

**M A R**

**1948**

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1948

## Pomp and Ceremony Returns

# B.C. Legislature Opens Today

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA—Third session of British Columbia's 21st legislature (a fourth session means a general election is just around the corner) will be opened this afternoon by Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks, amid all the pomp and ceremony which this capital eagerly anticipates each spring.

There will be a 15-gun salute as His Honor, in a shiny government house limousine, roars across the causeway, led by a police motorcycle escort, and turns into the curving driveway of the legislative buildings.

ALIGHTING FROM his car, resplendent in the British Em-

pire civil uniform of the second class—white satin knee breeches, cocked beplumed hat, tunic heavy with gold braid, slippers with silver buckles—His Honor will inspect naval and military honor guards and then ascend the steep stone stairway to the golden door main entrance to the chamber. The steps will be lined with boy scouts.

In the main rotunda His Honor will be greeted by Premier Byron Johnson, and escorted into the crowded legislative chamber. He will sit on the speaker's dais and read the speech from the throne, outlin-

ing government policy for the session.

THE NEW SPEAKER, R. H. Carson will be formally elected, his nomination being moved by Premier Johnson, seconded by leader of the opposition Harold Winch.

The two new members of the House, Walter Hogg of Cariboo and Arthur Ash of Saanich, elected in by-elections last week, will be unable to take their seats until next Monday, when the official count is complete.

Debate on the speech from the throne will start Wednesday,

## Serious Times For Legislators

It is going to be a serious session that members of the B.C. Legislature begin in Victoria today, for the over-rosy days of the last few years for politicians seem to be more or less ended.

For six years B.C.'s revenues had been soaring with reported surpluses; there was no unemployment—people were living in easy-money times and they were spending their money. When people are working and have good incomes, they are happy and the government is mostly free from any public attack.

The Johnson-Anscomb Coalition government is faced with having to do something that all governments dread—impose new taxes. In this case it might well be some kind of sales tax. It may be absolutely necessary if increasing old age pensions, hospital costs, aid to municipalities and increased salaries to civil servants are to be met. No one wants the \$10 monthly bonus to our old age pensioners, for instance, to be lopped off. The government is naturally worried about financial conditions, and so are its M.L.A. supporters. This is understandable, for M.L.A.'s know people don't like paying extra taxes and are liable to seek revenge at election time. However, in many sections of North America such sales taxes are working satisfactorily. The public is annoyed for a little time, but then approves, realizing the tax is being used for the good of all.

There are other important matters to be dealt with by our legislators in the next few weeks. The Labor Act will come up again and there will be another fuss about the government supervised strike vote clause. Hon. Herbert Anscomb, deputy government leader, in the recent Cariboo

and Saanich by-election campaigns said the clause will remain in the act—though how he could tell, without consulting the legislature, is more or less a mystery. Both branches of organized labor, however, have told the government in the last few days they oppose this clause.

Important to the good name of Canada in general and of British Columbia in particular, will be the debate on the Canadians of Japanese blood. It seems inconceivable that our elected representatives—the first citizens of the province, generally looked upon to be the most intelligent and the leaders of public opinion—would end their labors at Victoria this year without righting a wrong—the deliberate and unreasonable disfranchisement of a minority group of Canadians.

It is probably too much to hope the legislature will do anything about B.C.'s quaint liquor laws. For some reason or other successive assemblies have been terrified of amending the old-fashioned Liquor Act. It is hopelessly outdated; beer and light wines with meals in restaurants would be a sensible step. Even cocktail bars are not sinful; they are merely expensive, report returning travellers from California and Ontario. But at this moment it would seem our M.L.A.'s are quite prepared to approve B.C.'s beer parlor guzzling and bottle-under-the-table program at dances.

Many other matters affecting all the people will be debated in the capital in the next few weeks. The public would do well for themselves by watching the proceedings of the House with care—and, by taking part themselves, which they can do by letting their members know their feelings on contentious matters.



## Finance Troubles Face BC Legislature Today

VICTORIA—(CP)—Financial problems, despite highest revenues in British Columbia's history, face legislators at the third session of the 21st legislature opening today.

Expenditures, caught in the inflation tide that has boosted costs in the last 12 months, have overtaken incomes and in the next year will likely exceed revenues.

Labor and social service problems and a plan to meet increased educational costs will be considered.

Premier Byron Johnson, heading into his first session as head of the Coalition administration, and Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb have had the legislative program under advisement for many days.

Last year's budget of \$58,888,930 is expected to be exceeded by one of \$65,000,000 or more while 1947 expenditures of \$58,781,334 also will be increased to approximate revenue.

Wages and salaries, cost of operating hospitals, and construction, replacement and maintenance costs have soared.

To meet ascending social service costs, most observers believe Finance Minister Anscomb will propose a sales tax, mainly for education.

There were reports that the government has considered a three per cent levy on all but essential foods, with one per cent marked for distribution to municipalities.

The government also may introduce a hospital insurance plan under which a fixed levy would be made on family units in return for guaranteed hospital care.

Amendments to the new labor code, daylight saving and the Japanese question will be considered.

## Ash May Enter House March 15

VICTORIA—(CP) — Arthur J. R. Ash, Coalition government member elected Feb. 23 in the provincial by-election in Saanich, is expected to take his seat in the British Columbia Legislature on March 15.

Robert Brydon, returning officer for Saanich, reported Monday that he would begin making the official count for the by-election today. The count is expected to take two days. Ten clear days must pass after the official count before the election writ is formally filed. This would mean that Mr. Ash will be able to take his seat in the Legislature about March 15.

Walter Hogg, the new member for Cariboo, will probably not be able to take his seat in the house until a few days later, since the official count will be held later this week.

## DAY IN THE HOUSE

# 21st Legislature In That New Look

By J. K. NESBITT

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA.—Even the House itself had a new look Tuesday, as Lieut.-Gov. Charles A. Banks, distinguished in his black and gold dress uniform, with cocked, beplumed hat, opened the third session of B.C.'s 21st Legislature.

The spring sun was shining outside and in the marble pillared chamber there were new faces in the seats of authority and new looks on the women guests.

VICTORIA'S FAMOUS fighting 16th Canadian Scottish Regiment, in full kilts of scarlet and black busbies, skirled their pipes and sailors gave forth with nautical airs as His Honor arrived from Government House.

With his naval, military and air force aides he stepped from his limousine and stood at the salute as 15 guns in his honor roared out over the harbor.

The lawns and driveways were crowded with rubberneckers, who had a fine time watching the dressed-up guests as they arrived.

THERE WAS THE usual make-believe. His honor entered the chamber and, as if he didn't know, was informed there was no speaker. So he commanded the provincial secretary that he did not see fit to open the House until there was one.

While the House decided to do something that had really been done long ago, His Honor left, to await without, while M.L.A.'s elected a new speaker.

Premier Johnson, dignified, handsome and immaculate in cutaway then moved that R. H. Carson of Kamloops be named speaker. Opposition Leader Harold Winch seconded it.

THE TWO OF THEM then went down the aisle and set upon Mr. Carson, took him stoutly by his arms and marched him to the speaker's dais. Of course, Mr. Carson has been acting as speaker for many weeks and his formal election was just one of the many picturesque flourishes connected with the opening of the House.

Mr. Carson, trying to look surprised at the great honor that had been bestowed on him, and, succeeding fairly well, thanked the House and then sent for the Lieutenant-Governor.

THE SPEAKER TOLD His Honor he is little able to fulfill his important duties and prayed that if he should fall into error the fault should be imputed to him and not to the assembly.

And then, in a firm, clear voice, His Honor read the speech from the throne, officially opening the session.

There was one mishap. The mace, symbol of authority, for

some mysterious reason, clattered from the speaker's table to the floor.

AS SOON AS his honor left the chamber, the speaker brought in Bill no. 1—an act to amend the Vancouver Enabling Act.

This in itself is an unimportant act, but it was introduced just to prove the people's business comes before the King's. Cabinet ministers filed annual reports and it was announced the usual standing committees would be appointed.

PREMIER JOHNSON moved and Opposition leader Winch seconded a vote of sincere regret at the death of Louis LeBourdais, former member for Cariboo, who will indeed be greatly missed hereabouts.

And now about that Legislative new look.

It isn't often there is a new premier—but here was Mr. Johnson, in his native city, playing the chief commoner's role in the province's most important assembly, and playing it with a great deal of finesse.

ONE WOULD NEVER suspect it was his first occasion in so prominent a role. The new speaker, too seemed like a veteran, so sure was he of himself. The new minister of education, Mr. Straith, sat at the bottom of the row of cabinet benches. Even Mr. Hart had the new look—a look of buoyant freshness.

He sat in the private members' benches for the first time since 1917 when, for a few weeks he was a private member, before being elevated to the cabinet.

NEVER BEFORE has a premier deliberately demoted himself. Mr. Hart seemed to enjoy his new role and everyone else admired his new look.

Mr. Pattullo was there, full of punch as ever. He wore a red rose for pure and unadulterated Liberalism. Dr. Laird of Similkameen also wore a red button-hole, though he is a Liberal coalesced with the Conservatives.

C.C.F. Bert Gargrave wore a bright red tie and C.C.F. Sam Guthrie a dull red one, as becoming a mellowed radical.

SAANICH'S MEMBER-ELECT Arthur Ash was in the chamber, way back against the marble pillars. He can't take his seat for some days, until the official count is complete.

All was fuss and feathers Tuesday. No one felt like work on such a gala day; besides his honor and his lady were giving a party at Government House.

Today the speech-making will start. All the M.L.A.'s say they aren't going to talk much this year, but early get down to business. This, of course, is a lot of nonsense, for, once they start, M.L.A.'s love talking.



## 'Great Crowd Of Citizens'

## MR. PEPYS GOES TO HOUSE OPENING

By BARRY MATHER

VICTORIA — Tuesday afternoon to the house where they open the new session. And here is a great crowd of citizens and a mighty crush to get seats in the galleries.

And presently through the streets comes my lord the Lieutenant-Governor Banks in his great black and silver coach from Government House. And, as he comes up, the guns on Belleville Street go off. And they do give him a 15-gun salute. At which he do stop and get out to inspect the navy and army guards.

But lord; the lieutenant-governor might fine in his civil uniform of the second class, with a plume in his cocked hat and much gold braid on his coat. And looks most brave. As to which, seeing that it be but his second class uniform, it sets me wondering what his first class uniform is like. But I believe it much the same, only more so.

MY LORD THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR soon done with his inspecting of the guards and seems to find no great fault with them. And so he to House where now is come Premier Johnson to meet him. And together they go into the House with the deputy sergeant at arms of the house crying out, "Make way for the lieutenant-governor." (Which, I hear, he hath been practising at crying out the night before.)

My Lord the Lieutenant-Governor comes into the House with full escort but says he understands they have no speaker and that he will not act until they choose one. And so out he goes again and comes back after the members elect a speaker.

An ill thing methought was, after the speaker being installed, the great golden mace of the House falling by some misadventure from its place at the table and rolling upon the floor. But it is soon picked up and very little made of it.

AND SO MY LORD the Lieutenant-Governor do sit on the dais, the speaker's dais, and do read out his speech in which he tells what the government hath a mind to do this new session.

As to which the main thing is, it seems, that the government now intend to do something about the hospital and social security situations. But what it is they plan to do he does not say.

A thing I was glad to hear is that the government also hath a plan to bring in a new method of getting into mental hospitals. Which is I believe a very timely intention.

As to the members and their work this session my Lord the Lieutenant-Governor prays God help them. And so is done.

## PEOPLE TELL ME Al Williamson

TEMPUS IS FUGITING: As Harold Winch, bowed down with responsibilities and a severe attack of flu, said to us in the lobby of the Parliament Buildings: "The years are slipping by." The Leader of the Opposition looked very serious and shook his head sadly as he recalled that this was his 17th year in the legislature.



His years of service and his responsibilities were weighing heavily on the once-youthful C.C.F. leader as he prepared for the business of this, the third session of the 21st Legislature. He felt his years and he faced a revived Coalition government which is still glowing with the pride and strength of two recent victories at the polls. At the moment, Mr. Winch was tired of it all.

THIS OLD PROVINCE: In the space of years, Mr. Winch's time in the Legislature is comparatively short. Legislatures have been meeting in this ornate old pile for exactly 50 years. The Parliament Buildings were officially opened with a meeting of the Legislature on Feb. 10, 1898. The opening of the third session of the 21st Legislature on Tuesday was a golden anniversary occasion.

And it opened under auspicious circumstances. Apart from the fact that the weather was what Victorians boastfully call "typical"—it was a lovely, sunny, calm day—the Legislature was opening under new management. Premier Byron I. Johnson was taking the chair for the first time and there was a new "Mr. Speaker" on the

throne—Robert H. Carson, of Kamloops. There was a new minister, too, in the person of Hon. W. T. Straith, who is guiding affairs of the department of education as a result of the prolonged illness of Dr. George M. Weir. Later, there will be two new members—Arthur Ash, of Saanich, and Walter Hogg, Cariboo—who were recently successful in by-elections in their respective ridings.

SIGHTSEER: There was many a visitor to Victoria on Tuesday, as officials of state, prominent citizens and friends and relatives of the legislators poured into the capital for the opening ceremonies. The session to many is a sort of old boys' reunion. Many a former member will be seen in the corridors, walking around to look at the familiar scenes and shaking hands with old friends of days when they, too, sat in the marble-walled assembly chamber. There was, of course, T. D. Pattullo, K.C., former premier and former member for Prince Rupert who, living in Victoria, seldom misses any of the events of the Buildings. There was M. M. Connelly, former member for Omineca and long-time government whip. There was Capt. C. S. Leary, former minister of public works and long-time member for Kaslo-Slocan, and there were former members dating back to even more distant legislative sessions.

FIRST-TIMER: Ironical, in the fact of the return of so many old-timers, was the visit of Oliver Anderson, well-known manager of Harrison Hot Springs Hotel. After all these years, Mr. Anderson was making his first visit to Victoria. It was like a Cook's tour as he watched all the excitement around the buildings.

## B.C.'s Liquor 'Binge' Tops \$74 Million Mark

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA.—British Columbians had their greatest liquor binge in history in the 18-month period from April 1, 1946, to Sept. 30, 1947 — when they drank \$74,219,235 of "alcoholic beverages," as the Liquor Control Board calls the stuff.

Profits to the government in this period were \$22,165,321.

These facts came to light in the legislature Tuesday when Attorney-General Gordon Wismer filed the annual report of the Liquor Control Board.

THE REPORT was in two sections, for the fiscal year ended last March 31 when the total liquor bill was \$47,961,515 and profits \$14,634,291; and for the next six months ending last Sept. 30, when the total liquor sales were \$26,257,720 and profits \$7,531,030.

The increase for the 1948-47 fiscal year was \$9,218,059 over the previous year. Profits in that 12-month period alone were up \$3,440,115 over the year before.

The liquor bill is even higher when beer parlor profits are taken into consideration. In the

fiscal year holders of licenses paid \$9,608,856 for their beer and sold it for approximately twice that amount.

THESE COLOSSAL figures, broken down, mean the average man, woman and child in British Columbia put out \$50 for liquor in one year.

The Dominion government did well, too, from the \$47,961,515 figure, collecting, in duty, excise and sales tax, a total of \$8,552,501.

Vancouver's six liquor stores did an \$18,729,826 business in the fiscal year, with the E. Hastings Street establishment doing the most—\$4,571,117; Beatty Street, \$2,425,241; Carrall Street, \$2,36,945; Davie, \$1,689,707; Hornby, \$3,022,329; Pender, \$2,637,143. Sales to beer parlors were \$4,653,487 and mail order business \$407,045.

TWO VICTORIA stores sold a total of \$3,908,890.

Vancouver's drinking bill for the year was \$21,774,014. This represents about 40 per cent of the B.C. total. Out of Vancouver's drinking alone the provincial government made a profit of \$6,648,432.

There are now 373 beer saloons in B.C. with 63 in Vancouver; 43 veterans' clubs, and 79 cocktail and other clubs.

## BC 1947 Surplus Tops \$10 Million

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA. — B.C. revenue surplus in the fiscal year ending last March 31 was \$10,502,650, according to public accounts tabled in the legislature Tuesday by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

It was the largest net revenue surplus in the province's history. There was a current income of \$56,817,944 and current expenditures of \$46,315,293.

EXPENDITURES from the surplus, however, totalled \$4,652,490—including \$238,863 for additional cost-of-living bonus to old-age pensioners; \$75,000 grant for emergency construction at U.B.C.; \$1 million to offset, in part, shortages in the provincial sinking fund account; \$109,930 for grants in aid of mining roads and trails, and \$2,074,522 for roads, bridges, ferries, paving, garages, machinery and gravel crushing.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1948



**NEW LOOK** — Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks leaves packed house after opening the third session of British Columbia's 21st Legislature. New faces were seen all around the house—including that of Premier Byron Johnson, playing for the first time the chief commoner's role in the province's most important assembly.



**PAGEANTRY** — Standing at salute in front of Legislative Buildings as 15 guns roar out in his honor is Lieut.-Gov. Charles A. Banks with his naval, military and air force aides.

—News-Herald Photos

## Throne Speech Highlights

Special to The News-Herald

**VICTORIA.** — From the Speech from the Throne delivered by Lieut.-Gov. Charles A. Banks at Tuesday's colorful opening of the 21st legislature emerged these highlights:

Proposals being studied by government . . . to find solution . . . to "serious hospital situation" . . . measures to alleviate numbers of provincial-municipal problems—as well as rising cost of social security and other important public services. (This is being interpreted as meaning some kind of sales tax).

