment of the debate.

At the opening of the House Mr. Oliver rose to a question of privilege. He said that during the last session he had been recipient of certain articles and literary efforts sent from unknown sources. The same practice was being repeated this session and he had no wish to be a monopolist of such things. He would send them up to the Speaker for his disposal, and in future would edify the House by sending them aloud.

Mr. Oliver passed up a (prowling) slip to the Speaker, and there the debate closed.

HON. MR. BOWSER'S REPLY.

HON. MR. BOWSER was greeted with loud applause when he rose to continue the debate on the Address in reply to the speech from the Opposition. "Unlike the member for Delta," he began, "I do not think it is necessary to offer any apology for taking part in this debate, because it is one of our duties as members of the Cabinet to answer to this House—for our sins of omission and commission since we last met here a year ago; and therefore, when anyone criticises our policy it is the duty of every member of the Cabinet to explain to the satisfaction of the House the reasons for the course he has taken."

According to his statement, the member for Delta last year missed an opportunity to add another to the many speeches which he enjoyed the session. He said he had prepared a speech, but as I did not speak the division bell was rung on him and the House was not afflicted with another of his many addresses. I regret to have been the innocent cause of preventing him from the pleasure of always finding in himself a speech for this House."

What are the reasons I may ask for the bitter speech against myself and the Chief Commissioner of Lands he delivered yesterday? Perhaps the members opposite think that during the coming year an election is in sight, and knowing how dark and cloudy their prospects are, the hon. gentleman delivered his bitter speech thinking he might affect the country to some degree. I may say that I felt particularly honored in being singled out for attack by the member for Delta. A few nights ago a Liberal love feast was held in this city, and I, no less than the "Times" report that some of the Liberal members inflicted on that gathering the same style of speeches they have been using in this debate. The member for Delta, according to the "Times" report, said that if they did their duty there was no reason why the party should not give a good account of itself at the next election, even if they did not succeed in ousting from power the worst Government this country ever had. That is not very new talk from the member for Delta. He practically admits that his party had no chance of being returned, and the best he can hope for is that he may be able to give some account of itself. After the Leader of the Opposition and all these other members had spoken, it remained for the member for Chilliwack to make the doxylogy (laughter). He expressed the confidence of the party in their leader, and said that notwithstanding the fact that he had been most unsuccessful ever since leading the party, still the Liberals in the House were a unit behind him."

LIBERAL VS. LIBERAL.

Hon. Mr. Bowser continued that it all reminded him of the saying in Shakespeare: "Methinks he doth practise too much, and so doth bring suspicion on himself." As proof of the loyalty of the Liberals to the Leader of the Opposition, he quoted a speech made by the late lamented Duncan Ross, during the recent Federal campaign, in which he unapologetically condemned the member for Rossland for supporting Premier McBride on Better Terms, and declared that the Liberal Party must get out of the Government band wagon, and assert themselves as an Opposition and not drift with every effervescence of public opinion. That was the opinion Mr. Duncan Ross had of the member for Rossland, so no wonder it was necessary for the member for Chilliwack to protest their loyalty.

He next dealt with the speech of the Leader of the Opposition during this debate. It had been delivered in a dignified and candid manner and was worthy of some consideration from the Government side of the House. He had complained that in the speech from the Throne there was no suggestion of railway legislation. Surely the hon. gentleman must have known that the policy of this Government since it came into power in 1903 was of such a sound and businesslike nature that they did not need to be delving into the Treasury to develop railway construction. As a result of that policy population had flowed in, the natural resources had been developed and railway construction followed without a cent of aid from the Treasury.

As a proof of railway construction since the McBride Administration took office, he showed that the first 17 miles had been built on the E. & N. Railway from Wellington to French Creek, another 14 miles on the V. W. & Y. from New Westminster to Vancouver, 25 miles on the Great Northern cut-off to Blaine, 25 miles from Blaine to Somas, 25 miles on the Nicola Valley branch,

the C. P. R., 95 miles on the V. V. & N. W. Kootenay, 65 miles in South Kootenay built by the Great Northern in order to connect their lines in Montana with Fernie and Michel, 15 miles from Grand Forks to Phoenix, 20 miles extension from Tak to Kay's Gate on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, 30 miles of the Kootenay Central from Golden, now under construction, 13 miles of the Corbin road along Michel Creek from the Crow's Nest, 7 miles of the B. C. Electric Railway from Kettle to New Westminster, and further they were now building some 15 miles out of Chilliwack. All this had been accomplished under the present Government, but perhaps the greatest thing of all was that they had secured the early construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in this Province.

SURPRISED AT CRITICISM.

"In this way," said Mr. Bowers, "the Government has been the means of constructing without a cent of cost to the country over 500 miles of railway since it came into office, in 1902. What better railway policy do you want than that? I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition should criticise the Government for not following the example of the Federal Government at Ottawa and giving away the people's money for the construction of railways that can be built without."

Reference had been made to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exhibition. No doubt it would be a great chance to advertise the Province, but was it not a national matter to be dealt with by the Federal Government? If the Government undertook to do it, it should be done they would have to spend a quarter of a million dollars in order to place British Columbia in its proper position at that exhibition, and with a vast country opening up in the North they would need the money worse for roads and bridges than for an exhibition in Seattle.

When the Leader of the Opposition spoke a few days ago it was the first time he had ever heard it said that the Civil Service of this administration was of a partisan nature. He was measuring the Conservative corn by the Liberal bushel. It was well known of course that the Federal civil servants were partisan appointees, but if they questioned all the civil servants in that building they would find that no one had ever spoken to them as to how they should cast their ballot in any election. Not only that but by order-in-council they had made it known to the civil servants that they were not to take any part in public politics. Only a few weeks ago a man had been forced out of the Civil Service in New Westminster because he was a candidate for election in municipal affairs.

MR. MACDONALD: "When was that order-in-council passed?"
HON. MR. BOWSER: "I am not sure. I think it was passed by the Gwynne-Cotton Government, but it was never enforced by any other Government." (Opposition laughter). My friends opposite laugh. They seem to treat this matter as a joke, but I consider it a very serious thing. Why should not this Government take advantage of an order-in-council passed by any other Government, if it can be of use in trying to divorce the Civil Service from politics? Yet our friends opposite laugh, as if they treated their presence as a joke, and so doubt some of those who returned them think it was a joke that they ever got here." (Laughter).

Hon. Mr. Bowers said there had been few things more mortifying than the actions of the Liberal speakers and press during the recent campaign in telling the public that unless they were elected they could expect nothing from the Dominion Government. The appeal they made was not, to judge the party on its record, but to find out which side was going to be elected and then vote for the dominant party.

PATROL OF THE BOUNDARY.

The member for Greenwood (Mr. Naden), who was now no longer member for Greenwood but a resident of Prince Rupert, had attacked the policy of his party in policing the boundary, making special reference to the murder of Mr. Thomset at Midway. The Department had tried its best to bring the murderer to justice, but there was only a bridge between Midway and the United States and it made it exceedingly difficult to follow him. He had been conferring with Police Superintendent Hussey since then and they had decided to form a separate police district there, and keep the boundary patrolled. He took pleasure in talking the member for Greenwood up for into his confidence and letting him know what was taking place in that district he was supposed to represent in that House.

Apart from the member for Greenwood, the second member for Cashan had also been seen at Midway in the

that men were hauled up before Magistrates and sent to prison because they were not good Conservatives.

MR. YORSTON rose to a point of order. "I did not say that at all," he explained. "What I did say was that there were certain persons who were in the habit of running up against the law occasionally, and sometimes these men were told that if they did not vote right they would get into trouble. I said nothing about the Magistrates at all."

HON. MR. BOWSER: "Well, if my friend will give me the names of those parties I will deal with them properly."

MR. HAWTHORNTHWAITTE: "Will the Attorney-General also deal with employers of labor who make these threats?"

HON. MR. BOWSER: "I have no control over employers of labor, but I have control over Magistrates and police and will see that they do their duty."

He continued that the member for Alberni (Mr. Brewster) had spoken of travelling libraries for country places. Well, these came under his (Mr. Bowers's) department, and they had spent on them over \$7,000, and last year a vote of \$1,500 was given towards them. The books were in great demand in country places. There were now sixteen on the waiting list and Alberni was among them, but when their turn came they would get the books.

He and other Ministers had been accused of making political tours through the Province during the past season. It was the first time he had heard that it was a crime for a Minister to go through the country and become conversant with the needs of the people. As for the political nature of these pilgrimages, the receptions and banquets given them came from Liberals and Conservatives alike. Among the places they had visited was the Northern country around Prince Rupert, a new country where they needed to become acquainted with conditions at first hand, and they had also visited the Queen Charlotte Islands where there was not a single name on the voters' list. Yet they were criticised for looking after the interests of the country in a businesslike manner.

LIQUOR LICENCES.

"When I brought down the amendments to the Liquor Licence Act last year it was pointed out by members opposite, that it was an attempt on my part to grasp more power and was altogether a dangerous piece of legislation. We have seen for the past 18 months what the result of that policy has been. The member for Rossland, in saying we should return to the old system said nothing of the personnel of those who composed the boards under that system. Many of them lived a long way from the hotels and did not understand conditions and were not in a position to say whether a licence should be granted or not. Therefore I thought that with the aid of Superintendent Hussey, by talking these licences directly in our hands we could control the business better. I may say that before we took it over in the North the old Board of Licence Commissioners at Prince Rupert had actually issued the three licences allowed them by statute. Under our Act no licences can be granted unless the hotel qualifies to our plans or satisfactory plans are submitted for a hotel to be constructed. In Prince Rupert, the townsite is held by the local Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific. Nevertheless the three licences were issued, but when we assumed control they were at once cancelled. Yet the Leader of the Opposition asks us to revert to such a state of affairs."

HON. MR. BOWSER continued that when an application for licence was received, they considered whether it was needed or not, and they also considered the merits of the applicant without reference to party. Yet the member for Delta had said the first thing they did when an application was received was to find out the political leanings of the applicant.

MR. OLIVER said he made no such statement.

HON. MR. BOWSER said he would accept that. While they did not pretend to be temperance cranks they were trying to do what they thought was fair in the interests of the country. During the time they had been in charge only six new licences had been granted, and three of these were granted under the old Boards, so that practically only three new licences had been granted by Mr. Hussey in eighteen months. During that time they had refused 15 applications for hotel licences, and some of the applicants were no doubt Conservatives, but they were not running on party lines in these matters. One of the first things they did was to issue licences for six months only, so that if the applicant did not live up to the law they had some control of him and could cancel

his licence earlier. Of applications for renewal they had cancelled 25. The only criticisms he had heard was from members on that (the Government) side of the House, that they were dealing too hard with some of their constituents. At Moyie they had cancelled the licence of the Vice-President of the Conservative Association, and at Port George they had cancelled the licence of the Secretary of the Conservative Association. In Wilmer, in Columbia constituency, there had been two licences, one held by a strong Liberal and the other by a Conservative, but because the latter was not running his place as they thought it should be run they had cancelled his licence and left the Grit in possession. In Queen Charlotte Islands they had refused a licence to a prominent Conservative and in Port Eslington they had cancelled a licence held by a Conservative. In face of all this, he would challenge his friends opposite to name one Liberal whose licence had been cancelled since they took charge eighteen months ago.

"There is no answer, Mr. Speaker, and these charges must set as boomerangs against my friends opposite." (Applause).

ANOTHER CRITICISM DEALT WITH.