Legislation revising the labor laws, "thereby bringing into effect further improvements in employer - employee relations which is so desirable."

Further benefits by increases in certain allowances under Workmen's Compensation Act.

Amendments to the Forest Act, thereby improving the economy of this important industry and widening the scope of the sustained yield program.

"Ample provision" for further improvement of B.C.'s main highways and completion of major public works projects already undertaken.

Amending legislation governing agricultural matters "with view to improving this important basic industry."

● New method of admission to mental hospitals and provisions of a clinic for treatment of patients "who may be saved thereby from the stigma of being committed to a mental institution"

● Establishment of a new biological laboratory to develop B.C.'s fishing industry

● Amendments to legislation governing the mining industry.

**TH. THRONE SPEECH** paid tribute to retire Premier John Hart. It said his retirement was regretted by all and "his unselfish devotion to the public service during a period of 22 years is unequalled in the history of British Columbia."

"The continued confidence of the people which he has enjoyed is in itself a tribute to his integrity and an indication of the high esteem in which he is held."

"I feel sure that I express the sentiments of my people in wishing him every enjoyment of those years of leisure to which he is so justly entitled."

"His successor, undoubtedly is inspired by the same unselfish motives, and I wish him every success in the new responsibilities he has assumed."



## Flower Garden Vista As Ladies View Legislature Opening

Special to The News-Herald  
VICTORIA.—The galleries in the legislative chamber at the opening of the House Tuesday looked down on what appeared to be a great flower garden in full bloom—the spring hats of the women guests.

It was a gay scene, most of the ladies wearing the new long styles, over which they donned fur wraps. Hats were topped with bright flowers—lily of the valley predominating. Great nosegays of brilliant colors lit up most of the coats.

It was a happy day for Mrs. Byron Johnson, the pleasant wife of the new Premier. She arrived, with her son, Byron, and the Premier's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John V. Johnson. The two Mrs. Johnsons sat to the immediate left of the Lieutenant-Governor, with the Premier's sister, Mrs. Lillian Russell of Vancouver, and her daughter, Miss Joan Russell. J. V. Johnson and his nephew took seats in the main body of the chamber, while their brother and father played his new and important part of premier.

U.B.C. PRESIDENT Dr. Norman MacKenzie and U.B.C. Chancellor Hon. E. W. Hamber, in their red robes, sat next to the Bishop of British Columbia, Rt. Rev. H. E. Sexton, and the Bishop of Victoria, Rt. Rev. James Hill, both in scarlet and purple. Behind this quartette sat Mrs. Hamber and Mrs. MacKenzie and next to them Mrs. Gordon Sloan, wife of the Chief Justice of British Columbia.

Mrs. Walter Nichol, government house chatelaine from 1921 to 1926, sat opposite her son-in-law and daughter, Rear-Admiral and Mrs. E. Rollo Mainguy. Capt. F. G. Hart and Mrs. Hart were greeted on their return here after living some years in Halifax. Also in the chamber was Mrs. Hart's mother, Mrs. K. C. MacDonald,

wife of a former minister of agriculture.

THREE JUSTICES of the Supreme Court, Hon. Norman Whittaker, Hon. Herbert S. Wood and Hon. A. D. MacFarlane, were present and just behind them sat their wives together. Mrs. G. R. Pearkes, wife of the M.P. for Nanaimo, came in from her Saanich home for the affair.

Mrs. John Hart had a new role, and sat far down the chamber, after four years, as the Premier's wife, sitting at the top of the list. She looked well after her recent trip to California, and her legislative friends were glad to see her.

The two women members of the House, Mrs. Nancy Hodges and Mrs. F. J. Rolston, sat together, Mrs. Hodges in green, with black hat, and Mrs. Rolston in all-black, her large off-the-face hat set off with sparkling brilliants.

Two former members of the House, Capt. C. S. Leary and Sqdm-Ldr. E. V. Finland, were present, with their wives.

Because of the new styles the opening was the gayest in many years. And top hats were quite in order for many of the men guests.

MRS. CHARLES BANKS, because of a recent injury, was unable to attend the House opening, but received, with His Honor, at the Government House reception from 4:30 to 6. She had chosen a Hattie Carnegie frock with plain tulle skirt in the new long length, a slightly fitted moire jacket and soft blue blouse, with diamond rose at the shoulder.

## DAY IN THE HOUSE

### Mrs. Hodges Chary With Her Bouquets

By J. K. NESBITT

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA.—Mrs. Nancy Hodges, tailored and business-like, launched 1948 legislative debate Wednesday. To her fell what is looked upon as a great honor—moving the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The MLA so honored is expected suitably to praise the government and everything it does, and perhaps give a hint of government plans. Mrs. Hodges gave no hint.

SHE STARTED OFF politely—and with much more flowery language than she usually uses. She handed out bouquets right and left—to Mr. Hart, for what he has done, to Premier Johnson for what he will do, to former Speaker Whittaker, to the new speaker, Mr. Carson, to Mr. Straith and Dr. Weir and she paid tribute to Louis Lebourdais.

But these niceties over, Mrs. Hodges wasn't too pleased with the government. She didn't say it is the finest government B.C. has ever had.

INDEED, SHE FOUND it had some shortcomings. She dealt with the one she promised and it appeared to some people she wasn't any too impressed by them. She hoped the government would hurry its help to the municipalities. She did a first-class job of painting the picture of horror that faces so many people who are financially crippled by medical bills.

Mrs. Hodges needled away on this subject—said the government had better get a move on, do something about the health insurance it had been talking about for 12 years.

MRS. HODGES, who read her speech for the first time, asked dower rights for women, higher benefits for women under the Compensation Act, outlawing of what she called undescribable literature. She thrust out her jaw, grew quite belligerent as she said she would keep right on talking about such literature until somebody does something. She seemed determined on this.

The women in the galleries, proud of their sex in action in such high-toned halls, hung on to Nancy's every word.

And they thought it fine when Mrs. Hodges, who is now a top-flight political speech-maker wound up with this: "It is the responsibility not only

of every legislator in the House, but also of every man and woman in Canada, to see that democracy should not become static or stagnant, but should be kept up with a living, vital dynamic march towards the goal of human happiness and well-being in the fullest and widest sense of the term."

POINT GREY'S Mr. Stevenson followed Mrs. Hodges. He dabbled a bit in politics, said "I might warn those who search for any cleavage between the two parties forming the Coalition government are wasting their efforts." In view of what took place a few months back, the C.C.F. snickered. The elder Mr. Winch almost guffawed aloud.

Mr. Stevenson was not on his feet long before he broke into a discourse on Russia and Communism.

After thoroughly bashing Communism about, Mr. Stevenson came back to B.C. He said Point Grey is the finest riding in B.C., but no one seemed impressed except his fellow Point Greys, Mrs. Rolston and Mr. MacDougall, who pounded their desks in approval. But even this gesture didn't bring much life to the house.

THE PRICE OF MILK engaged Mr. Stevenson's attention. He hoped a further increase could be avoided, for, if it isn't fewer people will be drinking milk. He didn't disapprove of the gas price increase, but said it should be only for two years, to give companies time to cut their marketing costs and install additional refining facilities.

He urged more attention to the tourist trade, uttered a great truth when he said B.C. must improve the quality of its tourist cabins.

THAT, IN BRIEF, was the first day—and it was all over in 75 minutes.

The premier moved and the minister of finance seconded election of Grand Forks-Greenwood's Mr. Love as deputy speaker. Opposition Leader Harold Winch moved adjournment of debate, which means he speaks today.

It will be his duty to tear into the Throne Speech.

He will tell the government there was nothing in it, that the government has no plans, is merely drifting.

Friday is expected Premier Johnson's first policy speech.

## Throne Speech Highlights

to The News-Herald  
IA. — From the throne delivered by the Thronedeliv-  
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lilities he has assumed."

## A Mental Clinic At Last

A gratifying feature of the throne speech in Victoria is the promise to establish a new system of admission to mental hospitals and to provide a clinic for the treatment of patients who may be saved thereby the stigma of being committed to a mental institution.

The new system is needed as much in the interests of the presently congested institutions as it is in the interests of the patients themselves. Popular opinion in British Columbia has long inclined to the belief that there are hundreds of persons committed to mental institutions prematurely and unnecessarily. The mental health of such persons is not thereby improved, and their presence claims the time and attention of the

staff which ought to be devoted to more serious cases.

Still another and by no means unimportant aspect of the matter is that unnecessary committals involve taxpayers in unnecessary expense. The fact that the mental institutions of British Columbia are now treating nearly 4,000 patients at a cost of approximately \$2 millions a year should ensure taxpayer support for a new and better system of dealing with mental patients.

The whole purpose of the clinic will be to arrest maladjustments and derangements in their early stages and thus to save the patients for themselves and their families. This approach has been long overdue.

## Stevenson Lays World Blame On Russ; Warns B.C.

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA—L. F. Stevenson (Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey) in the Legislature Wednesday gave warning that, in view of the world situation, B.C. as a vital and integral part of Canada should get its own house in order so "we can carry our share of the load and maintain our integrity in any eventuality."

Mr. Stevenson, an R.C.A.F. Air Vice-Marshal during the war, while not mentioning Russia by name, devoted a good part of his speech to an attack on the Soviet. The fault for the present unhappy world situation, he indicated, lies with Russia.

"It might assist in our thinking if we reflect on conditions in Europe in 1942 and 1943 when we shared our sacrifice and precious war materials with a country hard pressed and almost beaten," he said. "A country which now shouts defiance at those who gave her the very shirts off their backs, a country which now defeats efforts to bring the world back to a fit condition in which to live."

## Govt. Health Plan Urged

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition Victoria, in the Legislature Wednesday urged the government to get busy and do something about health insurance.

Some scheme, she said, should be launched "to meet the growing demand for contributory hospital and medical aid in B.C. —at least until such time as a national health insurance plan comes into operation."

Mrs. Hodges said that while hospitals are facing a grave crisis many potential patients are facing an even greater one.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1948

## Govt. 'Derelict' In Douk Affair, Winch Declares

VICTORIA—(CP)— Government "dereliction" in handling the Doukhobor situation in the boundary country last year has resulted in the nucleus of a new body which may give as much trouble this year, declared Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch in the Legislature Thursday.

While some of the peace disturbers were jailed, the leaders still were free and educated Doukhobors said quick action is necessary if more trouble is to be averted.

The C.C.F. leader read translation of a letter written by "J. J. Veregin," widely circulated among Doukhobors in the southern interior, setting out plans for a new community under inducement of immunity from police control.

"THE LETTER SAYS members of the new group must declare they will not be naturalized to any country and that any Doukhobor who served in the war must surrender any medals he wears, give up his pension and agree not to fight again for this country," said Mr. Winch. Members also must pay Mr. Veregin \$17 a year.

A second letter, signed "Jesus," declared "All man-made laws are superficial and false and cannot be endured."

Mr. Winch also criticized the government for failing to institute a health insurance plan after having spent \$234,000 investigating the question since 1934. A satisfactory plan "will have to be administered by the province," he said.



## DAY IN THE HOUSE

## Crowded Galleries Hear Winch Attack

By J. K. NESBITT

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA—Opposition leader Harold Winch held the spotlight Thursday. He attacked the government. It was his best and most telling attack in some years. He made a thorough job of it. It was a two hour speech that must have taken hours in preparation, so full of facts and figures was it.

The galleries are a barometer of an M.L.A.'s speech. They were crowded for Mr. Winch and when he was through they were almost as well filled as when he started.

Therefore, the speech must have been a good one. The public has no patience with dull speeches and if they are, soon walks out.

MR. WINCH, vehement, dramatic, his voice ringing out, covered all the troubles of the province.

Little the government is doing pleased him, which was to be expected. But his was not destructive criticism.

As he tore down he offered C.C.F. recipes for improvements. These, of course, will not be immediately accepted, he said, but sooner or later they will be.

Mr. Winch just couldn't understand why the government does not take C.C.F. advice right off instead of waiting years, as it usually does.

**MOSTLY, HE STAYED** clear of politics.

He caused a bit of fun when he wondered how it was Mr. Anscomb had knuckled down under a Liberal premier when the Tories had said Mr. Anscomb should be premier. Why, said Mr. Winch, there was pretty nearly a divorce and he would sure like to know what made Mr. Anscomb capitulate.

"You'd like to know?" queried Mr. Anscomb glumly.

"I'll hazard a guess," shot back Mr. Winch. "It reached a point where the Liberals were preparing to form a minority government and go it alone."

Mr. Anscomb kept silent at this and so did Mr. Johnson, though it did seem he colored a little.

Mr. Winch then got down to the Throne Speech. He said he had listened to 17 Throne Speeches and the 1948 edition was the most bankrupt of them all, and "clearly demonstrated the stumbling uncertainty and indecision of this government," and, furthermore, "because of the blindness and stupidity of Liberals and Conservatives B.C. is facing a dark situation."

These are strong words and they were used effectively. Mr. Winch was in good form.

**THE OPPOSITION** leader complained about what he called the iron curtain that had been rung down on him by the government since retirement of Mr. Hart, who, said Mr. Winch, was always courteous and let him in on many government secrets.

Now, grumbled Mr. Winch, he can learn nothing about why the government allows gas price increases and things like that—the people's business, said Mr. Winch.

Some cabinet ministers looked as if they thought Mr. Hart spoiled Mr. Winch and that it's time the C.C.F. leader was told he isn't in the government.

MR. WINCH twitted the government because health insurance is still among the missing.

All Mr. Winch could find in the Throne Speech about social security was the same old stuff Mr. Hart had been talking about for ages without getting anything done.

He hoped the government would be able to keep all its Saanich and Cariboo by-election promises, even though they would take \$100,000,000.

**HE APOLOGIZED** to the government for saying "we told you so," but said the C.C.F. knew all along what was going to happen under capitalism. For instance — Bill 39 — The C.C.F. knew it wouldn't work and last session attempted to amend it, but the government turned thumbs down—and then Mr. Winch made Coalition benches look a little shame-faced when he flew at the government for its treatment of minorities.

**HE CALLED** the government policy "remnants of Fascism." The racial discrimination practised by the government, he said, absolutely astounded him—coming from a government that prates about democracy and British justice.

The government, he said, has a despicable policy of racial discrimination and it's time it was wiped out—this blot on B.C.'s face—wiped out, not only in employment, but in the professions and in voting.

Premier Johnson had never been so under attack. But he sat through it, arms folded often, sometimes elbows on desk, listening to every word intently. He knew Mr. Winch wasn't going to lay roses at his feet, so he steelled himself for attack and came through it chin up. Today he will get even in his policy speech.

## DAY IN THE HOUSE

## Johnson Presents Cold, Hard Facts

By J. K. NESBITT

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — When a man makes his first speech as premier history is being written. Such was the case in the house Friday when Hon. Byron Johnson rose in his new role as head of the government.

There was a feeling of tense excitement abroad. Premier's maiden speeches do not come often—B.C. has had only 24 premiers since it joined confederation in 1871. So Friday was a big day. The galleries were crowded, late-comers were turned away disappointed.

MR. JOHNSON, it must be admitted, had a story of gloom for B.C.—a hard luck story; yes, it was a sob story he had. There is no other way of looking at it. One could feel the man's frustration.

He had expected to find bulging coffers. Instead, he found the bills going up, revenues at a stand-still, war-born surpluses shrinking.

He told us about all this Friday and he didn't mince words. He might well have glossed over B.C.'s troubles, for a new premier likes to sound like a Cassandra. But Mr. Johnson believes the people should know the truth, good or bad.

**HE SEVERELY** spanked Ottawa for not living up to the social security promises it gave B.C. in order to get this province to sign the income tax agreement. He practically said B.C. is left holding the bag—a mighty empty bag—having given away its right to income tax for a fixed sum—and expecting help on old age pensions and health insurance and not getting it.

Mr. Johnson dealt with the municipalities, which are crying hard times and seeking to get the government to take over full education costs. Mr. Johnson said the municipalities will get some more relief this session—but he would like them to understand—only once more—and that will be that.

**HE SAID** no other plea will be considered "unless the municipalities follow the plan outlined in the Goldenberg Report." And he would have school districts go easy on expenditures. He urged them to cut down on their school building programs.

Mr. Johnson made no bones about the financial situation. He said "... the government is deeply concerned over the present financial position and why it is so necessary that our revenues should be increased if we are to maintain our public services."

He ended once and for all the argument as to whether or not the government-supervised strike vote would be taken from the Labor Act—Bill 39.

**HE SAID** there would be amendments, but the principles of the act are good "particularly the section dealing with the

holding of a secret ballot in connection with the strike vote—a secret ballot ensures that everyone will have the right to express his opinion without any intimidation or pressure being brought to bear upon him."

At the end, the premier hoped he had not been too gloomy. He said B.C.'s difficulties are not insurmountable—but—and he repeated—increased revenues will have to be found, with restraint in expenditures. He didn't explain how this could be done, if he knows, which he probably doesn't at this moment.

**THE PREMIER** spoke from a prepared text and obviously felt stifled as a result. Now and then he got away from it—and then his spontaneous warmth and friendliness and determination to do his level best for this province and its people could be felt. He became then a natural speaker—a charming and convincing one. But, premiers must speak for the record—hence the text.