Hon. Mr. Bowers continued that the Victoria "Times" found fault with the Government for drawing money under special warrants, but conditions in this Province are peculiar and at any moment emergencies impossible to anticipate may arise. For example, only a few days ago the Governor-General at Ottawa had authorised a special warrant for the relief of the sufferers from the Italian earthquake. How had these warrants complained of been expended? For hospitals, and charities, for free text books, and surveys of public lands the "Times" seemed to see something suspicious because \$200,000 had been drawn the day after the Federal election, and tried to lead people to believe that it was issued to cover up something in connection with the election. In reality none of that money had yet been expended. It was drawn to put sewerage and sidewalks in Prince Rupert, things necessary to the public health, and would be spent for that purpose as soon as the work was proceeded with. The sum of \$10,000 had been drawn towards the Tercentenary Celebration in Quebec, and another \$10,000 as a bounty for the Canada Zinc Company's experiments at Nelson. This was granted in accordance with the Leader of the Opposition. Then there had been \$3,000 for compensation for infected orchards destroyed by the fruit inspectors, and there was \$10,000 granted towards the relief of Fernie after the fire. Who could foresee these things? Yet the "Times" complained that money was being spent by special warrants instead of by the votes of the Legislature.

THE FISHERY QUESTION.

"A vicious attack was made on me by the member for Delta in connection with my administration of the Fisheries of the Province. He worked himself into a high state of frenzy, but fortunately did not repeat the operation he went through at a meeting in New Westminster held just before the election, when he actually shed tears." (Laughter).

Hon. Mr. Bowers then reviewed the history of the fishery question between the Dominion and the Province, showing that in 1858 the Privy Council had decided that the Province owned the fish that swam in its waters, and therefore they had some right to revenue from the fish taken from the waters by the fishermen. The Government had also thought it its duty to try to rebuild the salmon industry which had been depleted by maladministration at Ottawa where the Minister four thousand miles away could not understand conditions here. By a modus vivendi entered into with the Government at Ottawa some years ago the Province was to receive 55 per cent of the revenue from fisheries collected by the Dominion Government, but to this day they had not received a dollar.

Despatches sent to Ottawa had remained unanswered, and he had determined to enforce regulations so that the Province should get some revenue from its fisheries. They issued regulations that men were to pay \$2.50 for their licences or where there were two men, \$5 for a boat. Previously the Dominion licence had been \$10 a boat, in every fishing district in the Province. There were three of these districts, the Fraser River, the Skeena and Rivers Inlet, and a boat wishing to fish in all three would have to pay \$30. The Provincial licence for \$2.50 covered the whole Province, so that besides cutting down the ordinary boat licence by half, it meant that where they must pay \$30 under Dominion regulations, under his regulations they only paid \$2.50. As a result of his regulations the Dominion Government came out with new regu-

lations reducing their licences to \$5 a boat for the whole of British Columbia.

"Yet my hon. friend says I am the enemy of the fishermen, when I saved them \$22.50 for every boat with two men."

He continued that it might be said that the Dominion Government intended to do that anyhow, but it was strange that no change had been made till after the Provincial regulations had been announced. Not only that but his licences were issued to British subjects only, though the Dominion regulations allowed any one to be a boat puller, no matter what his color or race. Consequently there had been hundreds of Japanese boat pullers on the Fraser River. He had also compelled the Japanese fish salting establishments to pay a licence of \$100 which otherwise would have gone to Japan. Of course, this applied to all canneries, but the canners had no objection. It gave the Government more complete control and at the same time caught the Japanese establishments. The Dominion Government in their wisdom had never thought of such a thing, but no sooner had the Province done it than six weeks later they passed an Act following with regulations along the same line. They derived from 24 of these Japanese canneries \$2,400 which would otherwise have gone to Japan, yet the Liberal party who opposed this talked of not being friendly to the Japanese in this country.

THE DOMINION DELINQUENT.

By the terms of union the Dominion was to encourage and protect the fisheries of the Province, but all they had done was to put on two small revenue cutters, which the halibut poachers from Seattle called "crab cruisers," and during its whole career one of these, the Kestrel, had succeeded in capturing three gasoline launches from Seattle. (Laughter). The Seattle cruisers had a system of signalling by electric lights on islands, which were flashed on when a revenue cutter came in sight, and they were off and away. In 1907, 50 per cent of the fisheries revenue of the Dominion came from British Columbia, and in the same year the Dominion Government spent \$693,000, of which less than ten per cent was spent in British Columbia. In 1906, when \$159,000 was paid out for the benefit of fishermen in other Provinces, British Columbia received not a dollar. The Dominion Government spent money for destroying dog fish and other destructive fish in other provinces, but not a cent in British Columbia. Yet in face of these facts, the member for Delta in his theatrical way wanted to know if he would still continue to persecute the fishermen in his district.

"My answer is that while I am head of this department the man who violates our laws will be prosecuted, whether he is a constituent of Delta or Vancouver. I care not whether a man is a Conservative or Liberal, he will be dealt with as he should be dealt with, in an honest and strong way."

The member for Delta had further said the regulations were introduced in order to bring about a conflict with the Dominion Government. It was true that there was some difference in the regulations east of New Westminster bridge, but the Province was simply following the advice of the Dominion Fisheries Commission in order to restore the salmon fishing industry. In so doing last year they had collected \$12,000 for the Province and it had cost the fishermen \$22.50 less than under Dominion regulations. While it was true they had lost in the Courts so far, they would not stop at that, but go to the highest Court in the Empire from which they got their authority, and see whether the Dominion owned the fish or whether the Province did.

The member for Delta had asked also what had become of the British Columbia Immigration Act. Well, the Government had not receded from its position there either and would carry that to the Privy Council also to see whether the Province could control its immigration or whether they must rely entirely on the Dominion Government.

CROWN LANDS.

In dealing with the administration of Crown Lands the member for Delta had made charges against the Chief Commissioner of Lands, who was one of the most honest and upright Ministers any Government ever had. He had also tried and responsible officials under him, and in the face of this he (Mr. Bowers) was sorry that such remarks should ever have fallen from the lips of any member of that House. He thought a gentleman elected to sit in that House should know better than to indulge in such reprehensible tactics as would prevent the immigration of settlers into this country. He had said we had got settlers in bars under false pretences, and there was nothing could retard immigration more than if it should be

abroad that the public being fairly dealt with charged that the Government in the different districts had made maps and plan information as it was taken as to the plans. Surveyors had been appointed, and were open find out how to obtain lands.

As for selling lands the member for Delta some real estate dealer talked about a great land that had been one somewhere. He carefully and found the land had been given. The must have been thinking leasing given by the Government to men like T. rows.

As for the Government land to speculators out that in 1907 they the Nechaco Valley pre-emption alone. acres had also in the Peace River valleys. W land in Mid Bay the member for Alberta Surveyor Templeman to American speculator der reserve for pre- at Forcher Island near at Graham Island a Province these were put on, till a total o of land was now held Province for pre-emp

And still my hon that the poor white get land in this cou while the Liberal pa of men who make these, they will aliv popular estimations as to stand during the elections." (Applause)

Hon. Mr. Bowers ther that \$293,760 n the Government in a two years. They that was very hard cost much more to d other parts of Cana was being pushed fo needed. It had been after the Department during the absence a missioner for a timel knew from what he was honestly and aged.

SAVING OF

The member for also of the waste, Well, the Governme spent as much as \$5, protection at one it spent \$22,000 altho honestly doing their down and trying to i along that line. So ceives were concern dwell upon that fur that under the w present Government cans had come into invested millions in dustry. This was l the export duty on ed at the same th these people had li the administration.

"I have noticed a opposite a tendency for ignoring the Dor this Province, and t credit for stamped in force in the Provi 1907. They said pr dangerous man, and said in the House o few hours before t made statements the Province into honored leader. A gentlemen, the way in 1908 was owing t appeared in the " per on the eve of t don't they face the fact is that the ce them, just as the with our party. It when Sir Wilfrid returned to power, that we are manly and they are not.

LIBERAL

He continued th the Leader of U attended a Libera convener, and accor eral persons prese plain the reason election. "Strange blaming me, some assembly and said Liberal record of straits lost the sta Columbia. (Governm yoning man, a pro went so far as to could expect to w ditions as they say."

MR. MACDON,
HON. MR. BOW
 MR. BOWSER

abroad that the public lands were not being fairly dealt with. He had charged that the Government Agents in the different districts of the Province had maps and plans, and as much information as it was possible to obtain as to the plans of this country. Surveyors had been sent out and plans filed, and were open to any settler to find out how to obtain any particular lands.

As for selling lands to speculators, the member for Delta quoting from some real estate dealer's pamphlet, talked about a great lease of grazing lands that had been given to some one somewhere. He had enquired carefully and found that no such lease had been given. The hon. gentleman must have been thinking of the grazing leases given by the Dominion Government to men like Turriff and Burrows.

As for the Government parting with land to speculators he would point out that in 1907 they had reserved in the Nechaco Valley 63,000 acres for pre-emption alone. Some 2,500,000 acres had also been reserved in the Peace and Parsnip River valleys. Why even the land in Mud Bay country, which the member for Alberni charged that Surveyor Templeman had tried to sell to American speculators, was all under reserve for pre-emption. Then at Forcher Island near Prince Rupert, at Graham Island and all over the Province these reserves have been put on, till a total of 7,790,548 acres of land was now under reserve in the Province for pre-emption purposes.

"And still my hon. friend will say that the poor white settler cannot get land in this country. I say that while the Liberal party is composed of men who make such charges as these, they will always stand in the popular estimation as they were shown to stand during the recent Dominion elections." (Applause).

Hon. Mr. Bowser pointed out further that \$202,780 had been spent by the Government in surveys in the last two years. They had a Province that was very hard to survey and it cost much more to do it here than in other parts of Canada, but the work was being pushed forward as it was needed. It had been his duty to look after the Department of Public Lands during the absence of the Chief Commissioner for a time last year, and he knew from what he saw, then that it was honestly and efficiently managed.

SAVING OF TIMBER.

The member for Delta had spoken also of the waste from forest fires. Well, the Government last year had spent as much as \$5,000 a day for fire protection at one time, and they had spent \$32,000 altogether. They were honestly doing their best to keep fires down and trying to instruct the public along that line. So far as timber licences were concerned he would not dwell upon that further than to say, that under the wise policy of the present Government wealthy Americans had come into the Province and invested millions in the lumbering industry. This was largely a result of the export duty on logs, and it showed at the same time the confidence these people had in the stability of the administration.

"I have noticed among the speakers opposite a tendency to make excuses for losing the Dominion elections in this Province, and they give me great credit for stamping the whole Province in the Provincial elections of 1907. They said practically, 'This is a dangerous man,' and Mr. Duncan Ross said in the House of Commons that a few hours before the polls opened I made statements that fairly swept the Province into the arms of my honored leader. According to these gentlemen, the way they went wrong in 1908 was owing to a telegram which appeared in the 'Colonist' newspaper on the eve of the election. Why don't they face the situation? The fact is that the country is not with them, just as the Dominion was not with our party in the recent election when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was again returned to power. The inference is that we are manly enough to admit it and they are not."

LIBERAL GRAFT.

He continued that a few days ago the Leader of the Opposition had attended a Liberal banquet in Vancouver, and according to reports several persons present had tried to explain the reason why they lost the election. "Strange to say, instead of blaming me, some of them came out squaring and said it was owing to the Liberal record of graft that the Liberals lost the election in British Columbia. (Government applause). One young man, a promising young man, went so far as to say that no party could expect to win under such conditions as they were laboring under."

MR. MACDONALD: "Who said that?"

HON. MR. BOWSER: "The report was in the 'Standard'."

MR. MACDONALD: "The Standard said nothing of the kind."