Mr. Anscomb gave forth with an encouraging grin as Mr. Johnson rose—and he listened intently as the premier sang a sort of financial swan song. Mr. Anscomb was no doubt happy. Mr. Johnson was taking the shock of a financial gloom from the Anscomb budget.

**FINANCE MINISTERS** don't like to sound too depressed. The galleries watched the premier—looked back a few years to the days when "Boss" Johnson was kicking a football around the Spring Ridge district of Victoria where he was born. It seemed but yesterday—and yet here he was attempting to find some way of leading his native province out of the financial bog into which almost overnight it seemed to have plunged.

When he was through everyone took off the rose colored spectacles they have been wearing the last few years, decided that—well—hatful as the idea is—well—perhaps a sales tax is the only way of keeping the wolf from the door.



# JOHNSON SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS

Special to The News-Herald

**VICTORIA** — Highlights of Premier Byron Johnson's policy speech presented Friday to the Legislature:

Existing agreements between Dominion and province cannot be considered fair unless social security proposals outlined in Green Book are put into effect.

Implementation of social security measures (outlined by Ottawa) are important due to rapid rise in costs.

**ASSURANCES** given by Prime Minister King that social security measures would be implemented when a sufficient number of provinces signed tax agreements.

Green Book proposals estimated 16,670 old-age pensions in B.C. by 1948. Actual result — 17,768 recipients last October and 21,305 at the beginning of 1948. Anticipated at end of this year — 25,000.

Due to change in old-age pension regulations, B.C. assuming greater share of social welfare burden of other provinces of 2,079 persons. Old-age pension cases assumed in the past five months, 423 or 20 per cent are from other provinces and not really B.C. cases in the true sense.

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE** allowances to unemployables have risen at the rate of 2,000 new cases a year for the last two years.

Cost of old-age pensions, social allowances and mothers' pensions has risen from \$4,100,000 in 1945-46 to an estimated \$8,900,000 in 1948-49, an increase of more than 100 per cent.

Cost of social services on per capita basis has risen from \$1.60 in 1944-45 to \$2.07 in 1946, in contrast to a per capita rise in Saskatchewan during the same period from 56 cents to 76 cents.

**AGGRAVATING** financial situation is serious financial plight of hospitals.

Dominion government has yet to assume full responsibility for unemployment.

As a result of increased health and welfare services, costs have risen in B.C. from \$9,300,000 in 1945-46 to an estimated \$19,346,000 in 1948-49, an increase of approximately \$10,000,000 or 100 per cent.

Dominion collected for year ended last March 31 — \$139,958,000 from income, corporation and succession duty taxes in B.C. The provinces received back \$23,000,000, or only 16 per cent.

**CONSEQUENTLY**, Government has urged upon the Dominion to bear a larger share of old age pensions, institute compulsory contributory superannuation, give financial assistance in the cost of hospitals and implement a system of health insurance.

Government will take necessary steps to prepare case for presentation to the federal authorities.

\$550,000 granted hospitals to meet emergent financial position.

**HOSPITAL** costs have risen 100% since 1945-46.

The cost of hospitals to the government for 1947-48 was \$2,359,000 or an increase of \$1,160,000.

Two courses of action appear necessary. First, revenue sources must be pooled to provide adequate services for money available. Secondly, hospital administration should receive strict examination to ensure maximum of service for money expended.

**GOVERNMENT PROPOSES** to submit measures designed to bring hospitalization within financial reach of the people.

Municipalities have been relieved of many social burdens during past several years; have been assisted provincially in connection with reduction of their debts as well as being aided by successive upward revisions in provincial financial grants for education and in respect to motor license revenue.

Further financial assistance to municipalities assured; but this assistance will be regarded as final.

**MUNICIPALITIES** should implement recommendations of Goldenberg Report as has the provincial government.

Inflationary costs should be met by inflated tax dollar. Assessment basis at present is deflated.

Provincial administration affected by two factors — Rapid rise in cost of social security and education and spiral of inflation.

**SURPLUS REVENUE** Account almost entirely appropriated so there are no reserves to meet abnormal conditions.

Added revenues required to meet mounting costs and spiral of inflation, and to assist municipalities and hospitals.

P.G.E. negotiations for extension to be resumed this spring.

**LABOR LEGISLATION** to be revised but broad underlying principles maintained.

B.C. Power Commission adds 4,000 more customers in past eleven months bringing total to 27,000 consumers.

Rate reductions given in 11 out of 18 power districts.

**NEW RATE** reductions to be made effective on Vancouver Island by April 1.

Second 25,000 horsepower unit at Campbell River to be put in operation within next few weeks.

Campbell River power plant expected to reach 100,000 horsepower stage within next 12 months.

**NANAIMO-DUNCAN** load to be transferred to Campbell River plant Sunday.

Commission negotiating to supply further 10,000 horsepower to another new pulp mill on east coast of Vancouver Island. Mill expected to be in operation by 1950.

Third pulp mill also under consideration on Vancouver Island with an expected \$5,000 to 50,000 horsepower requirement. Other industries are applying for power.

**TENDERS CALLED** for generators, turbines and tunnel in connection with Whatshan Lake 25,000 horsepower development for Kamloops and Okanagan areas, bids to close April 15.

Commission has been able to pay out of all operating revenue the full interest on capital advances, full sinking fund requirements, adequate reserves, all administrative and operating expenses and yet set aside in nine months of this fiscal year \$186,000 as a rates stabilization reserve.

**FIRST INCREASE** in price of gasoline in B.C. over a period of six years granted on interim basis, increase being 3 cents per gallon.

Revision made as a result of heavy importations of refined gasoline to meet demand and following three upward revisions of price of crude oil at source of supply. Increase of crude oil during past 12 months 90c per barrel.

**NO OTHER** revision to be given until further examination of oil company books.

Price in B.C. still lowest in Canada.

Premier sounded optimistic note in conclusion. Said problems of inflation and rising social security and education costs not insurmountable.

**CONFIDENT** of B.C.'s future. Population growth in past two years 95,000. Payrolls stood at \$402,000,000 in 1946 or \$20,000,000 more than previous year. Greater gain expected for 1947.

Industrial development growing apace as more power provided and roads improved and new territory opened up through public works.

## Coalition Will Aim Big Guns At Ottawa

By J. K. NESBITT  
Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — The "Ottawa done us dirt" idea, started in the legislature last week by Vancouver-Point Grey's L. F. Stevenson and turned into a crescendo by Premier Byron Johnson in his policy speeches promises to be the theme song of the present session.

Coalition members, one by one, are expected quickly to learn the tune and sing it. The C.C.F. will take the opposite tune—that a capitalistic government, fearing the future, is seeking a scape goat. Ottawa is a good safe distance away and the blame might just as well be put there.

SO IT IS that Ottawa is going to get verbal punishment for British Columbia's unhappy financial picture—and Quebec and Ontario which have refused to sign Dominion-provincial income tax agreements, thereby holding back nationwide health insurance and old-age pensions.

Mr. Stevenson, sending forth the first volley in what is going to be a government-sponsored "don't blame us" hue and cry said that contact with Ottawa might be likened to a cashier's vacuum tube system which sucks away a well-filled cannister and then returns the empty. "We are prying much more than our share into the federal coffers and getting little in return."

THE PREMIER said that because Ottawa has done nothing about social security this province is in a serious financial position and will have to find some new revenues on its own. Ottawa said the premier, is returning to B.C. only 16 per cent of the huge amount it takes out of this province in income, corporation and succession duty taxes.

All this places John Hart in an awkward position. He came home from Ottawa little more than a year ago to announce the Dominion-Provincial agreements he signed put this province in good financial shape for years to come.

ADDRESSING THE legislature last year the then premier said the agreement "provides an expanding revenue to meet our growing requirements — takes into account the need for greater social security and high-level employment, enables the bringing about of what promises to be unified action on the part of all the provinces so that the Dominion government may be free to proceed with the implementation of those measures designed to raise living standards across Canada and bring about a greater measure of security."

There is no doubt Mr. Hart thought Ontario and Quebec would have jumped on the band wagon by this time. Then Ottawa would have no alternative but to go ahead and do something about social security, cost of which is slowly but surely breaking B.C. today, according to the government.

However in the last year all has been silent in Ottawa about such plans, Dominion-provincial conferences seem a thing of the past, federal authorities being more interested in speculation on Mr. King's possible retirement and who will get his job.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC continue their defiant fence-sitting—and this province suffers.

Mr. Hart, who is now sitting in the legislature as a private member will doubtless answer the present government intimation that the Dominion-provincial agreement he made last year was not exactly a good one for this province after all.

When Mr. Johnson was telling his tale of woe Friday the former premier was observed making copious notes.

His speech should be an interesting and informative one. Then the other side of the picture will be presented.

## Sales Tax

The State of Washington has no income tax and no bonded debt. It preserves this enviable position by means of a three per cent sales tax. The sales tax enables the state to adhere to a pay-as-you-go policy.

The provincial government of B.C. contemplates a sales tax. Without a sales tax, or some similar impost, British Columbia will be faced with the necessity for a dual income tax at the expiry of the present provincial-Dominion tax agreement.

At the moment, provincial administrators have not envisioned a debt-free province operating on a pay-as-you-go policy. It has not raised its sights as high as the State of Washington. But there's always the possibility of better marksmanship based on clear vision and diligent target practice. It would be a feather in the cap of Finance Minister Anscomb if he should work towards the ideal of a province emancipated from the burden of public debt.

The sales tax is not an ideal tax, but it compares more than favorably with most other arbitrary imposts. Every one, rich and poor alike, pays

sales tax in accordance with his spending. Vast numbers of people pay nothing at all in the form of income tax.

The sales tax does nothing to discourage maximum production and it involves little or no interference by the state in the private affairs of citizens. The graduated income tax does discourage maximum effort and it has inquisitorial features which are most objectionable to freedom loving men.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The State of Washington, like the province of Quebec, has a sales tax and it is supported by public opinion. It is a tax that seems to pluck the most feathers with the least squawking—a tough but realistic criterion of taxation. If we are to have a sales tax in B.C., all the squawking, as was the experience in Washington and Quebec, may be expected at its inception. When benefits begin to accrue in the form of higher standards of public service, the squawkings of discontent may, here as elsewhere, be transformed into the crowings of accomplishment.



## Back Of B.C.'s Financial Troubles

Much of the present financial difficulty of British Columbia and other provinces, and of many municipalities, is due to the collapse, two years ago, of attempts to effect a nine province-Dominion agreement which would place financial responsibility for health and social services on a national basis.

A national social security plan to include contributory pensions and contributory health insurance was a keystone proposal of the original Dominion-provincial conference. Cost of this was to be assumed by the federal government in return for a clear field in the provinces in collecting income and corporation taxes.

When Quebec and Ontario balked at this, separate agreements were worked out between Ottawa and the other seven provinces. These provided for substantial grants in compensation for surrender of the income and corporation tax fields, but the national health and pension plans were blocked by the Quebec-Ontario dissension.

These federal grants looked good at the time they were established last year, but inflation, soaring provincial costs, and soaring federal tax revenues, have thrown them out of kilter. Now, it develops, B.C. is only recovering from Ottawa 16 per cent of the amount the federal government takes

out of this province in income, corporation and succession duties—only \$1 back for every \$6 that goes out.

In the provincial legislature last week both Premier Johnson and Leigh Stevenson, Point Grey M.L.A., emphasized the extent to which the failure to establish nation-wide health insurance and old age pensions had impaired B.C.'s finances—changing the province's financial position almost overnight from one of apparent "prosperity" to one so critical that new taxes are being considered.

Premier Johnson has already intimated that he intends to press Ottawa for action on this two-pronged social security program—even if it has to be instituted on a 7-province basis.

This social service collapse is also a factor, of course, in the difficulties which threaten to bankrupt municipalities. It is the growing burden of welfare and social services which is making it increasingly difficult for municipal governments to pay their way.

A national social security program must come. Britain, the United States, Australia already have such plans in operation. A Canadian social security system must be devised, not only to protect the health and welfare of every citizen, but also to save provinces and municipalities from insupportable tax loads.

## Sales Tax Urged By MacDougall

VICTORIA—A sales tax to aid education and social services was advocated in the legislature Monday by A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey.

An adequate percentage of such a tax, Mr. MacDougall said, "would give the municipalities—a source of revenue—one which they would have reason to believe would, at least in normal times bring in expanding revenue, based on increased population and the prosperity of the whole province."

If the tax is imposed, he said, and yields a satisfactory amount, and other existing taxes do not increase, "the people within a year or two of its imposition will be well satisfied and will not wish to drop the tax and revert to any other form of taxation."

## Insurance Rate Reduction Urged

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — In view of tremendous increase in insurance business because of B.C.'s new car responsibility law, there should be a rate reduction, A. C. Hope, (Cln.-Delta) told the legislature Monday.

"It's high time the insurance companies got busy and adjusted their rates," Mr. Hope said, adding the Saskatchewan government is giving for \$6 a year, benefits costing at least \$18 a year in this province.

"Somebody should tip somebody off to get busy and adjust those rates," Mr. Hope said. "If they can't come down I'd suggest certain changes come about."

## CCF MLA Urges Hospital Sweeps

VICTORIA — (CP) — Sweepstakes to raise money for hospitals throughout the province were urged in the legislature Monday by E. F. Rowland (C.C.F.-Omineca).

## New Infirmary In City Urged

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — Renewed plea to the government to hurry with construction of a new provincial infirmary at Marpole was made in the legislature Monday by A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey.

"Nothing has been done," Mr. MacDougall said. "Something must be done if this administration is to fulfill its duty, not only towards the decent living of that unfortunate portion of our population which has to be admitted there, but towards their very safety from a possible major catastrophe, which the existing structure invites."



## Govt. Experts Draw Coalitionists' Fire

By J. K. NESBITT

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — There were three speakers in the Legislature Monday—two Coalitionists—Point Grey's A. R. MacDougall and Delta's Alex Hope and Omineca's C.C.F. Mr. Rowland.

Usually government supporters praise the government to the skies. Not so Monday. Mr. MacDougall and Mr. Hope were able to find plenty of fault with the government.

Mr. MacDougall was pained because he heard the premier say the municipalities will get one more boost and that will be all.

THE PREMIER'S harshness deeply hurt Mr. MacDougall. He said it is cruel of a parent to bring a child into being and then abandon him. Yet here was the government mercilessly kicking around its very own child. Yes, cruel—that's what it is cried Mr. MacDougall—and he hoped the premier wouldn't mind him saying so. The premier didn't appear to care in the least.

MR. MACDOUGALL gave a hint—probably with a government nod that it might be a good plan to—well, as he put it—"toy with the idea of removing controls on the price of gasoline—restoring its sale to the principle of allowing competition to set the price."

He said there are many oil companies in the province so there is no danger of a monopoly.

Mr. MacDougall said he could not understand why gas should be singled out to be sold at a loss. And he hurried to explain he is in no possible way affected by prosperity or otherwise of any oil companies.

THEN MR. MACDOUGALL got back to roasting the government. He didn't think much of the way the government has, holus-bolus, adopted the Cameron and Goldenberg reports. He was inclined to blame much of the government's troubles on just such reports.

He didn't appear to think to much of experts who bring in reports. He said he would adapt the words of an ancient philosopher—that reports of experts are like Cologne water—to be smelled, but not swallowed.

Mr. MacDougall, being a good lawyer, used lots of nice legal phrases.

FOR INSTANCE, he said "—there must be an immediate adjustment between the federal, provincial and municipal entities in the Canadian body politic."

Mr. Rowland started the annual onslaught against the min-

ister of public works. Mr. Rowland comes from way back of beyond—the rugged and beautiful riding of Omineca. He said roads in his part of the country are bad, and they're getting worse all the time.

Even more, he said the department of public works isn't spending money wisely, indeed it is wasting money and creating ill-feeling by letting some of its machinery do jobs for private individuals while neglecting the public's business.

ALL THIS didn't quite make sense to Mr. Rowland. The public works minister, Mr. Carson, made notes of all Mr. Rowland's complaints. He was smiling, as he always is at the start of a session. As member after member gets up and howls about roads, Mr. Carson will get cross. He usually does.

Mr. Hope made a fighting speech. He was very angry with the government. It's all very well, he said, for the government to say the municipalities should put their house in order. How about the government putting its house in order?

He said he's sick and tired of hearing the municipalities are chiseling, chiseling chiseling—when they're doing nothing of the sort.

MUNICIPALITIES and school boards get too much criticism from this government wailed Mr. Hope. Like Mr. MacDougall, he said he was fed up with commissions and experts advising the government. Let M.L.A.'s advise the government said Mr. Hope and then something might get done sensibly.

Things these days don't add up, there's something wrong somewhere said Mr. Hope.

He praised Saskatchewan's car insurance plan, which gave the C.C.F. great pleasure and Mr. Guthrie sang out "Hear, hear."

HE DARKLY hinted that unless car insurance rates come down he'd suggest some changes—which could only mean one thing—that the government go into the insurance business.

First message bill came in from Hon. R. C. MacDonald. It wasn't very important, but it showed the minister of mines and municipal affairs is on his toes.

Mr. Winch announced the premier is going to give him data on increase in gas rates after all. Lands and forests minister Kenney answered some more questions, which caused Mr. Winch to compliment him on his speed.