HON. MR. BOWSER: "I accept the statement, but there was evidently a discussion on graft, because I see that Mr. W. W. B. McInnes undertook to explain the Liberal system of patronage in this Province." (Laughter).

MR. MACDONALD: "Not in this Province, but in Vancouver alone."

HON. MR. BOWSER: "Well, we will confine it to Vancouver, for I know of no one better able to explain the system of patronage there than Mr. McInnes." (Renewed laughter). He continued that the Leader of the Opposition had also spoken but made no reference to the telegram, and had attributed their defeat to want of organization, and had said that a party so long in power as that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier must expect to have greater scandals attaching to it than a party that had only been a short time in power. It was evident that graft had been discussed, showing that there was something in the charges made by the Conservative party during the campaign. But, anyhow, his friend being the Leader of the Opposition, though a very poor one according to Mr. Duncan Ross (laughter), had warned the party that a Provincial campaign might come on during the coming Summer.

"I don't think he went so far as my old friend, who has lost his sobriquet of 'Honest John,' and is now known from one end of the Province to the other as 'Taking John' (Laughter). Anyhow, the Leader of the Opposition was not so honest as to say they had no chance of success in the next election."

AN OLD STORY.

Yesterday the member for Delta had referred to a statement that he (Mr. Bowser) had made in the Victoria theatre before the last election, that a company had been formed to bring in Japanese laborers for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company. Well, he had received that information from a prominent Liberal and it was justified by a letter of the late E. G. Russell, then manager for the Grand Trunk Pacific on this Coast, and which was read before the Macenzie King Commission. This letter stated that the Grand Trunk Pacific Company required about five thousand Japs.

MR. MACDONALD asked Mr. Bowser if he had not stated that the Grand Trunk Pacific Company had entered into an agreement to bring in 50,000 Japs.

HON. MR. BOWSER said he could not say just now. Maybe he was not correct as to the number, but he was correct as to the principle as was shown by Mr. Russell's letter.

MR. MACDONALD pointed out that Mr. Russell had no authority to make any agreement, and his authority had been officially repudiated by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company.

HON. MR. BOWSER said when he was told that he ought to be behind the prison bars like any other transgressor of the law (laughter), he had a right to show that negotiations were entered into.

MR. OLIVER: "Will the Hon. gentleman get the files of the 'Colonist' and compare his speech as reported there with that letter?"

HON. MR. BOWSER: "I will leave that to my hon. friend. It will give him another opportunity to inflict a speech upon this House. (Laughter). He continued that anyhow when he went back for re-election as a Cabinet Minister after making that speech, it was strange that if he were a man of such character and his utterances were dishonest that his Liberal friends had not seen fit to oppose him. He considered their action on that occasion a complete answer to that charge.

MR. OLIVER: "That information was not before us at that time."

HON. MR. BOWSER: "It was certainly before this House before I went back for re-election. My hon. friend also asks why I was not in Yale-Cariboo during the recent elections. Well, I think there should be some decency among members of this House. At that time I was on a sick bed. I was only able to make one speech in my own constituency, and still the hon. gentleman will get up here and ask me where I was in the Dominion election. I hope I may yet be able to meet Mr. Duncan Ross. As my hon. friend says, it may not be in this world, but in the next. Well, I hope when I pass from this world I shall not find myself in the same world as Mr. Duncan Ross. (Loud laughter). I admit that he has preceded me because he is already politically dead. To use a favorite expression of Hon. Mr. Templeman, Mr. Duncan Ross is as dead as Julius Caesar." (Laughter and applause).

Hon. Mr. Bowser continued that Mr. Ross had been fair enough to acknowledge that he could not meet him during the campaign, and in a speech made at Greenwood, had reiterated his charges and produced telegrams in proof of them, and he had added that if the charges were

not true he had no right to the suffrages of the people of Yale-Cariboo.

"Well," commented the Attorney-General, "the people of Yale-Cariboo decided that he had no right to their suffrages, so the charges against me must have been untrue. But Mr. Ross went on to say that if they were true Mr. Bowser should be stripped of his gown and removed from his high office. He left the electors of Yale-Cariboo to judge between us, and by an overwhelming majority the electors of Yale-Cariboo have told who was right in this controversy. Duncan Ross was willing to leave it to them, and I am perfectly willing to accept the verdict they have given." (Applause).

MR. OLIVER'S VERSATILITY.

Hon. Mr. Bowser continued that the member for Delta had attacked among other things the financial policy of the Province. It was like him. He discussed legal questions, taking the work out of the hands of his leader and the member for Yale, on medicine he usurped the place of the member for Cranbrook and it was just the same with dentistry or with finance. That he was an expert on farming they all admitted, but he did not stop there, and when a Commission was appointed to enquire into the finances of the country the member for Delta was one of the first to appear before it and tell the Finance Minister how things should be run. He complained of the expense of that commission, which after all was only \$1,066, and he could not think the money was ill spent when it gave the member for Delta an opportunity to show the country his wisdom on this subject. (Laughter). During the Dominion election he had posed as the friend and champion of the persecuted fisherman and had gone through the whole length of the Fraser Valley among them with the result that every single fisherman voted for the Conservative candidate. (Laughter). Even in East Delta in the old schoolhouse, where he had first practised making speeches, the Conservative candidate had a majority in that booth. It was the same in Kootenay and Yale-Cariboo after his visit. A Conservative stampede followed wherever he went. (Renewed laughter).

There had been a by-election in Nanaimo lately, and he saw another chance to make a speech so he tied them there, but fortunately for the Liberal candidate, he only arrived there the night before the election. Had he been a week earlier he would certainly have lost his deposit, but as it was he only lost by three or four hundred votes. (Loud laughter).

PRINCE RUPERT MATTERS.

Hon. Mr. Bowser continued that the division of the Prince Rupert Townsite had been somewhat criticised in the debate. The Government considered this was a very important question, and it was only after a great deal of discussion with the Grand Trunk Pacific officials that they came to what they considered the proper division of the townsite. He regretted that the member for Greenwood (Mr. Naden), while he approved of the Government's policy in regard to streets and sewers, did not approve of the division of the waterfront. But the Government had to recognize that they were partners with the Grand Trunk Pacific in that townsite, and they should put no obstacle in the way of their developing it, as it would advance the value of their own property. The Railway Company had three times as much of the property as the Province and therefore must receive the greater consideration. The member for Delta had said that the Government was only getting one-eighth of the waterfront instead of one-fourth, but if they would study the map they would find that the Province was only getting 35 feet less than its share, and the Grand Trunk people were giving them good returns for that. It had been found that in order to have a good terminus the company must have terminal facilities commensurate to their business in the future. They had asked for 32 acres extra for roundhouses and yards at Morse Creek. The Government decided to give them 24 acres, and they were to make that good by gifts in return in other parts of the townsite. In return they had got the present market site opposite the wharf they were erecting, and they had also received four magnificent school sites. The Government also retained 1,500 feet of splendid waterfront adjoining their present dock and there they were now erecting a wharf. They had also retained the street ends with access to the water over the railway free to the people for all time so that the experience of Vancouver would not be repeated there. East of Seal Cove, they had also three thousand feet of waterfront which would make a splendid piece of land for the terminus of another transcontinental railway if ever it should be needed. The company had also agreed to build

and operate their railway to the eastern part of the townsite where the Government's land was, and to put in spurs and sidings for any person who asked it for the establishment of industries at Prince Rupert.

TERMINUS FINALLY LOCATED.

"After all this," said Mr. Bowser, "we made them decide on the location of their station and roundhouses and sheds, so that for all time to come they will be at Prince Rupert, and the experience of Port Moody will not be repeated there, but for all time Prince Rupert will be the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway."

In addressing a meeting at Prince Rupert last Autumn, they had told the people it was not wise to put the townsite on the market then as the surveys were not completed. In this he was pleased to see that the member for Greenwood agreed with him. They had also agreed at the same time that they would put in sewerage and define the streets, and for this reason the special warrant of \$200,000 had been authorized. The Grand Trunk people did not want to go on with that work at the time, but they had made their promise and as it was necessary for the health of the people the Government had decided to advance the \$200,000. The Grand Trunk Pacific Company had agreed to pay their share of \$150,000 of that within two years at five per cent. interest.

"In that way we have kept our faith with the people of Prince Rupert, and I think we have pleased the people of the Province as well. I wish to bring it to the attention of the member for Delta that in calling for tenders for sewers and sidewalks we have a system in our Departments of accepting the lowest tender if satisfactory, and I can tell him that the tender of Mr. Foster, who ran against the Premier in Dewdney in 1903 as a Liberal candidate, was accepted for this work. Can your imagination ever carry you so far as to believe that a defeated Conservative candidate would ever receive a tender at Ottawa?"

As an instance of this, Hon. Mr. Bowser read the report of Judge Cassels as a result of his investigation of departments at Ottawa, in which he had come to the conclusion that the system prevailing was "That to the victors belong the spoils." "That is the last Commission he will ever sit on after that," commented Mr. Bowser.

MR. OLIVER: "Did you ever hear of a Conservative judge giving such a report to a Conservative Government?"

HON. MR. BOWSER: "The way the Conservative administration is carried on is such that it does not require a commission of investigation." (Applause). He added that in the fact that a defeated Liberal candidate was the lowest tender for public works at Prince Rupert and that his tender was accepted they would see the difference between the methods of the two parties.

"I have infringed on the time of the House longer than I intended," he concluded, "but criticisms had been levelled at us and I thought they should be answered. I think the public should know how their affairs are being administered. We have given the country the best Government of which we are capable, and judging from the recent Dominion elections we think the people are satisfied that we have dealt with their affairs as we would have with our own in a fair and businesslike way, and we feel that when the time comes to appeal to the people of this country on the record of the Government, whether it is in this year or next, there will be many faces missing from the other side of the House, and not least among them will be the honorable member for Delta." (Loud and continued applause).

MR. ELLISON FOLLOWS.

MR. ELLISON said he regretted that he had not spoken before so that the debate might have ended with the brilliant and eloquent address of the Attorney-General. But there were one or two points he wished to touch upon. The Premier had spoken of the necessity for a Bureau of Forestry, and there was nothing of greater importance. He agreed as to the wanton destruction of timber by forest fires, and said if they could get the advice of an expert like Mr. Gifford Pinchot, of the United States, it would be money well spent. A great deal had been done but more should be done to prevent this wholesale waste of this valuable resource.

Another matter of great interest to him was the horticultural industry. This had not been touched upon by other speakers. Prizes won by British Columbia had been spoken of, but he would like to speak more particularly of the Spokane Exhibition, where \$4,000 in prizes had been carried away by Mr. Dehart, of Kelowna, alone. His prize was a silver \$700 a year, and had the

WEEK'S WORK IN LEGISLATURE

The first full week of the present session has been almost wholly occupied by the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. It started with a courtly passage of arms between the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier, and after dragging along between minor contestants for a day or two, practically wound up with a bout of rough and tumble juggling between Mr. John Oliver of Delta, and Attorney-General Bower. As usual each side claimed that its own man had the best of the encounter. The last two speakers were really summing up and perfecting in detail the work their leaders had begun. The Premier and Mr. Macdonald, both in a gentlemanly and dignified way, drew the broad lines of their party's argument, but it was for the industrious member for Delta and the spirited and indefatigable Attorney-General to supplement it with details and statistics drawn home with a great deal of amusing sarcasm, and not a little thunderous vituperation. It was hoped the debate would end on Friday, but Mr. Parker Williams postponed the call of the division bell by asking for an adjournment till Monday, when no doubt he will bring it to an appropriate close by hammering both sides, and slating on the oppression of the capitalists and the detestable courses of the Salvation Army.