## Opening Guns Fire In Liquor Debate

By J. K. NESBITT

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — The legislature got around to liquor Tuesday. Everybody knew it would, sooner or later. Liquor is one of this legislature's hardy annuals.

Atlin's Coalitionist, W. D. Smith started discussion of this intriguing subject. He said people up his way are sick and tired of paying high freight rates for booze so full of water it freezes on the trail.

PRINCE RUPERT'S CCF'er, W. H. Brett said if the government wants more money to finance education and social services let it take over the brewing and distilling industry.

Mr. Brett said "it is impossible to legislate people into giving up drinking but we (the C.C.F.) do insist that no individuals or corporations should be allowed to pile up huge profits from exploitation of human weakness—all profits from the liquor industry should be in the hands of the government to be given back to the people."

THE C.C.F. may insist on this, Mr. Brett, but this government isn't going into the brewing and distilling business.

MR. SMITH handed out a few bouquets to Mines Minister MacDonald. He said the mines department is doing good work in Atlin. Like everybody else he asked the government to hurry up health insurance. Mr. Smith did a good job for his constituents.

He told of their troubles—how Telegraph Creek is so isolated no teacher will go there and parents who can't afford to have to send their children outside to school.

He asked for a new highway to Alaska through the western portion of B.C.—because—"in view of the present world situation—this road . . . is of pressing need."

MR. BRETT, being a good opportunist, said the Throne Speech was notable not for what was in it, but for what it had left out. There were a few vague references, he said, but nothing much else. He said B.C. has reached a sorry state of affairs when it has to decide between schools and roads.

He could see a tug-of-war between the ministers of education and public works.

Mr. Brett put forth the needs of Prince Rupert.

HE ASKED the government have its power commission take over Northern B.C. Power

Company in Prince Rupert so the people "could be given the kind of service they are looking for and at the same time have the satisfaction of knowing the profits would be used for the benefit of the people instead of going to shareholders in eastern Canada and the U.S."

Mr. Brett said he could tell the government lots of places where it could get more money, but admitted there isn't much use giving such advice as the government "just has not got the intestinal fortitude to go after it for fear of stepping on the toes of some of its friends and interfering with that sacred idol of private enterprise."

PEACE RIVER'S C.C.F. Mr. Corsbie—one of the best speakers in the house, one of the most convincing—made a constructive, well-thought out speech.

He asked the government to do something to develop potential coal and oil resources in the Peace River area and build a railroad to get them out. This was a familiar story.

Mr. Corsbie intimated he is fed up with all the delay—and so are his constituents.

HE NEARLY caused Public Works Minister Carson to fall out of his chair when he praised the public works department. Mr. Corsbie was very generous in his praise, too, giving credit where he thought credit due.

He covered a lot of ground, asked health insurance, opposed further milk price increases.

Coalitionist A. B. Ritchie from Salmon Arm asked more consideration for the small logger and development of thousands of acres between Salmon Arm and Ashcroft. He wanted health insurance, too, a reduction in automobile insurance rates.

HE TOO, would like to give the public works minister a word of comfort before the others get around to giving him a lot of hard knocks. But, just in case Mr. Carson should become too complacent, Mr. Ritchie asked him to get a move on with some more Trans-Canada Highway work—in Salmon Arm, of course.

So Tuesday was back-benchers day. We heard a lot about the far flung reaches of the province. It wasn't a lively day, but M.L.A.'s did what their people elected them to do—come to Victoria and talk and try and prod the government into action. The premier listened, as if deeply interested, and only too willing to learn what the people far away are thinking.

## 'Kennedy's Popsicle' Popular

## TIPPLERS LEARN NORTH NOT ALL THAT'S FROZEN

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA.—There's a new kind of drink in the frozen north called "Kennedy's Popsicle."

W. D. Smith (Cen.-Atlin) told the legislature about it Tuesday.

The story runs this way. B.C. liquor is so low in alcoholic content these days that when trappers and prospectors carry it on the trail in cold weather it freezes, breaks the bottle and is lost.

But one enterprising fellow, recounted Mr. Smith, when he found his bottle broken and its contents unfrozen, removed all the broken glass and then licked his "Kennedy's Popsicle" and enjoyed it.

Mr. Smith thought that if the liquor control board won't stop selling what he called "this sub-standard grade of liquor" it had better put some anti-freeze in the bottles sent to Atlin.

However, said Mr. Smith, the freezing of watered liquor is one way to distill the contents "as the water freezes leaving a core of real 'stuff'."

## B.C. Witness Fees Doubles

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA.—Witnesses fees are doubled to \$3 a day under amendments to the summary convictions act introduced in the legislature Tuesday by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

Also provided for is a \$5 a day expense account for interpreters when they are away from their ordinary place of business, in addition to their regular \$2.50 a day fee.

## Sales Tax 'Unjust'

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA.—Opposition to a sales tax was heard in the legislature Tuesday from J. H. Corsbie (C.C.F., Peace River).

Mr. Corsbie said such a tax is obnoxious—and one that usually takes more out of the small man's pocket than he can afford.

"I do not believe a more unpopular or unjust tax can be imposed," Mr. Corsbie said.

## Rough And Tumble Enlivens Session

By J. K. NESBITT

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA.—The session's first rough and tumble came Wednesday.

It wasn't breath-taking, but it relieved the monotony of long speeches. Fort George's C.C.F. Mr. McInnis stirred things up by preaching socialism. Coalitionists don't like socialism and they don't like lectures on it.

Before he spoke, North Okanagan's C. W. Morrow had the floor. He expressed some annoyance at the government.

HE HOPED the Throne Speech meant more than it said and was not merely a pious hope that something might be done.

This, indeed was brave talk from a government back bench-er. Mr. Morrow, as a matter of fact, at times was downright impatient with the government. He noted the premier said the municipalities would get final aid.

Being a lawyer, he interpreted the word final as meaning latest—or at least he hoped the premier meant latest," and that more and more aid to the municipalities would be forthcoming. The premier didn't look as if he meant anything of the sort.

MR. MORROW congratulated Public Works Minister Carson on one hand and with the other knocked him in the middle. He'd like some priority, he said on that stretch—awful, Mr. Morrow called it—between Vernon and Kamloops — 72 miles of grief, that's what it is, cried Mr. Morrow.

However, at the end, Mr. Morrow sweetened up. He got back into the government's good graces by saying the Throne Speech after all shows the government has walked with the people, contained much for the mass—not the class.

REVELSTOCK'S Coalitionist, Mr. Johnston dealt with the problems of his riding. He asked B.C. Power Commission electricity up there, hospital insurance, higher old age pensions, contributory ones, coupled with unemployment insurance, one payment to cover both.

M.L.A.'s are coming up with some good suggestions this session on tourist trade.

They realize the province may have been over-advertising in this regard. Mr. Johnston said. "The main requirement is good roads, with enough gasoline to travel on them, good camps or other suitable accommodation, with good meals at reasonable prices, coupled with courteous service. Send your tourist away

satisfied and thus a good advertiser."

MR. McINNIS first dealt with Fort George. He asked more money for roads in his riding, thought cabinet ministers shouldn't whizz through Fort George the way they do, but stick around and learn some facts; he asked higher salaries for teachers and development of Mount Robson Park.

He insisted on digging up the bones of Cariboo by-election. He said Agriculture Minister Putnam and Trade and Industry Minister Eyres stayed with their own knitting, but the other ministers were a little more venturesome.

Attorney-General Wismer, said Mr. McInnis, may be a good lawyer, but he doesn't know much about socialism.

Mr. McInnis and Lands Minister Kenney had a brief spat about what Mr. Kenney said in Cariboo. Mr. McInnis insisted on exhuming old hatreds between Liberals and Conservatives.

He said women are more intelligent than men—but Mrs. Hodges and Mrs. Rolston were out having a talk over the tea cups and so missed this pretty compliment.

Columbia's Tom King, who jumps in when cabinet ministers fear to, announced, his glasses waving wildly, that complete socialism means everyone in the country works for the government.

Mr. McInnis didn't quite see it this way. Later Mr. King said to Mr. McInnis "we told you you were in the wrong pew, brother."

MR. McINNIS said the mess coming in B.C. is going to be the worst ever. He praised the Labor government in Britain. Mrs. Rolston, who was there last summer said things in Britain are pretty black.

Mr. McInnis silenced her by saying he had a good idea of the class of people she met in Britain.

He said Attlee is doing better than Churchill anyway.

THIS SHOCKED Tory Coalitionists. Then Mr. McInnis said in any event a Tory British government helped to start the war by building up Hitler. This horrified Coalitionist imperialists, but there are so few of them left in the house they couldn't get a good argument going on this one.

Mr. McInnis wound up by saying that if Coalitionists would read a primer on socialism he would have less foolish interruptions.



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## We Must Change Our Tourist Ways

L. F. Stevenson, M.L.A. for Van-  
couver-Point Grey, in a legislative  
speech the other day, made well-  
thought-out reference to B.C.'s tour-  
ist industry—a reference to which  
all persons concerned should pay at-  
tention. Indeed, they should see that  
what Mr. Stevenson advocated comes  
true—and as soon as possible.

Otherwise, this province is going  
to lose out in the competition to at-  
tract tourist dollars. There are many  
other places on the Pacific Coast with  
scenic attractions as great as this  
province's—and they are closer to the  
centres of great population than we  
are. People are not going to come  
many miles unless they know condi-  
tions are going to be good.

Mr. Stevenson said: "We must  
change our ways and make this great  
natural sports ground more attrac-  
tive. We must continue with our road  
programs and extend our roads into

our provincial parks. We must stop  
arterial highways developing into  
main streets for towns and villages,  
we must improve the quality of our  
tourist cabins, hotels and restau-  
rants—and, above all, we must make  
our visitors welcome and provide  
them with the things they want and  
are prepared to pay for. If we do not  
make a real effort to get and hold  
the tourist business it will be lost to  
us forever, as others are not idle."

Everything Mr. Stevenson said in  
this regard is true. He evidently  
knows a lot of our tourist cabins are  
not good and that, in most restaurants  
there is room for improvement—in  
cooking, cleanliness and service.  
People to the south of us are experts  
in catering to the tourist trade. Con-  
sidering what we in B.C. offer in the  
way of amenities, outside the luxury  
class, the wonder of it is that we get  
as many American tourists as we do.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1948

## B.C. Timber Levy Urged To Cover Reforestation

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — Forest manage-  
ment licenses serve to alienate  
"the public inheritance in per-  
petuity," H. J. Welch, Coalition,  
Comox, said Thursday in the  
legislature, adding it is not right  
that the minister of lands and  
forests, by sole decision, should  
be able to do this.

He asked, "Is it right this  
legislature grant by selection to  
any one person or persons the  
right to use of the growing lands  
of British Columbia in perpet-  
uity."

"I feel that it is not.

FURTHER, the act puts the  
minister of lands and forests in  
a most unenviable position. He  
is forced to make decisions be-  
yond the wisdom of a Solomon."

Mr. Welch said the persons  
who harvest the original crop  
should be responsible. Financial-  
ly and by logging method, for  
restocking of the forests."

Mr. Welch said that as a guar-  
antee of reforestation on all  
lands logged, all loggers should  
pay into a reforestation fund  
operated by the forest depart-  
ment, a sum which would cover  
reforestation.

HE SAID such payment  
should be on a per thousand  
basis on the scale bills, collect-  
ed exactly in the same way  
scaling fees are collected now.

This fund, he said, should be  
used exclusively for reforesta-  
tion and never become part of  
the general provincial revenue.

"I imagine this sum would  
amount to approximately 25  
cents per 1,000 FBM—an in-  
come of approximately \$1,000,  
000," he said.

## BC Coast Guard Service Urged

VICTORIA — (CP) — Arthur  
J. Turner, CCF — Vancouver  
East) said Thursday in the leg-  
islature there was an urgent  
need for a coast guard service  
and asked the provincial gov-  
ernment to make representation  
to Ottawa in this respect.

He said the coastal steam-  
ships with passenger accom-  
modations up to 300 were not  
compelled to carry wireless op-  
erators under federal shipping  
laws. Inadequate communica-  
tion could prove disastrous in  
times of emergency.

The Saskatchewan automo-  
bile insurance plan was submit-  
ted by Mr. Turner as superior  
to B.C.'s new plan.

He said B. C. insurance com-  
panies "were enjoying a harvest  
of \$4,000,000 new business and  
motorists, paying four times the  
premium here, were not receiv-  
ing the same protection as in  
Saskatchewan where the plan  
was under government auspices.

## Routine Bill 1st To Get House OK

VICTORIA — (CP) — First  
bill to receive third reading in  
the Legislature this session was  
an act to validate the 1947 elec-  
tion of three commissioners for  
the village of Osoyoos, a routine  
measure to facilitate adminis-  
tration of that settlement.

## M.L.A. Assails Ottawa Laxity

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA—British Columbia  
has been far too polite with Ot-  
tawa and should toughen up, H.  
J. Welch, (Cln.-Comox) said  
Thursday in the Legislature.

"It strikes me that a contract  
is a contract on both sides," Mr.  
Welch said.

"My understanding is that as  
a reward for the province vac-  
ating the income tax field the  
federal government would un-  
dertake a very much greater  
amount of social assistance.

"We have fulfilled our part of  
the bargain and Ottawa has sat  
back behind the doubtful excuse  
that Ontario and Quebec have  
not yet entered into the agree-  
ment and have refused to fulfill  
their part of the bargain."

Mr. Welch said the time has  
come for B.C. to tell Ottawa "in  
no uncertain terms to live up to  
their commitments right away."

## B.C. History 'Ignored'

VICTORIA—(CP)—The fact  
that early British Columbia his-  
tory is practically ignored in  
the school curriculum of the  
province was deplored in the  
legislature Thursday by H. J.  
Welch (Cln.-Comox).

Drawing attention to the lat-  
est historical work of Bruce  
McKelvie, recognized as one of  
British Columbia's leading his-  
torians, Mr. Welch suggested  
that Mr. McKelvie should be re-  
tained by the minister of edu-  
cation to write a history of the  
province for study in the  
schools.



## Woman MLA Scores 'Unfair' Sales Tax

By J. K. NESBITT  
Special to The News-Herald

There were three more speeches Thursday, as the Throne Speech debate dragged its weary way on. No business was done. The day was enlivened a little by the desperate, unsuccessful attempt of the opposition leader to discuss gasoline prices.

Point Grey's persuasive Tilly Rolston, as she always does, made a good half-hour speech. She observed changes in the house in the last year—noted how the new premier isn't quite so lighthearted as when he was a private member. As for Mr. Hart—why, Mr. Hart, said Mrs. Rolston, is going around with a song in his heart.

She told us something of her travels in Europe last summer. B.C. needs some more people, she said, and urged some kind of immigration scheme. She pleaded for better care for old people and said it's a disgrace B.C. has no medical school and has to sponge on other provinces.

MRS. ROLSTON WAS most impressive when she sailed into the government and said woe betide it if there's any such thing as a sales tax. She warned the government—the women of B.C. won't stand for it. The government should have more sense than even contemplate it. Doesn't this government know what happens to governments that introduce such taxes? They commit political suicide, that's what they do.

A sales tax, snorted Mrs. Rolston—retrograde, unsound, unfair, a nuisance tax—a tax that means tokens to clog pockets and clutter up purses and make tourists mad. Go easy, stop, look, listen, Mrs. Rolston told the cabinet—or else have all the women up in arms. Cabinet ministers were poker faced, though once the minister of finance muttered something to the premier, as much as to say, "perhaps Tilly's right."

VANCOUVER EAST'S C.C.F. Arthur Turner dealt largely with the controversial labor act. He seemed pleased because the act hadn't worked well the last year. Mr. Turner wasn't surprised, recalled cruelly the C.C.F. and Mr. Pearson said a year ago it wouldn't work. Mr. Turner sighed—he supposed "this Tory government is determined to retain the supervised strike vote—because the minister of finance said so."

Nothing, said Mr. Turner, could be worse than a tory government of blind legislators who refused to be guided by the one member of the cabinet who knows something about labor—Mr. Pearson.

"The way to industrial harmony," advised Mr. Turner, "is to encourage cooperation and responsibility. I am sure that if the government would remove that insult (the supervised strike vote) from the act the way to industrial harmony would be easier."

H. J. WELCH, the well-liked Comox Coalitionist (he says no Liberal or Conservative strings attached to him) is a lumberman, so he stayed mostly with the forest act. He admitted he had changed his mind about the act in the last year. When some C.C.F.'ers started to say they knew he would, Mr. Welch hit back to say he believes it is a poor man who cannot learn and, having learned, change his mind.

Mr. Winch didn't like the minister of lands and forests being able to alienate in perpetuity (shades of Mr. Pattullo—his favorite word) the public inheritance of the people. Perpetuity, Mr. Welch thought, is just too long a time. And besides, such power is too much for any cabinet minister—he would need to be a Solomon.

MR. WELCH MADE what appeared to be a very good suggestion—that all logging people pay into a reforestation fund, operated by the government—the fund to be used exclusively for reforestation—and never, never, never to go into general revenue.

Mr. Welch was specific about this. He knows powers—that be have hawk eyes and often snatch ear-marked funds for consolidated revenue.

Mr. Welch gave a good talk. There was criticism, and there were ideas, carefully worked out. People who know forestry said afterwards his plan should be studied by government experts.

THE DAY STARTED off in interesting fashion, when opposition leader Winch tried to get a discussion going on the gasoline situation. The government wanted no such discussion. The premier said so. He gave the hint and all but two of his supporters took it.