Beyond the debate, the week has disclosed little of particular interest. The Attorney-General with his usual industry shows that he has his legislation again well to the front. His Bills for licensing clubs, for revising and consolidating the Provincial Statutes and for amending the Magistrates Act are all through first reading and ready for the debate on second reading at any time. Private members are also coming forward with their measures in good time, and unless unduly protracted by discussions of the details for the Water Clauses Act, with its 375 sections, the session promises to be a brief and brisk one.

Colombia statistics have been more general than was to be expected. This too was won in competition with all the best growers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. (Applause).

He praised the good work done by the Minister of Agriculture during the past season in the Old Country. It was a significant fact that for four years they had won the gold medal in London against the competition of the whole world. A really wonderful thing. To win once or twice was much, but to win four times in succession spoke volumes for British Columbia fruit. As a result he had had many letters of inquiry from the Old Country as to their fruit lands in the Okanagan. He quoted a letter from an English dealer showing that British Columbia fruit came there better packed and in better condition than the California fruit.

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES.

Right from Lytton to the Boundary there was unlimited land suitable for horticulture and it only needed irrigation to render it most productive. The Okanagan district was splendidly suited for the production of the best species of apples and in a few years they would be shipping them out in shiploads. One million and a quarter trees had been planted within the past two years and when all these came into bearing they would bring more wealth into the Province than the fisheries and timber industry combined, great though they were.

On the Water Clauses Act he would reserve his remarks till the Bill came before the House. It was a matter of particular interest to his district, and he would have something to say on it then.

Turning to the request for aid by the Canadian Northern, Mr. Ellison said he thought every reasonable assistance should be given, as its importance in developing the Province could not be overestimated. He regretted very much that he was one of those who refused to vote aid to that road when it wanted to come into the Province years ago. He believed they all regretted it as it would have been worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to this country.

MR. McPHILLIPS: "No."
MR. ELLISON: "I say yes. Let us admit we were wrong, like men. Why should not this golden opportunity be seized? How important it might be to the City of Victoria if this city were made its terminus. It is a beautiful city and it would not hurt Vancouver, which is already well on the way and is bound to become one of the greatest cities of Canada. (Hear, hear). Then I ask should not Victoria share in some of that prosperity? I look forward to a great future for this city. During the past week fifty guests were turned away from the Empress Hotel, but the time will come when the Empress will be simply an annex to other hotels here."

He continued that the whole northern part of British Columbia was rich in wheat lands, iron and coal, and these three things alone would make a great nation. Why should they hesitate to open up so great a country? Let them borrow money, if necessary. Ten million dollars would not be too much to spend in the development of this magnificent Province. He concluded with the hope that the Government would not neglect to do all in its power to encourage and protect the Canadian Northern or any other railway company that wished to come into this Province and help to develop its magnificent resources. (Applause).

MR. WILLIAMS moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. ROSS moved the first reading of a bill to incorporate the Flathead Valley Railway Company.

MR. HAWTHORNTHWAITE again introduced his amendment to the Coal Mines Regulations Act.

MR. McINNES introduced a Bill to amend the Act for the inspection of metalliferous mines.

The House adjourned at 5.15 p.m.

GALLERY NOTES.

Mr. Yorston, of Cariboo, states that a mistaken impression has been conveyed by reports of his remarks on conditions in Cariboo. In his remarks about road construction he never meant to reflect on the Road Superintendents who are honorable and capable men. He was simply pointing out the evils of a system by which the Government appropriations were frittered away in paying managers and laborers to employ men to work under them. In his remarks about the administration of justice, he did not say that Magistrates were partisan. What he meant was that certain persons who ran up against the law occasionally were told that they must see right or they would get into trouble.

EIGHTH DAY.

From a Staff Correspondent in the Press Gallery at Victoria.

Victoria, February 1.—The debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne again dragged through this afternoon. The voices all came from the Opposition side of the House. Mr. Parker Williams, the Socialist member for Newcastle, led off with an attack on both parties which was spiced with a good deal of dry humor, and concluded with a sarcastic attack on the member for Delta. Mr. Williams also took occasion by the way to deliver a slap at Hon. Mr. Templeman, saying that he had heard and had reason to believe that he had been the means of discharging from the Victoria postoffice, an old man named Andrew Johnson, whose chief sin was that he had dared to have the courage of his independent political opinions. Mr. Munro made a graceful, dignified and impartial address, devoted largely to a recapitulation of the advancement made in his own district, though he delivered a few sarcastic blows at the Attorney-General, at the same time complimenting Premier McBride as a man who rightly stood high in the estimation of his party. While he did not envy him or his colleagues their position, he envied their opportunities. He moved a resolution asking the Government to restore to municipalities personal property and income tax.

Dr. King made an earnest appeal for more aid in the fight against consumption, and devoted the rest of his speech to the needs of his locality.

Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton moved the adjournment of the debate.

At the opening of the House, Hon. Thomas Taylor, the newly-elected Minister of Public Works, was introduced to the Speaker by Premier McBride and Mr. Ross.

A petition was read from the City of Vancouver asking for the extension of the False Creek Foreshore Act.

Mr. Shatford presented a petition for a bill to extend the time allowed for the beginning of the construction of the Pacific, Northern & Omineca Railway.

Mr. McPhillips presented a petition for a bill to incorporate the shareholders and grant additional powers to the B. C. Permanent Loan Company.

MR. WILLIAMS'S SARCASTIC.