Mr. Winch tried and tried again. Mr. Speaker Carson could find nothing in Standing Orders to permit Mr. Winch to talk if a majority of the house didn't think what he had to say was urgent public business.

Mr. Winch was eventually downed, but he called two standing divisions and had the satisfaction of seeing two Coalitionists, Mr. Bennett and Dr. Gillis join the C.C.F. and Mr. Uphill in trying to bring the gasoline affair on to the floor of the house. Mr. Winch no doubt will try again.

# 3-Cent On \$1 B.C. Sales Tax Slated For All Except Food

## \$12 Million Goal Of Disputed Toll

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, in his budget address next Wednesday, will announce a sales tax on all goods but food.

This became clear at the legislative buildings Friday. The matter has been thoroughly debated in government caucus and while most M.L.A.'s don't like the idea they will support the tax because the government says it is the only way of continuing B.C.'s present standard of education and social service.

The tax will be three cents on the dollar, one cent for the municipalities and two cents for the provincial treasury. It will yield between \$12 million and \$14 million a year.

**ONLY A REVOLT** among back benchers could now stave off the sales tax.

Many of the members are nervous and unhappy when they contemplate going home and trying to explain the tax to their constituents. However, they have been persuaded it will be easier to explain the tax than the lopping off of a \$10 a month cost-of-living bonus to old age pensioners and a thumb-down policy to municipalities in their troubles with mounting education costs.

Premier Johnson has done the spade work for Mr. Anscomb's sales tax. The premier last week told the legislature the province must find some new revenue if it is to carry on.

**MR. ANSCOMB** a year ago prepared the ground. In his 1947 budget he said: "—it is inevitable that in the future there will have to be found some other source of revenue to take care of progressively-mounting costs—I am issuing a warning that I think it is unavoidable."

The 10 C.C.F. members of the House will fight the sales tax all down the line.

There will be some opposition in government benches, too.

Mrs. Tilly Rolston, Coalition, Vancouver Point Grey, in a legislative speech vigorously opposed the sales tax. She said she would warn the government if it imposed the women of the province will be up in arms and the government will commit political suicide.

When she said she is 100 per cent opposed to a sales tax, Dr. J. J. Gillis, Coalition, Yale, said: "You're not the only one."

**ON THE OTHER** hand, A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Point Grey, favored the sales tax, said once people get used to it they are strongly in favor of it because it is a pay-as-you-go tax.

Friday, J. H. Cates, Coalition, North Vancouver, gave a hint a sales tax is coming.

He said he feels "the people of this province should realize that in asking for social services they must be prepared to pay for them in increased taxes."

## Only Good Risks Get Pink Slips

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — Only "good risks" are being accepted by insurance companies for car insurance, Sam Guthrie (C.C.F.-Cowichan Newcastle) told the legislature Friday.

He said two old-age pensioners were refused policies by three agents in Duncan.

"Coverage which costs \$52 here costs only \$16 in Saskatchewan and it is time this government considered putting its own car insurance scheme in effect," he said.

## 'Politicking' In Gasoline

Increase of two cents a gallon in the price of gasoline has finally been ratified by the provincial Legislature this week, bringing the total increase up to 5 cents since the first of this year.

It was apparent months ago that increase would have to be granted. Oil companies could not be expected to import California oil and gasoline and sell it more cheaply in B.C. than in the neighboring states.

The provincial government, however, procrastinated and began "politicking" over the decision of its own commission which recommended the increase. As companies could not be compelled to bring in gasoline to sell here at a loss, gasoline supplies began to run short. Reports of "gas rationing" and empty pumps were dissem-

inated across the continent, to the detriment of motor tourist travel. All this unfavorable publicity and annoyance to domestic consumers was quite unnecessary, as it was due only to shortage of courage on the part of the government to do what it knows it had to do on its own figures. It was just a case of political stalling.

Now that the oil companies have been granted a boost of 4½ cents per gallon, with another ½ cent for the retailers, it is to be hoped they will act on Premier Johnson's exhortation to expand refinery facilities in B.C. As Premier Johnson pointed out, we shall always be vulnerable to gasoline shortages so long as we depend to a large extent on imported gasoline.



MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1948

## Our Children's Forest Resources

H. J. Welch, Comox M.L.A., expressed the thought in the minds of many British Columbia people when he called in the Legislature for greater care in preserving this province's forest heritage.

Mr. Welch, himself a lumberman, proposed a "reforestation fund" into which all loggers would pay on the basis of their operations. Such a payment would be made on the basis of so much per 1000 board feet on their scale bills, collected exactly in the same way scaling fees are now collected. If it were just 25 cents per 1000 feet, it should produce an annual fund of approximately \$1 millions, Mr. Welch estimated.

The fund would be collected by the provincial forestry department, devoted exclusively to reforestation, and should be earmarked so that it could never become part of the province's general revenues.

Two other members of the Legislature, Leigh Stevenson and Harold Winch, have already drawn attention to the big profits being made from the province's forests and have raised the question whether the citizens should not be entitled to a greater

share of income from their own forests. Total provincial revenues from the forest industry in the 1946-47 fiscal year were \$4,831,849; of this the province spent approximately half on its forests and forestry department. Against this, the three largest lumber companies alone cleared more than \$12 millions, after paying federal taxes. The Dominion government, incidentally, takes approximately as much revenue from B.C. forests in taxes as the lumber companies take in profits.

Forest Minister E. T. Kenney stated Friday in the legislature that the province is going to collect more money from the timber industry and spend more money in developing and protecting the forests. Timber royalties will be increased, and the government's statutory contribution to the forest protection fund will be nearly trebled.

There can be no argument as to the wisdom of conserving and perpetuating our forests. Our forests, the backbone of our entire economic life in this province, must not be dissipated in a generation or two. A definite, effective reforestation plan is a "must."

## That Give-Your-Wife-A-Holiday Idea

W. J. Johnston, Coalition member of the Legislature for Revelstoke, said in the House that people who want lots of holidays with pay never take \$100 and say to their wives, "Now, look, dear—you've been working hard all year; here's some money you go and have yourself a nice holiday somewhere."

This would, on the surface, appear to be a very nice gesture to the hard-working housewives and mothers, who must get sick and tired of pots and pans and lively youngsters. But, surely Mr. Johnston knows that if the average husband said any such thing to his average wife she would

promptly become suspicious. In effect, she would say, "Now, look here, why do you want to get rid of me? Why do you want to drive me out of my very own house for a few weeks? What have you got in mind, anyway?"

In theory, the "give your wife a holiday" idea sounds splendid, but in practice it just would never work out—unless, of course, the wife suggested it.

Mr. Johnston was trying to point out that if husbands don't give their wives vacations with pay employers shouldn't be expected to give more holidays with pay to the husbands.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1948

## Without a Coast Guard

W. H. Brett, C.C.F. member of the legislature for Prince Rupert, did a service in a House speech when he pointed out need for some kind of coast guard service on this coast. The need has been stressed before, but authorities consistently ignore it. If they are hounded often enough perhaps sooner or later something will be done. This province cannot have a really worth-while maritime industry until the men and women who engage in it know they are as safe as possible.

Mr. Brett said to the legislature: "We have had several serious accidents recently, where the services of a coast guard would have been very valuable indeed to the fishermen and seamen on this coast. It is a sad com-

mentary indeed to hear a minister of the federal cabinet say the cost of such a service would be out of proportion to the need—and to realize that value of human lives is computed in dollars and cents."

The Rupert member knows whereof he speaks, for his town is the home port of many men who earn their living on salt waters that are often treacherous. Mr. Brett suggested a coast guard could be worked out in conjunction with the navy.

We have a real sailorman in charge of the navy on this coast. We feel sure he could plan a program which might be successful with Ottawa if he had the backing of B.C.'s members of the House of Commons.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1948

## CCF'er Raps B.C. Narcotic 'Cure'

VICTORIA — (CP) — E. E. Winch (CCF—Burnaby) in the legislature Monday accused the British Columbia government of "continued failure" to recognize its responsibility in stamping out traffic in narcotics.

Mr. Winch called for immediate action to establish a hospital for treatment of drug addicts with a view to their rehabilitation. He also suggested legalized medical clinics for treatment of certified chronic addicts.

Since the last session, Mr. Winch said he sent questionnaires to 900 doctors. The Burnaby member said 352 favored segregation with 21 opposed and 255 approved the clinical treatment with 70 against.

"We contend that the problem is basically medical and educational, and not mainly one of crime for which the only treatment is punishment, proved over and over again to be ineffective," the C.C.F. member said.

"Place the treatment in the hands where it belongs—with the medical and educational professions."

## Saanich Gets House 'Voice'

VICTORIA — (CP) — Saanich, for the first time in a decade, today will have a voice in the Legislature, when Arthur J. R. Ash, elected in the by-election last month, will take his seat.

Walter Hogg, elected in the Cariboo to succeed the late Louis LeBourdais also will be seated.

Since 1937 Saanich has had no voice in debates in the Legislature, its members, Honorable Norman W. Whittaker, being speaker.

## Fines For Illegal White Cane Use

VICTORIA — (CP) — Use of white canes by other than blind persons soon will become illegal in British Columbia.

Provincial secretary George Pearson Monday introduced in the legislature a bill to restrict to the blind use of white canes in any public thoroughfare, public conveyance, public place, or place to which the public has access, and to provide for fines not exceeding \$25 for wrongful use of white canes.



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## Winch 'Defied Law,' Burrard MLA Claims

### CCFers Joined 'Illegal' Nanaimo Pickets Last Year, Says Brown

VICTORIA — (CP) — "Things have come to a pretty pass when duly elected representatives of this legislature deliberately and flagrantly defy a law of our province, especially one which they helped to make," declared Don C. Brown (Cln.-Vancouver-Burrard) in the legislature Monday.

"That was what happened when . . . the leader of the opposition and two other honorable members on his side of the house joined the picket line of an illegal laundry workers' strike at Nanaimo last year."

Admitting that the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act as amended last year was not perfect, Mr. Brown said it could be changed by democratic process and undoubtedly would be. In any event it should be respected, honored, and enforced so long as it is the law.

"IN NONE OF the illegal strikes called since the act was amended last year, has the supervised strike vote been an issue," he declared, "Yet the opposition has insisted that the supervised strike vote is undemocratic and unworkable."

"We have had far too many avoidable strikes in this province during the past year and have tolerated too many illegal ones."

Declaring he was not defending industrial exploiters who were just as bad as labor racketeers and agitators, Mr. Brown said many of the recent strikes could be traced to Communist influence; many were promoted by the Kremlin clique in Moscow through Stalin's agents operating on this coast.

**COMMUNIST INFLUENCE**, however, he said was becoming less as labor unions of reputable were expelling known "Reds and fellow-travelers from their ranks."

## 'Use Sales Tax For Education'

VICTORIA — (CP) — If the British Columbia government decides to bring in a sales tax this session, it should be earmarked for education and social service costs, Don C. Brown, (Cln.-Vancouver-Burrard) urged during the throne speech debate in the legislature Monday.

Only alternative, he said, was a tax on unearned increment which would go a long way in balancing the budget and do even a better job for people in receipt of social assistance.

"With the federal government budget surpluses running into the hundreds of millions of dollars, social service costs largely should be borne by Ottawa," he said. "It is their responsibility and they must give British Columbia a better deal in this respect."

Turning to health insurance, Mr. Brown said that if Ottawa did not do something about it this session, British Columbia should bring in some sort of a contributory plan.

## Farmers' Institute Seeks Govt. Action

VICTORIA — (CP) — Fifteen resolutions were carried by the advisory board of Farmers' Institutes in the legislative buildings Tuesday to be passed on to the legislature's agriculture committee. Four affected the Attorney-General's department, four affected the Land and Forests department, and seven the Public Works department.

Resolutions affecting the Attorney-General's department sought: Research to find the most practical method to increase the sporting fish population of the 1,000,000 acres of lakes in the Nechako district.

More migratory bird sanctuaries established on lakes adjacent to main highways in the Shuwap-Okanagan district.

**EVERY EFFORT** be made by the B.C. Game Commission to keep down predatory animals.

Resolutions affecting the Lands and Forests departments sought:

A forest conservation program for the Peace River district.

Assumption of greater responsibility by the department in regulating and controlling all matters pertaining to grazing and range improvement in the East Kootenay district.

**A SURVEY OF ALL** water sheds in the Okanagan Valley, and adjacent areas; allotting water supplies and equalizing rates, also ditching and flood control.

Resolutions affecting the department of Public Works sought:

A traffic bridge across the North Thompson River in the immediate vicinity of Little Fort.

A bridge across the Kiskatinaw River between Sunset Prairie and Sunrise Valley.

**COMPLETION OF** the unfinished portion of the Jasper-Prince George link of the north-

ern Trans-Canada route.

Better roads in the Shuwap-Okanagan district.

Completion of the Fort St. John cut-off commencing at Sunset Prairie and running north to a point on the Alaska Highway known as Ten Mile corner.

## Wismer Raps Ont., Que. For Tax Attitude

VICTORIA — (CP) — Attorney General Gordon S. Wismer in a 90-minute address wound up the throne speech debate in the legislature Tuesday. The budget will be brought down today.

Mr. Wismer said several members on his side of the house had hammered away at the Mackenzie King government for not implementing social security proposals in the "greenbook."

"In the Dominion-Provincial taxation negotiations, neither Premier Duplessis of Quebec, nor Premier Drew of Ontario gave any indication they were willing to reach a compromise to determine the best way to settle the question of taxation for all provinces," he said.

**THEY WERE PLAYING** politics. Had they agreed, as did the seven other provinces, the way would have been opened for implementation of a social security policy that would have solved many financial problems throughout the Dominion.

"Also, both provinces would be receiving more revenue than they now do under dual taxation."

"I don't believe Ontario and Quebec have any intention of signing a Dominion-Provincial taxation agreement. They don't like the Mackenzie King government and want to see it defeated."

## Speaking Of Sales Taxes

Today, budget day, Finance Minister Anscomb may announce a sales tax for British Columbia.

It may be a 3 per cent sales tax. It will provoke much discussion. It will undoubtedly seem quite a lot, as we will be always aware that we are paying it. It will be in contrast to the federal sales tax of 8 per cent which everybody pays but of which few people know. This is because the federal tax is hidden. It is paid by the trade and then added into the price of goods charged to consumers. By the hidden method, the federal government is enabled to indulge in noiseless, if not painless extraction.

In 1945, before inflation really got under way, the federal sales tax was bringing Ottawa nearly \$400 million annually. Today it is bringing in much more—possibly upwards of \$800 million. However, this federal sales tax is taking more than that sum out of the pockets of consumers. For it

is assessed on the prices of goods as distributed to the trade and thus becomes part of the price of the goods. As such, middlemen and retailers legitimately include it in making their percentage mark-up on their cost price. Thus the original federal tax may be swelled to as much as 15 per cent by the time it is passed on to the consumer.

Because of it being hidden it is an insidious and unduly costly tax to the consumer. Yet because this federal tax of 8 per cent which runs up to 15 per cent by the time it reaches the consumer is hidden, we shall continue to hear few or no complaints about it. But there will probably be shouting to high heaven in many quarters if Mr. Anscomb today introduces a mere 3 per cent sales tax which is payable directly by the buyer but is proof against any trade mark-up hoists.



## 'Anscomb Announces Sales Tax Today'

VICTORIA—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb is expected to tell British Columbia citizens today that in future, they will have to pay a sales tax of three cents on the dollar on all commodities except food.

(Likelihood of the tax was first forecast by the Vancouver News-Herald in a page one story Feb. 28.)

The announcement is expected to be made when Mr. Anscomb brings down a record budget of \$75,000,000 as against last session's \$58,000,000 figure.

**THE RECORD** amount may be met partially through imposition of the sales tax which should net provincial finances between \$13,000,000 and \$14,000,000 annually.

When such a tax comes into force one-third of the total will be given municipalities to ease the burden of school costs.

The remainder will go to meet B.C.'s soaring social service expenses.

**WHEN THE MATTER** of a sales tax first arose, Vancouver city council members stated they had no objection to the new levy provided it was earmarked for two things:

- Entirely for education and hospitalization as municipalities have asked.

- Give each municipality an equal per capita share.

The stand was similar to that expressed by the Union of British Columbia municipalities when the matter was discussed at their 1947 meeting at Harrison Hot Springs.

**IMPLEMENTATION** of the new tax will probably cause lively discussion from both sides of the house, especially from back benches.

Many of the members were nervous and unhappy contemplating the job of explaining the tax to their constituents. However, they have been persuaded it will be easier to explain this than a lopping of a \$10 a month cost-of-living bonus from old age pensioners, which could happen if the tax were not put into force.

Premier Johnson did the spade work for Mr. Anscomb, announcing nearly two weeks ago that the province must find additional revenue if it is to carry on.

## Buck, Morgan Listen As Wismer Blasts LPP

VICTORIA. — (CP) — With Tim Buck, national leader of the Labor Progressive Party, and Nigel Morgan, B.C. leader, both in the gallery, Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer Tuesday in the legislature made a slashing attack on the L.P.P. for sending a message of congratulation to the new Czechoslovakia regime.

"This message of congratula-

tion was sent when the Czech democratic government was sprawling in the dust and the Communist minority had risen triumphant by methods of terror and political manipulation so well known to them.

"That message was an exhibition of effrontery by both Labor Progressive Party leaders. We have had the spectacle of Russia adopting the same pattern as did the Nazis which led up to the last war.

"This is no time for political leaders to be blasting at long range at the Mackenzie King Government or any other national government. It is a time when Canadians inside and out of politics must close their ranks, and throw out the 'trojan horse'."

## Sask. Car Insurance Act 'Not For B.C.'

Wismer Says \$10-A-Year Govt. Plan Could No Pay Claims

VICTORIA — (CP) — Relative merits of the Saskatchewan and British Columbia automobile insurance acts were discussed in the legislature Tuesday by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer.

While 25,000 persons depend on insurance business in British Columbia for their livelihood, the Saskatchewan act is administered by 110 civil servants, said Mr. Wismer.

The Saskatchewan plan was merely a compensation measure and did not protect the driver from claims and damages. That act would not meet the needs of British Columbia, he said.

The Manitoba law, after which B.C.'s act was patterned, has resulted in few accidents and deaths, while in this province, last year both accidents and deaths increased. The new B.C. law is expected also to show fewer accidents and fatalities.

**INSURANCE COMPANIES** haven't made any profits in B.C. for years, Mr. Wismer said. Rates were lower than pre-war and a check will be made by the insurance department from time to time to see if the rates can be lowered.

In 1947, with 52 per cent of owners insured, the companies paid out in claims in B.C. a total of \$3,192,000, while Saskatchewan in 21 months ending December 31, paid out \$632,220.

If B.C. embarked on a government-sponsored scheme, even at \$10 a year, and with 190,000 drivers insured, the total collected would be only \$1,900,000. Such a scheme, with losses of \$3,192,000 paid by private companies last year, could not work out.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1948

## GAMES PROGRAM GIVES NEW MORALE TO ASYLUM

VICTORIA — (CP) — The story of how one man and one woman, with little equipment, have raised the morale of 3,000 patients in the provincial mental hospital at Esquimalt sky-high, was told here Wednesday to the legislative social welfare and education committee.

The story was told by W. R. Brown, director of recreational therapy, who is responsible for amazing improvement in the morale of the patients and is satisfied his program will cure some patients who otherwise would never have left the institution.

Some of the patients are happy for the first time in their lives, he said, and don't want to leave the hospital.

Mr. Brown's program has covered a wide variety of games both indoor and outdoor, active and inactive. They are designed to keep the patients engaged in their play, so that they will forget hallucinations and "voices."

"I don't think there is any normal community anywhere that has the diversified activity we do," he said, noting that he had as many as 1,100 participating.

## LIQUOR SCHOOL SET TO TRAIN 'HIGH' TEACHERS

VICTORIA — (CP) — A course in alcohol education designed to provide at least one teacher in every secondary school of British Columbia with an understanding of the nature, problems and subject matter of alcohol education, will be given at the Summer School of Education to be held in Victoria July 5 to Aug. 6.

Described by the Department of Education as a workshop, which will be of two and one-half weeks' duration, the course is a preliminary to getting B.C.'s alcohol education program under way in the secondary schools of the province next fall.

## Firefighters Lobby MLAs For 'Tax' To Boost Pension

VICTORIA. — (CP) — A 12-man delegation of the B.C. Provincial Association of Fire Fighters Wednesday began lobbying among members of the provincial legislature seeking support for a two percent tax on fire insurance premiums to go to help boost their pension funds.

The lobby is composed of 10 members from Vancouver and two from Victoria, headed by James Luse, Victoria, president of the association, and M. O. Howell, Vancouver, secretary-treasurer.



## City Sales Tax Share \$1,500,000

Vancouver should get about \$1,500,000 as its share of the new sales tax, it is estimated at city hall. Acting Mayor G. C. Miller, Finance Chairman, says that with this, plus the business tax revenue and the higher assessment, he knows it will not be necessary to increase the mill rate this year.

Aldermen learned of the sales tax allotment regretfully, but realize they can do nothing about it. Union of B.C. Municipalities had proposed the tax as a concession to the government to ease the burden of education. City delegates to the Union convention opposed it at first, fearful lest after it is imposed, the original purpose will be forgotten by the government and that its revenue will be devoted to general purposes.

**VICTORIA—(CP)—**Pennies will count when B.C.'s new retail sales tax comes into force.

In bringing down a record budget Wednesday in the legislature, Finance Minister Anscomb announced, as forecast, a retail sales tax act, providing for a three-per-cent levy on all retail sales but foodstuffs. He estimates it would bring annual revenue of \$12,000,000.

**DETAILS WILL NOT** be disclosed until a bill is introduced in the legislature, but it was understood that tokens will not be used in the collection of the new levy.

Mr. Anscomb budgeted for a record revenue of \$77,616,309 for the 1948-49 fiscal year, with expenditures of \$77,449,869, leaving a surplus of \$166,440.

British Columbia will be the third province to have a sales tax, this form of taxation now being in operation in Saskatchewan and Quebec.

Nothing under 15 cents will be taxed, but it was reported restaurant meals, liquor and cigarettes will come under the new impost.

**THE ADDITIONAL** revenue will be used for social security, social services, health and welfare, while \$4,000,000 or a third, will go to the municipalities.

## Winch Wants Tax 'Take' Set Aside

**VICTORIA—(CP)—**Major issue of this year's session of the provincial legislature—the three percent sales tax—may be decided on the floor of the legislature today—before the sales tax bill ever comes into the House.

It is expected that opposition Leader Harold Winch, who will start the budget debate, will move an amendment to delete the estimated \$12,000,000 sales tax revenue from the budget.

If it is carried, the motion would defeat the government.

Such an eventuality, however, is so unlikely as to be ruled out before the motion is made; but the division Mr. Winch undoubtedly will call for is expected to see several coalition members voting with the opposition.

## New School Tax Deal Supported By Govt. MLA

**VICTORIA—(CP)—**The Legislature's agriculture committee was told Wednesday that the provincial government will probably have to "start afresh" on school tax measures.

The statement was made by Commander C. T. Beard, Coalition, Esquimalt, to the committee, of which he is secretary, after it had heard protests from the advisory board of farmers' institutes against the burden of school costs in rural areas.

**"THE CAMERON REPORT** sounded very fine, and the government, in its lack of knowledge, implemented it," said Cmdr. Beard. "Now it has got out of control. You are just repeating what we as members are all trying to tell the cabinet."

The delegation said farmers and ranches couldn't support the burden of the school taxes, multiplied several times, in some areas, without an additional benefit in school service.

The burden must not be taken off unorganized areas and placed on organized districts warned James Woodburn, Okanagan delegate. George Brandon, Skeena, said there was a "kick all throughout the province" on the school tax problem.

## NEW TAX MEETS SOARING COSTS

It was the second budget speech for the 56-year-old minister and in presenting an appraisal of B.C.'s economic conditions, he warned that British Columbia must face up to, and deal adequately with, current problems.

He said while some measure of increased revenue was available through higher timber royalty charges and from greater liquor profits, gasoline tax and motor vehicle license fees, the possible revenue was inadequate to meet soaring social service and education costs.

The sales tax was the only source of revenue capable of yielding sufficient funds still open to the province by constitutional right and by terms of the existing Dominion-provincial tax agreement.

**"IT IS MY INTENTION** to recommend to the house that liberal exemptions be granted from the sales tax for food for human consumption," he said. "While this will seriously impair our revenue from the tax, it meets, in a large measure, the objection that the lower income group bears a disproportionate share of the burden."

Reason for disposition of the tax is the requirement by a certain part of the population for social security and social services.

**THE 1948-49 ESTIMATES** provide \$10,987,915 for public debt charges, an increase of \$364,689; \$790,070 for agriculture, an increase of \$95,770; education \$12,981,537, an increase of \$1,731,960; finance \$7,797,890, an increase of \$4,134,236; health and welfare \$13,679,691, an increase of \$2,611,226; lands and forests \$5,425,565, an increase of \$1,239,499; provincial secretary \$7,880,892, an increase of \$727,578; public works \$11,945,392, an increase of \$1,104,007, and trade and industry \$591,380, an increase of \$52,395. Salary changes, not included in supplementaries, total \$600,000.

Total expenditures on capital account for roads, highways and bridges will include \$5,000,000 from surplus revenues and from borrowings under the loan acts of \$4,900,000.

**ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS** for University of B.C. will cost \$1,750,000 and the works department will spend \$1,300,000 for provincial buildings.

Forest roads under the forest management scheme will call for a loan act of \$2,500,000, repayable by the forest industry over a number of years and the British Columbia Power Commission expects to spend \$11 million during the coming year on power development and acquisition of existing plants for which ample borrowing authority already is available.

Expenditure for provincial capital account will aggregate \$28,600,000 of which \$5,000,000 will be derived from revenue surplus and \$23,600,000 from capital borrowing.

**TOTAL ASSETS** of the province at March 31, 1947 were

\$332,109,651 or \$17,061,777 more than the year previous. Provincial liabilities totalled \$257,059,092, or \$9,889,297 more than that on the corresponding date the year before. Excess assets over liabilities rose from \$67,878,078 on March 31, 1946, to \$75,050,558 on March 31 last.

Gross debt of the province at Dec. 31 last was \$165,702,659 with net debt of \$122,406,186.

Mr. Anscomb in his economic review said that in a period of inflation, self-imposed restraint should be the watchword.

## B.C. To Seek Another Meet With Ottawa

**VICTORIA—(CP)—**British Columbia will seek another Dominion-provincial conference as soon as the legislature adjourns.

In his budget speech, Finance Minister Anscomb said he and Premier Byron Johnson were prepared to take a "definite stand" for another conference.

"It will be pressed until we do receive what is our just and right return for the revenues we have handed the federal government."

Seven of nine provinces had signed the agreement, but Ottawa's promise to call another conference "remains to be implemented."

B.C. claims that until the social security proposals made at the original conference are brought into effect, it will not consider the taxation agreement fair.

## Insurance 'Boosts' Hit

**VICTORIA—(CP)—**The Advisory board of Farmers' Institutes told the legislative agriculture committee Wednesday that automobile insurance costs had risen as much as \$6 since the government's highway safety responsibility plan was passed by the provincial legislature last year.

"We have no protection against insurance agents and consider the charges excessive," the board said in a resolution submitted to the committee. "We suggest the government carry this insurance and charge for it when licenses are issued."

A. H. Peppar, Ioco, reported insurance companies used to give lower rates in rural areas because the hazard was less. This year, he said, the rates had been raised about \$5.

The board called on the committee to use its resources to get some changes made this year.

## Listen to LPP

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1948

## Sales Tax Comes To B.C.

Key statement in Finance Minister Anscomb's budget speech in the British Columbia Legislature comes in his introduction of the 3 per cent sales tax.

"It is well to remember," said Mr. Anscomb, "that the reason for the imposition of this tax is the requirement by a certain part of our population for social security and social services. This tax will act as a contributory device to afford this section of our population continued benefits from our highly developed social service program. I think it cannot be emphasized too strongly that such an extensive program as that proposed cannot be instituted without funds to meet its ever-increasing costs."

That sums up the tax issue and explains the financial plight in which the provincial government now finds itself. As Mr. Anscomb pointed out, B.C. during the 1947-48 fiscal year will spend on social services alone, approximately \$20.3 million or \$20.5 millions including education. This is as much as the Tolmie administration in the early 30's had as total revenues to run the entire province. In the coming year, the account for social services, including education, will run to \$33 million, an increase of \$12.5 million in the year.

Continual enlargement of social services has impinged on other public services. Unless revenues are elastic, social services can be expanded only

at the expense of good roads, safe bridges and general development. If all services are to expand, as the people demand, revenues must expand. That is why we now have the sales tax.

There are other increases for the year ahead. Cost of general government services will rise from a little over 17 millions to nearly \$17.5 millions, an increase of \$10.5 millions. Aid to municipalities alone will rise from \$8.8 millions to \$15.7 millions. These staggering extra costs can only be paid from the proceeds of extra taxation.

The new tax may not be popular at the start. Taxes never are popular. There is this to be said about the sales tax: everybody will pay according to his spending power. The cost of collection will be negligible. A high percentage of the tax dollars received will be paid into a special fund earmarked for social service and education.

There will be a display of opposition to the tax in the legislature. But this will be chiefly for political and election reasons on the part of insincere politicians. The opposition, however, would never repeal the tax if it gained political power, because it would not be able to repeal the tax without reducing the social services. The reduction of the social services would be more unpopular than the tax.

## 5 M.L.A.s Study Elections Act

VICTORIA. — (CP) — The Provincial Government proposes to reopen the Provincial Elections Act, extensively amended during the last session of the Legislature, and a legislative committee has been set up to consider amendments.

Included on the committee are five government members, Tom King, Columbia; C. W. Morrow, North Okanagan; J. H. Cates, North Vancouver; D. C. Brown, Vancouver-Burrard; T. A. Love, Grand Forks-Greenwood; Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, and Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., MacKenzie.

The committee, set up by a resolution of the Legislature moved by Secretary George S. Pearson, is instructed to report to the House not later than March 29.

It is scheduled to meet Monday.

## Socialism Said Red 'Barrier'

VICTORIA. — (CP) — Communism was introduced into opposition leader Winch's speech in the legislature Thursday when he dealt with references by several Coalition members of Labor-progressive Party support for C.C.F. candidates in the recent by-elections in Saanish and Cariboo.

"On behalf of the C.C.F. I have no hesitation in saying that a surrender to totalitarianism either from the left or right would be a betrayal of the people," Mr. Winch said.

"Democratic socialism is the only safeguard and the United States state department recognized that fact a few days ago when it issued a statement that western European socialism was one of the strongest bulwarks against Communism."

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1948

## Winch Urges Aid For Those Hit By Suspensions

VICTORIA — (CP) — Plight of between 90,000 and 100,000 men, women and children whose health benefits were cut off when the attorney-general ordered suspension of six health and benefit societies, was brought to the attention of the Legislature Thursday by Harold E. Winch, opposition leader.

These companies show \$176,000 liabilities over assets, he said. There is \$132,500 in unpaid claims and \$95,442 in prepaid premiums owing policy holders.

Affected numbered 28,904, and with their dependents between 90,000 and 100,000.

"THE SITUATION merits the immediate consideration of the government. They have a definite moral responsibility to the people losing out on benefits and I am not sure criminal proceedings should not be instituted in some instances."

"The government has been derelict in not taking steps to protect the insured. Unpaid settlements and the responsibility of prepaid premiums should be taken over by the government and the insured given protection."

## WINCH PRESSES 'BEER FREEDOM' FOR VET CLUBS

VICTORIA — (Special) — Opposition Leader Winch in the legislature Thursday asked that the Liquor Act be amended to allow members of Veterans Clubs to take unopened beer from the premises.

He said there should be no difference in this regard between ordinary beer parlors and Veterans clubs.

Mr. Winch also asked that "the ridiculous section" of the Liquor Act that says no guest of a member in a club can treat. (Treating is nevertheless done, Mr. Winch said everyone knows it is) and the clause forbidding it should be removed from the Act.

Day In T

## CCF Sales

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In his verbal sales tax, Mr. V by Messers E Turner, Corsbie and Mr. Benne is unfair—he terrible tax—ne —but a tax the ness." Mr. Tu sity of such a government in Mr. Corsbie s business out o grave said th now going to t don't earn en minion income called the tax of nuisance— ionable form o

BEFORE HE budget, Mr. V grand tour, a Coalition critic this session. I he was in a summer's Na strike. He sai never called a is called, the ation in join the workers' justice, becau always stand er with the w



## Day In The House:

## CCF Leader Flays Sales Tax Burden

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—The long expected row about the sales tax broke out in the House Thursday. Opposition Leader Harold Winch attempted to have the House condemn the government because of the sales tax. Premier Johnson hurriedly said the government took the Winch motion as a want of confidence motion in the government.

However, two Coalitionists, Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Rolston, despite this, voted with the C.C.F. against the sales tax. Tom Uphill also joined the dissenters.

**THE VOTE** on the sales tax came after Mr. Winch had spoken for two and a half hours—a monumental speech and to prepare it he remained up most of the night studying Mr. Anscomb's budget.

Mr. Winch was in good form. He insisted on quoting from Mr. Hart's policy speeches of the last few years—speeches which, he said, showed B.C. was in first class financial condition. And yet now, said Mr. Winch, conditions appear anything but rosy. He composed a poem to show what he meant:

"Old Mother Anscomb looked through the transom  
For the plum Hart had left to Boss Johnson.

But when he looked through,  
the surplus had flew  
And now the Coalition knows  
not what to do."

**THE LEADER** of the opposition fought the sales tax all down the line. Because he said, it bears more heavily on the poor than on the rich. In effect, a graduated income tax, reversed, for under it the smaller a man's income, the larger the percentage of it goes to the tax. A worker or a farmer spends something like half his total income for consumer goods on which sales taxes are levied.

In his verbal opposition to the sales tax, Mr. Winch was joined by Messrs. Brett, Gargrave, Turner, Corsbie on the C.C.F. and Mr. Bennett who said tax is unfair—he called it "this terrible tax—not a business tax—but a tax that will kill business." Mr. Turner said necessity of such a tax shows the government indeed bankrupt. Mr. Corsbie said it will drive business out of B.C. Mr. Gargrave said the government is now going to tax families which don't earn enough to pay Dominion income tax. Mr. Corsbie called the tax the worst form of nuisance—the most objectionable form of tax.