MR. PARKER WILLIAMS resumed the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. He said there seemed to be a custom of congratulating everybody on these occasions, but it had been done so profusely on this occasion that he would forego it further than to congratulate the Socialist party that in spite of the efforts of Liberals and Conservatives, Nansing still remained red on the political map. He described the Speech as reminding him of Bellamy's "Looking Backward." Everything it referred to seemed to be in the past, but in this Province we should not be looking backward but be looking to the future. As far as the Quebec Tercentenary celebration went, he thought \$10,000 would have been better spent for the benefit of the people in the Province than on a pantomime and vaudeville show somewhere down East. For the late Lieutenant-Governor, he would say that though he despised the trappings of his office, his face stood out distinct among them, and he felt a better man every time he looked on it. (Applause.) As for the Fernie fire, it was not wonderful that the town was being rebuilt as the miners and the workmen were still there. They should ask rather why it was that the workmen of Fernie were housed in tinder shacks that could not resist a fire at all? They would still find that the best trodden path in Fernie were from the workmen's homes to the mine, from the mine to the morgue and from the morgue to the graveyard.

While congratulating the new Minister of Public Works on his appointment, he expressed the hope that he would at least prove a "live" man. In the past, while the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works went around the upper country with a microscope hunting for something to do, matters brought to the attention of the Stupefied Lands and Works Department right in Victoria were never attended to. He then enumerated the sins and negligences of the Lands and Works Department in his own district and branched off into the inequality of Government appropriations in Conservative and Opposition districts. The Government had failed utterly to give any satisfactory explanation of this injustice. In Conservative districts, it seemed to be that the member was the head of the Public Works Department for his district. Consequently, the Department at Victoria got rusty and out of use and could do nothing.

The second member for Victoria (Mr. Davey) told of the happy conditions in British Columbia where the

cry of the unemployed was never heard. Well it was strange that the public accounts for the year showed that between \$25,000 and \$35,000 had been spent in feeding and caring for the unemployed in sickness and otherwise. In face of this, he failed to see the wisdom or justification for a policy of bonusing any institution at the rate of \$3 per head for every immigrant brought in as was done in this country. The second member for Victoria (Mr. Davey) was no doubt a good old Tory, but several years back in his ideas, in fact he might have been boat-puller for Noah in his fishing trip in the ark. (Laughter.) He had complained of the discrepancy in the prices of coal between Victoria and Seattle. It was on a par with the clamor for Government ownership of grain elevators and similar things. The trouble was that the British Columbia coal mine operators were simply dumping a surplus product on the Washington market.

He then attacked the administration of the laws. While the Government spent much and kept men travelling about to enforce the game laws, he understood that there was a law which forbade charging more for British Columbia coal at home than in Washington or other outside points. He would like to ask why this law was not also enforced. The Attorney-General had been lauded as the sole and only Licence Commissioner in British Columbia. However, a licence had been granted in his district which was not wanted there, and he had fought hard against it.

He attacked the Government for putting in sewers and sidewalks in Prince Rupert, and not doing it elsewhere. He considered that the demands of the timbermen were the essence of nerve. Their demand for perpetual licences would perhaps be followed by a request to the Government to reforest the land after the timber had been taken off. If men were slaughtering timber and taking away the cream of it, the Government should stop in and stop them; and if they had taken up more than they could take off, let them take the consequences.

FAULT FOUND IS GENERAL.

The Railway Commission had been highly praised for its work, but in his district he found that when a man wanted a crossing to get out of his farm over the track he had to put it in himself and put up gates. He instanced a case he had brought before the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, but with the usual velocity of large bodies that move slowly after waiting two or three months he was informed that it was on "private property," and the Government could do nothing.

The Leader of the Opposition had condemned the Government for favoritism in public works and the interference of civic servants in politics; but he did not think that a Liberal dare have much to say on that point, because he knew of more than one instance where Federal civil servants in the recent election had taken an active part in politics. They talked about Mr. Wright, the Government agent at Nelson, but he knew of a worse instance than that, when a Federal Cabinet Minister had tried to compel civil servants to vote as he wished. He knew the case of a grey-haired old man drawing \$40 or \$50 a month in the Victoria postoffice who because he had dared to have some independent political opinions, had been discharged by this Mr. Templeman, who was now up in Comox-Atlin asking for the votes of the people there. "If that is his style," said Mr. Williams, "I seriously hope that every workman in Comox-Atlin will vote to keep such a man out of the Dominion House."

MR. OLIVER: "Will my honorable friend give me the name of this man?"

MR. WILLIAMS: "It is not always wise to give names as sometimes it hurts the person named, but in this case the man is dismissed anyhow and I suppose it can do no harm. Andrew Johnson is his name."

ACQUIREMENT OF LAND.

MR. WILLIAMS continued that the member for Delta had talked a great deal about grazing leases and land deals, he would like to know how it was that Senator Bostock had been able to obtain 1,200 acres recently for \$2 an acre from the Dominion Government. It was said to be necessary to complete his ranching operations, but the land did not touch or adjoin his ranch, and he could not see why he wanted it at all. They said that land should be held for the settler, but what kind of a settler was Mr. Bostock?

The members for Rosland and Delta did not seem to take the same view of things. The Leader of the Opposition spoke of the prosperity of the country and attributed it to the policy of the Government. He said that in his district they were not so prosperous with farms, but

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1909.

DESTINED FOR THE MUSEUM

Member for Newcastle Pokes Fun at Mr. Oliver—Graceful Compliment for Mr. McBride.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Victoria, February 1.—The debate on the Address was continued to-day by Mr. Parker Williams, Mr. Munro and Dr. King. Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton moved the adjournment.

Mr. Williams said he hoped to see Hon. Mr. Templeman defeated, as he had been told that he had been the means of dismissing from the Victoria Post Office an old man who had the independence of his political opinions. Mr. Williams also attacked Mr. Oliver, prophesying that when Socialism resigned the member for Delta would be kept in a museum as a specimen of those who had joined in oppressing the working classes in the days of capitalism.

Mr. Munro made a graceful speech, complimenting Hon. Mr. McBride on the high position he had attained in the estimation of the people.

Dr. King dealt chiefly with the local needs of his district.

Mr. Munro and Dr. King moved a resolution asking the Government to give back to the municipalities the Personal Property and Revenue Tax.

Hon. Mr. Taylor was formally introduced to the House to-day.