**BEFORE HE DEALT** with the budget, Mr. Winch went on a grand tour, answering all the Coalition critics of C.C.F. policy this session. He explained why he was in a picket line at last summer's Nanaimo Laundry strike. He said the C.C.F. has never called a strike, but when it is called, the C.C.F. has no hesitation in joining the protest of the workers in their fight for justice, because the C.C.F. will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the workers.

He and the Attorney General had an argument, or two, though Mr. Wismer didn't say very much. In his attempts to tie the C.C.F. with the Communists, the Attorney General seeks to arouse fear, said Mr. Winch—and the philosophy of fear is not the philosophy of reason. Mr. Winch said there isn't any member in on the government side who dislikes Communists more than he does, nor one who knows more about their dirty, despicable tactics than he does. "The way to fight Communists is not by hysterical emotion and red-baiting, but by taking progressive action to remove those things that bother the people in their insecurity and fear," said Mr. Winch.

Mr. Winch said B.C. needs a Bill of Rights, so that all its citizens shall have the vote, so that some hotels in Vancouver will not be able to turn away guests merely because they are black.

The unhappy Coalitionists—terrified of their constituents because of the sales tax—went back to caucus Thursday night to see if there might not be some other way of finding some money. But the government is committed now; there will be a sales tax or the government faces defeat.

## Sales Tax Veto Defeated In Legislature

VICTORIA — (CP) — First non-confidence vote in the legislature since 1944 was taken Thursday on a motion by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch to delete from the budget speech the three-per-cent sales tax. The government won 32-13, with Tom Uphill (Labor-Fernie), Mrs. Tilly Rolston, (Cln-Point Grey) and W. A. C. Bennett (Cln-South Okanagan) voting with the C.C.F.

**THE MOVE** was made after Mr. Winch had spoken two hours and 20 minutes.

Premier Byron I. Johnson told Speaker R. H. Carson he considered the motion a vote of no confidence. This attitude was regretted by Mr. Bennett who said several Coalition members opposed the sales tax and should have been allowed to express their feelings. James L. Webster (Cln-Rossland Trail) and G. M. Weir (Cln-Burrard) were absent.

Mr. Winch said a sales tax increased the spiral of inflation. The C.C.F. was opposed to it because it took much more from the poor man than it did from the rich. It was a graduated income tax reversed for the worker and farmer who spent half their income on commodities affected by the tax.

He said the tax is "class legislation of a vicious sort. The government has been derelict in not exhausting all other possible avenues of revenue before imposing such a measure."

## UBCM Proposes Municipal Fire Insurance Firm

VICTORIA — (CP) — The Union of B.C. Municipalities Thursday requested the Legislature's municipal affairs committee to endorse a plan for a municipal fire insurance company, to handle school and municipal fire protection on a voluntary basis.

The suggestion was first presented before the war but action was deferred. Since then the U.B.C.M. has made considerable study of the plan.

Mayor W. M. Mott, president of the union, suggested that the plan might include provincial buildings also, and A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, suggested that it should include provincial government properties.

**ANOTHER RESOLUTION** called for the provincial government to provide basic plans for other municipal buildings which could be used by municipalities for developing their building programs. This, the union suggested, would result in a considerable saving to the municipalities in architects' fees.

The municipalities also asked the government to assume the cost of paying police magistrates' salaries. An alternative was that the government should consult municipal councils before making appointments.

The government was asked to assume erosion control with the federal government of the lower Fraser River, where use of the river by shipping has caused considerable erosion of the banks.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1948

## Bennett Hits Salaries Of LRB Members

VICTORIA — (CP) — Payment of salaries of \$5,000 a year to each of the four members on the new provincial Labor Relations Board drew fire from W. A. C. Bennett (Cln-S. Okanagan) in the legislature Friday.

Mr. Bennett said he had no objection to a \$7,500 salary to J. Pitcairn Hogg as chairman, since he was continuing as provincial legislative counsel, and the addition to his former salary was "small."

But, he demanded: "Why pay \$5,000 to each of the members, compared with salaries paid to civil servants? No wonder there is a breakdown and a feeling of frustration in the civil service."

## H PRESSES FREEDOM VET CLUBS

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## Day In The House:

# Bennett 'Swan Song' Scores Government

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — The legislature was treated Friday to the highly unusual spectacle of hearing a government supporter roasting the daylights out of the government.

W. A. C. Bennett (CLN-S. Okanagan), who is grooming himself as Conservative candidate in Yale federal constituency, went for the government on a number of scores. When he was through, the general consensus was that he had made an excellent speech—though it was difficult for observers to believe Mr. Bennett was not in the opposition.

Mr. Bennett first criticized the government for the way it is handling education. Handing out grants here and grants there is no solution, he said—there must be a formula.

And then he warned the government not to be too smug about its victories in Cariboo and Saanich.

MR. BENNETT, who long ago annoyed both B.C. Liberals and Conservatives by suggesting a Coalition party, did it all over again Friday. He said a Coalition organization is necessary to keep the Coalition government going. It would give it more democratic control. C.C.F. Mr. Gargrave wanted to know if the Coalition hasn't democratic control now. Well, in his constituency, said Mr. Bennett; all he could speak for was his constituency. He warned the government not to grow too complacent. This government can never be defeated by the C.C.F. said Mr. Bennett, for people won't go socialist, but they might vote against the government one of these fine days. All this sounded to Mr. Gargrave like a swan song and he said so.

WITH HIS eyes on the great green chamber of the House of Commons, Mr. Bennett sang the praises of the Conservative Party, much to the annoyance of the Liberals. There were those unkind souls who said Mr. Bennett was making a campaign speech. Be that as it may, it was a very good one.

Mr. Bennett waxed most indignant when he contemplated the sales tax. Jamming his glasses on one minute, hauling them off and waving them aloft the next, turning to the right and to the left, Mr. Bennett really lit into the government about the sales tax. An inflationary tax — an ill-considered tax — that's what it is. Attorney-General Wismer advised Mr. Bennett to wait until he saw the tax bill; to the A.-G. it appeared Mr. Bennett was putting up a straw man, just so he could later knock him down. Mr. Bennett told the Attorney-General not to interrupt. The sales tax, he said was the greatest chill to ever come out of Victoria, noted for its chill winds. There could be savings made in government expenditures. "Where?" Premier Johnson wanted to know. The house

is no place to go into detail replied Mr. Bennett. The premier disagreed, said Mr. Bennett shouldn't be talking generalities.

MR. ANSCOMB sat glumly, unlit cigar stub ready to light, stroking his chin. Coalitionists, it must be said, looked glum too. Mr. Bennett displeased them all very greatly. No coalitionist, they figured, should be so independent, even if he was making a campaign speech for the Ottawa Tories. It just isn't done.

The budget, said Mr. Bennett may have been one of a very capable accountant, but was one move for private business than for government. Mr. Bennett praised Mr. Hart, observed that since Mr. Hart left, this government doesn't seem to have much heart left in it. Once Mr. Anscorn got up, leaned over to talk to Premier Johnson. Mr. Bennett, angrily, wished the Minister of finance would be quiet. "I haven't disturbed you for an hour and a half," muttered Mr. Anscorn and walked out.

YES, IT WAS quite a day — the great revolt of a Tory member of the Coalition who has long felt frustrated in Coalition. The government is doubtless glad Mr. Bennett has sung his swan song in this legislature.

Before Mr. Bennett thundered forth, the house heard quiet-spoken, pleasant Jim Mowat, the Coalitionist from Alberni. He stayed mostly with the affairs of his own riding—that wonderful stretch of this province that fronts the Pacific Ocean. He wanted some B.C. Power Commission development along the west coast of Vancouver Island, a road to Long Beach and some road connection to Tofino. The people there are tired of looking at a sign that says "The Western End of the Trans-Canada Highway" when there is no road at all. Mr. Mowat may be no flaming orator, but he's a hard working member of the legislature and, in his own quiet way, does as much, if not more, for his constituents, as the most flamboyant M.L.A.

## Mental Hospitals Overcrowded In BC

Special to The News-Herald.

VICTORIA — Serious overcrowding at provincial mental hospitals at Essondale and New Westminster was shown the legislature in answers to questions from E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby. Provincial Secretary George Pearson, replying to Mr. Winch, informs the House that estimated bed capacity at Essondale is 2,267 and that there are now 3,226 patients in residence.

## Women Ask Govt. Ban On Liquor Advertising

VICTORIA. — (CP) — The B.C. Provincial Council of Women Friday asked the British Columbia Government to abolish all liquor advertising.

The council, more than a score strong, in presenting this demand to the provincial cabinet, called also for the following changes in the Liquor Control Plebiscite Act:

- That no petition for a plebiscite be accepted from any electoral area unless there are not less than 300 names of voters registered.

- That no veterans' club license be granted save by plebiscite, and only in areas of not less than 500 registered voters.

- That no petition be accepted from an urban electoral district unless acceptable petitions are presented from the entire district.

The council also asked the government to bring all domestic workers under the province's Minimum Wage and Hours of Work Act and the Federal Unemployment Insurance Act.

The women reiterated their plea that the dogwood be adopted as the floral emblem of British Columbia, and asked the government to establish a training ship for boys as part of the Borstal system.

ing ship for boys as part of the Borstal system.

"IT IS THE OPINION of the Provincial Council of Women," said the delegation's brief, "that a complete change of environment, together with useful training and discipline would exercise a beneficial effect upon young boys, whose adventurous disposition has led them to delinquency."

The government was asked to urge on Ottawa without delay the appropriation of funds to subsidize low-rental housing. The council suggested the provincial government should tell Ottawa that it is willing to name a provincial official to cooperate with local housing authorities.

Free medical attention and hospitalization for widows with small children was also asked, the council reporting that the compensation rate for them was far below the standard necessary.

## 100,000-Acre Timber License Due For Firm

VICTORIA — (CP) — C. D. Orchard, deputy forests minister for the B.C. government, told the Legislature's forestry committee Friday that the forest management license for the Canadian Western Timber Co., if granted, would at the outside cover 100,000 acres of forest land.

The company had sought a license for 800,000 acres on Vancouver Island to supply raw material for a big pulp mill development at Duncan Bay, a few miles north of Campbell River.

Considerable opposition to this license and the principle of forest management licensing—the government's plan to provide sustained yield forestry—has been voiced, particularly by small logging outfits.

Mr. Orchard said the Canadian Western Timber Co. application was based on the fact that the company owns 135,000 acres of timber lands, has enough timber to continue its present operations for 25 years, and is seeking a government grant to supplement its present holdings for the pulp mill.

MR. ORCHARD described the forest management license system as the only practical solution to the overcutting of B.C. timber resources.

This situation, as explained by Mr. Orchard, is:

There are 150 billion F.B.M. of timber in the coastal area, and it is being cut at the rate of three billion F.B.M. per year.

That means there is a 50-year supply. But it takes 100 years to grow a tree to merchantable size.

"WHAT ARE YOU going to do from the 51st to the 99th year?" he asked, adding that it takes more than 100 years to grow a good tree.

He said the solution is to distribute the responsibility for management of the forests among B.C.'s 2,000 logging companies and induce them to practice good forestry. The government's role would be to keep a close, critical eye on the objectives of the licensee.

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MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1948

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948

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## CCF Out, vs. CCF In

Harold Winch, leader of C.C.F. opposition in the provincial legislature, is in favor of all the social services already in operation and a good many more. But he is making a great to do for political reasons, about the government's intention to pay for these services by means of a sales tax. He says he and the C.C.F. are dead against sales taxes.

Unfortunately for Harold Winch, there is a C.C.F. government in Saskatchewan which imposes a retail sales tax similar to that proposed for B.C. It is thus for Mr. Winch to explain if he can, why a sales tax is condemned by the C.C.F. in British Columbia and why it is maintained—and enjoyed—by a C.C.F. government in Saskatchewan.

It is true that the sales tax was in operation in Saskatchewan before the C.C.F. government took over. But the C.C.F. government has not re-

pealed the tax because it can't do without the sales tax revenue.

Members of the Johnson-Anscomb government are not introducing the sales tax because they like it, or because they are unaware of the initial opposition it will encounter. They are introducing the tax because it is the only alternative to more radical and fundamental tax changes which at present do not command the support of any political party or any considerable cross-section of public opinion. The government must have money or it must curtail services.

A C.C.F. government, too, would have to have the money or curtail services. Faced with that dilemma, the C.C.F., if it should come to power in B.C., would retain the Sales tax just as it has done in Saskatchewan. For Mr. Winch to pretend anything else, is just to play the demagogue.

## END TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT MOVED BY M.L.A.

VICTORIA. — (CP) — A move to abolish capital punishment has been launched in the B.C. Legislature by E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby.

He has filed notice of a motion calling on the House to, send to the Lieutenant-Governor a request "praying that His Honor will cause to be conveyed to the Federal government the opinion of this House that action should be taken to abolish capital punishment."

The motion is scheduled for presentation next Tuesday, but it may be some time before it is debated.

## Log Export Halt Asked By McInnis

VICTORIA — (CP) — John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George, will ask the Provincial Government to petition the Dominion Government to halt the export of logs from British Columbia to the United States.

Mr. McInnis has filed notice of a motion to this effect in the B.C. Legislature, saying that much of Canada's unfavorable trade balance with the United States is the result of exporting new material and importing manufactured articles, processed from raw materials.

"Employment in British Columbia is adversely affected by the export of raw materials which could be manufactured in the province," he said.

## Budget Debate Reopens Today

VICTORIA — (CP) — Municipal Affairs and Mines Minister R. C. MacDonald will continue the budget debate in the B.C. Legislature Monday afternoon.

Two other speakers have been scheduled for the sitting. They are Randolph Harding, C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan, and Tom King, Coalition, Columbia.

The sitting begins at 2:30.

## 'Take Over BCE,' CCF'er Demands

New York Times Copyright

VICTORIA — The government should take over the B.C. Electric and West Kootenay Power and Light, Randolph Harding (C.C.F. — Kaslo-Slocan) said Monday in the Legislature.

"Ownership of these two would help finance other projects," he said. "In this province we pay too much for power and use too little. Power is one of the keys to development and expansion; it is necessary for growing common prosperity. Our resources in electric power should be used to brighten our homes, lighten our labor and add to employment and purchasing power."

## MLA's APPLAUD BETROTHAL, ANNIVERSARY

VICTORIA. — (CP) — Political rivalries were forgotten for a few moments in the British Columbia Legislature Monday.

C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold Winch told the members that his father — E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby) — was celebrating his 69th birthday. He also noted that Joseph Corsbie (C.C.F., Peace River) was engaged to Margaret Carr of Victoria and would be married before the end of the session.

Premier Byron Johnson congratulated the senior Mr. Winch on his youthful appearance and told the members of the splendid work he was doing in visiting various institutions.

The House vigorously applauded Mr. Johnson, a native of Victoria, as he said Mr. Corsbie had shown fine judgment in picking a Victorian for a bride.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948

## 'Duplicate' Salary Snags Budget Debate

VICTORIA. — (CP) — Contending that the estimates to be presented this session call for 11 ministers' salaries instead of 10 as provided in 1946, Herbert Gargrave (CCF — MacKenzie) on a point of order in the legislature Monday declared the budget debate out of order and unconstitutional.

He was referring to salaries of \$7,500 being provided for Hon. Gordon S. Wismer both as attorney-general and as labor minister.

Mr. Speaker Carson reserved decision and the debate continued.

It is believed the mixup occurred when estimates for the

provincial secretary's salary were being compiled. That office, as well as health and welfare and labor was filled by Hon. G. S. Pearson until November, when Mr. Wismer took over the labor portfolio.

Mr. Pearson received no salaries for health and welfare or provincial secretary. This year he was shown as receiving \$7,500 as provincial secretary and the labor minister's vote, which he was paid in past years, was inadvertently transferred to Mr. Wismer.

The labor minister's vote can be deleted when estimates for that department come up later.

The minister said "no government in the history of this province or in the history of any other province in Canada, can show a finer record of kindness and sympathetic consideration to the requirements of municipalities than has been shown by the Coalition government."

Mr. MacDonald disagreed with some members of the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

"They apparently were dissatisfied with the government's proposed contribution before they actually knew what it would amount to," the minister said, adding that they will receive a pleasant surprise.

Mr. MacDonald was critical of too-expensive school buildings.



## Day In The House

## Taxes, Sask., Enter Mild Budget Debate

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA.—Monday the budget debate continued its long, involved way. During budget debates M.L.A.'s hardly ever mention the budget. They talk about everything else under the sun.

Hon. R. C. MacDonald, minister of mines and municipal affairs, gave a thorough review of provincial-municipal relations, which have not been very happy in recent months.

He showed he does indeed know a great deal about provincial-municipal relations. He was a little impatient with all the hard-luck stories the municipalities have been spreading—and he said so in no uncertain terms.

"The financial standing of the municipalities is excellent," said Mr. MacDonald flatly. "Only two out of 96 are behind in their sinking fund requirements."

THE MINISTER TOLD school boards to go easy in their expenditures, especially where new buildings are concerned. "All public services are mounting beyond reason. This is the very reason why this government has found it necessary to impose additional taxation."

And then he really said a mouthful with, "Extra taxation is not very palatable or welcome at any time, but if people demand these services they must pay for them."

C.C.F. MR. HARDING from Kaslo-Slocan noted the confusion that seems to exist in some Coalition benches regarding Mr. Winch's title. Mr. Winch, said Mr. Harding, is the C.C.F. house leader, the leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition, and after the next election he will be the premier of British Columbia. Such brashness from so young an M.L.A. as Mr. Harding made Coalitionists just rock with derision.

MR. HARDING told the Coalition the C.C.F. government in Saskatchewan is doing a good job. Coalitionists, you see, delight in announcing the poor

people of Saskatchewan are having a terrible time and are sneaking out to B.C. whenever they can. Mr. Harding was proud as he told what the C.C.F. government has done for education, public health, social welfare.

He opposed the sales tax, said it would be a great hardship on the working class. He said those that can afford to pay—the big corporations—should be taxed, if the government needs money. Mr. Anscomb said the government has no power to levy income tax. Mr. Gargrave said that is right, the government gave away its right to income tax.

TOM KING FROM Columbia seems to have perpetual youth. He has been here since 1934 and he appears not to have grown a day older. He's a kindly soul, and bickering and fighting displeases him. So he proceeded to lambast the C.C.F. in a fatherly sort of way.

Mr. McInnis from Fort George isn't really a Socialist, said Mr. King; he's just an advanced Liberal. This so astonished Mr. McInnis he couldn't speak.

The C.C.F., summed up Mr. King, gets lots of votes because it has so much tripe behind it. And he'd like to bet Effie Jones, when she ran for mayor of Vancouver, had 95 per cent of the C.C.F. behind her.

He defended the big corporations from the C.C.F. and said they're not all heartless, though he did admit some of them might crush the life out of you if they got the chance.

As for Mr. Guthrie, Mr. King said, "If there's one fine fellow, it's our dear Sam," and then he proceeded to tell Sam where he is always wrong.

## B.C. Awards Grant In Lieu Of Tax

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA—The government this year will make a special grant to municipalities in lieu of taxation on government-owned buildings, used for commercial purposes, it was announced Monday in the legislature by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald.

H. Carl Goldenberg, royal commissioner who enquired into provincial municipal financial relations recommended that this be done.

Mr. MacDonald said the minister of finance has placed at \$17,988,000 the grants municipalities will receive this year—as against \$11,267,000 last year.

Their financial standing was excellent and only two were behind in their sinking fund requirements.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1948

## AGE-SHY WOMEN FORCE VOTE REGISTRY CLOSING

VICTORIA—(CP) — Coy-ness of B.C. electors, particularly women, about giving their ages to registrars of voters will cause the provincial government to abolish the central registry office of voters set up last year.

After hearing of the problem from George M. Phillips, Vancouver, registrar general of voters for the province, the special legislative committee proposed amendments to the provincial elections act Tuesday decided to recommend to the Legislature that the office be abolished.

MR. PHILLIPS said that in Vancouver alone it was esti-

mated that 3,000 persons, majority of them women, would be disfranchised because they had refused to give their ages. Yet the provincial government cannot legally require a person to give his or her age.

Purpose of the central registry was to eliminate from voters' lists duplications and names of persons who had died. The office has needed the birth date of all voters as a further identification with their names. Mr. Phillips said that without birth dates operation of the office was impossible for there was so much duplication of names.

## WINCH STATUS IN HOUSE QUERIED BY MACDONALD

VICTORIA — (CP) — Official status of Harold E. Winch, who described himself as "House Leader" cropped up in the legislature Monday as Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald spoke in budget debate.

Mr. MacDonald recalled that Arthur J. Turner (C.C.F. Vancouver East) a few days ago de-

clared Mr. Winch was not leader of the opposition.

"I now ask the honorable first member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) if he is the leader of the opposition group, or is Colin Cameron, president of the British Columbia C.C.F. group, the leader," said Mr. MacDonald.

Mr. Winch replied he was House Leader and was recognized by the speaker as the Opposition Leader.

## HOUSE GROUP BARS FRANCHISE TO JAPS

VICTORIA — (CP) — Efforts by opposition leader Harold Winch to enfranchise all Canadian citizens who have been in British Columbia six months, failed Tuesday when the special house committee on Elections Act rejected his request by a 5-2 vote.

Mr. Winch's only supporter was Herbert Gargrave (CCF-MacKenzie), with chairman Thomas King (Columbia), C. W. Morrow (South Okanagan), John Cates (North Vancouver) and Don Brown,

(Vancouver Burrard), all Coalitionists, voting against.

The section of the act which Mr. Winch would have deleted, now disqualifies every Japanese, Doukhobor, Hutterite or Mennonite unless they are veterans, also every Indian, not a veteran, or who has not been enfranchised under the Indian Act.

It is understood another meeting of the committee will be held Tuesday, when Mennonites likely will be exempted from the disqualifying section.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948

## Ottawa Needs Telling

The candidate nominated by the Liberals for the Vancouver Centre by-election should be one who is fully aware of British Columbia's social needs and aware, too, of the burden that has been imposed upon our provincial economy by Ottawa's failure to implement the Green Book proposals presented to the provinces by the Dominion in 1945.

Both Premier Johnson and Hon. Herbert Anscomb have presented a good case for national social security. The United States for some years has been enjoying the benefits of social security legislation. Canada should not be lagging in this type of social reform.

Costs of social services in B.C. have increased in three years by \$8,846,000 to a total of \$20,324,000. This cost, together with that of education which amounts to \$12,655,000, represents 42.58 per cent of our provincial revenues. The influx of people from other provinces is adding to our social welfare burden. During the last five months alone, 423 of this province's old age pensions, or 20 per cent of the total applicants for that period, rightfully belong to other provinces. This surely is indication enough that social security should be on a national basis, and that a halt should be called on B.C. assuming cases other than its own. Our provincial economy cannot stand it.

Ottawa should be told, in no uncertain terms, that our tax agreement

cannot be considered fair until the federal authority assumes the responsibility of social services, including old age pensions, health insurance and compulsory contributory superannuation.

B.C.'s natural resources are the sovereign right of the province, yet the Dominion government last year syphoned \$140,000,000 from the profits derived from their development and the secondary industries dependent thereon. B.C. received back \$23,000,000 through its tax agreement. The Dominion government, however, spends little or nothing on the conservation of those resources, while its share of the cost of social security is totally inadequate.

As long as social services thus bear inequitably on our provincial tax structure, we cannot spend on our highways, power development, irrigation and other undertakings the money that would accelerate the development of our resources and the industrial growth of our province.

The candidate who champions the cause of Liberalism in the Vancouver Centre federal by-election should be familiar with these problems. He should be a man prepared to fight for better terms and for recognition of our claims from those whose confidence he will enjoy.

British Columbia's case with Ottawa should be the issue not only at the nominating convention, but the issue of the election campaign, for Ottawa needs telling.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1948

## Federal Government Should Pay Up, Too

Hon. R. C. MacDonald, minister of municipal affairs, has announced that the provincial government will act on its promises to compensate municipalities in lieu of taxation on provincially-owned buildings. The province will authorize a special grant for this purpose, with the result that municipalities will receive \$17,988,000 this year as against \$11,267,000 last year.

Municipal governments have fought a long battle to establish the principle that senior governments, both provincial and federal, should bear their share of municipal taxation, especially in the case of commercial or revenue-producing government properties. The Goldenberg report on B.C.'s provincial-municipal relations recommended that municipalities should receive annual compensation for such properties.

However, buildings owned by the province are only a small proportion of the senior government buildings in Vancouver. Buildings owned by the province in Vancouver are assessed at \$2 millions and land at more than \$1.5 millions. Most of this provincial property cannot be classified as "revenue producing."

A survey by city officials has revealed that there is little actual revenue-producing provincial property

in Vancouver. In the case of the liquor stores, most of the buildings are only rented by the province and city taxes are paid normally by private owners.

On the other hand, buildings owned by the Dominion government in Vancouver are assessed at \$15,724,000 and land at \$18 millions, and at least two more major revenue-producing structures—a new post office and a new customs building—are already planned. In addition, Wartime Housing is valued at approximately \$3 millions, and its land at about \$50,000.

Mr. MacDonald's announcement is gratifying, in that it recognizes the principle of provincial responsibility for municipal taxation on its buildings—even though Acting Mayor George Miller, civic finance chairman, says it won't mean much to Vancouver. But Vancouver, and all other B.C. municipalities, won't derive the benefits to which they are logically entitled until the federal government, too, recognizes its obligation to pay normal federal taxes on its extensive holdings of federal properties within municipalities. Mr. MacDonald has taken a step in the right direction; the federal government should fall in line.

1948

## FORCE DRESSING

000 persons, male and female, would be required because they would give their ages. Social government would require a person's age or her age. The central office has needed the identification of all voters as Mr. Phillips said birth dates operation was so much of names.

## BARS JAPS

Burrard), all voting against. of the act which would have disqualified every outkhor, Hutterite unless they are, also every In veteran, or who n enfranchised un-ian Act. Understood another the committee will esday, when Men-ly will be exempt- the disqualifying



## A DAY IN THE HOUSE

## Kindly Country M.D. Defends Smelter Co.

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—Tuesday was an interesting day in the House. There was a maiden speech, some kindly advice from a kindly doctor, a first-class tearing apart of the budget by a fiery little C.C.F.'er with a biting tongue and a keen brain.

Cranbrook's Dr. F. W. Green, as one Victoria native to another, congratulated Premier Johnson on his new position. There are only three native sons of the capital in the house—Dr. Green, the Premier and Omineca's Mr. Rowland. Dr. Green is the lovable country doctor type, a man whose mere presence makes the sick feel just a little more comfortable and optimistic. He brings his solicitous bedside manner right

into the House—and when he talks about the needs of his constituency—which he always does—and well he uses his nice, quiet, efficient way.

This year he defended Consolidated Mining and Smelting from the onslaughts of the C.C.F. which would tax such corporations instead of having a sales tax. Dr. Green told of all C. M. and S. has done for the interior of the province—and he made it plain he is not a C. M. and S. shareholder. Dr. Green pleaded for a health insurance plan—said "it is sadly needed." He ought to know. He argued for a start on a U.B.C. medical faculty. All in all, Dr. Green made a pleasant, fact-filled speech that should be studied.

## CCF Tongue-Lashing

C.C.F. Bert Gargrave gave Mr. Anscomb a thorough going over for the budget. Not since the days when Mr. Anscomb banged ruthlessly into Hart budgets has any budget had such a piecemeal ripping and tearing apart as that given the latest Anscomb budget by Mr. Gargrave. He is a penetrating, entertaining speaker. Quick as a flash, never dull. The government, said Mr. Gargrave, has gone hog wild with public funds. He charged gross carelessness in preparation of the budget, scored the sales tax as iniquitous. Deliberately, methodically, he went through estimates, to the annoyance of cabinet ministers. Mr. Straith and Mr. Pearson protested, said Mr. Gargrave unfair; Mr. Pearson said Mr. Gargrave was out of order. Mr. Wismer thought Mr. Gargrave foolish to criticize increased expenditures before he knows why more money will be needed in the next year.

Mr. Gargrave kept right on; he could find nothing but lack of government supervision in expenditure of the public's money. Why, he protested, even health insurance is going to get more money—when there is no health insurance. That, to him, looked as if the government

was attempting to revive a corpse—and all at the expense of the taxpayers. Private M.L.A.'s who support the government, said Mr. Gargrave, are just being bamboozled if they endorse Mr. Anscomb's budget.

To Mr. Gargrave it appeared as if cabinet ministers are just running around looking for ways to spend public money so they can saddle a sales tax on the backs of the poor unsuspecting people. "This businessman's government," bitingly roared forth Mr. Gargrave every few minutes. This profligate spending of the public's money—disgraceful, wicked, frightful, a sin.

Mr. Anscomb said nothing during all this. He no doubt considered it merely the tirade of an oppositionist without responsibility who had to talk to earn his money. The Minister of Finance looked very bored, most impatient at times, as if to him Mr. Gargrave was just uttering old stuff and for goodness sakes let's get on with our business and go home. The more tired Mr. Anscomb looked the hotter Mr. Gargrave got, as he kept right on with his theme about the government throwing the people's money around in a sort of mad picnic.

## Walter Hogg Speaks

The maiden speech came from Cariboo's new member Walter Hogg, who proved himself a clean, straightforward speaker. He showed he is going to be a good member—with the interests of his constituents at heart and a true love of the great Cariboo country. He made a good impression, received a warm hand from his colleagues and generally added to the Coalition's debating strength.

He said he knows ranchers up his way who are paying school taxes that run into thousands of dollars a year and yet who are faced with the alternate of paying a teacher out of their own pockets or sending their children out somewhere to be educated. He said, "The farmers and ranchers have no objections to paying their fair share, but they object to having to pay such a large proportion and get so little benefit."

## CCF'er Flings Vote Challenge At Govt.

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA.—The government was challenged Tuesday by Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F.-Mackenzie), to go to the people immediately on what he called "this disgraceful budget."

Speaking in the legislature Mr. Gargrave charged the government with "wanton waste of public money and the levying of the iniquitous, inflationary, regressive sales tax."

HE SAID the government did not have the courage to use the recent by-elections in Saanich and Cariboo as a sounding board for the sales tax.

"Let them go to the people now and get their answer," he said.

"What are the businessmen, the fair-minded men in this government going to do? How are you going back to your people and explain away this lavish and unnecessary spending by your government?"

MR. GARGRAVE said that if the government needs money it could save by ruthless examination of expenditures, by capital gains, of unearned increment tax, by a graduated mineral and forest products tax "that would take care of Consolidated Smelters and the H. R. MacMillan companies' excessive profits," and by increased government monopoly and control of revenue-producing industry.

Mr. Gargrave said of course this wouldn't be done because "this government wants to take the easy road—the big businessman's road—soak the poor—the widows—the old-age pensioners."

UNDER THIS tax the big business interests—Consolidated Mining and Smelting, and the MacMillans—the Powell River Company—yes, even the Grower's Wine Company (of which Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb is managing director) won't be affected by the sales tax at all. They buy retail goods.

He said "this budget will go down as the Timothy Eaton and Company budget and will drain millions of dollars out of this province through mail order business."

## Farm Building May Be Exempt

VICTORIA —(CP) — All farm improvements up to a stated maximum should be exempted from educational tax except residences, the MacLean Commission on school taxation recommended in a report tabled in the legislature Tuesday.

This would remove one of the major objections of farmers who complain that taxes on barns and other outbuildings is a tax on productive equipment.

## Winch Urges City Vote For Chinese

VICTORIA—(CP)—A charter amendment, sought by Vancouver, to allow Hindus to vote in municipal elections does not go far enough, in the opinion of C.C.F. opposition leader Harold Winch.

When the request came before the private bills committee in the Legislature Wednesday, Mr. Winch asked why Chinese were not included.

Alderman G. C. Miller said his city would handle its own affairs in its own way. D. E. McTaggart, K.C., corporation counsel, commented that it was difficult to prepare a list of Chinese voters, many of whom had similar names.

The committee will report on the Hindu angle later.

VANCOUVER ALSO asked amendment to its charter to permit police to appeal from disciplinary action or dismissal to the attorney-general. (Detailed story, page 24).

The mainland city also wanted removal of the \$500 license fee ceiling to provide for an adequate tax on those not covered by the proposed business tax; authority to exempt certain classes of business from the business tax; authority to impose either a license fee or business tax, whichever is greater, and provision for payment of chairman and members of the Board of Park Commissioners.

The committee will bring in its report later.

## ASK GOVT. CONTROL OF B.C. RACE SETUP

VICTORIA—Horse racing in B.C. should be taken over by the government and placed under control of a racing commission, A. J. Turner (C.C.F.-Vancouver East) said Wednesday in the Legislature.

Mr. Turner said breeding could be left in private hands but that the commission should run the actual racing and betting. He said the government should do this in order not to let certain racing interests get away with the "bluff" they are now pulling that they cannot afford to operate Lansdowne track in Vancouver unless the government reduces its taxation on racing.

"APPARENTLY the B.C. Turf and Country Club is out for blood and is determined to make the government surrender," Mr. Turner said, adding it is a fact deductions from betting in B.C. are higher than elsewhere on the coast. Closure of Lansdowne, Mr. Turner said, will favor U.S. breeders.

HE SAID the betting public is not getting the square deal it should. He approved a suggestion that the government give a \$500-a-day purse (\$35,000 for the season) in order to keep race tracks open and encourage the B.C. breeding industry.

## Rigid Rules Pending For Creameries

VICTORIA—Creameries and dairies will be brought under more rigid control in amendments to the Creameries and Dairies Regulation Act introduced in the Legislature Wednesday by Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam.

Among new rules: Unless a license is obtained, no person shall operate a creamery or dairy in which milk or cream is either pasteurized or dealt with on the basis of the percentage of butterfat.

No person shall erect, remodel or establish a building to be used as a creamery or dairy without first submitting to the minister plans and specifications together with a statement as to its location, the estimated quantity and the nature of the products to be handled.

A provincial dairy inspector shall have the right at any reasonable time to enter the premises of any creamery or dairy and to take and remove samples of milk and cream and do such things as are necessary for grading and testing for butterfat.

Where a dairy inspector finds equipment that in his opinion is insanitary or unfit to be used in the processing of dairy products, he shall give notice in writing to the owner or person in charge prohibiting him from using the equipment.

## City May Get \$821,000 As '48 Sales Tax Cut

VICTORIA. — (CP)—Distribution among municipalities of the one-third share of the new provincial sales tax will probably be based on school populations in 1947, added to estimated total populations of 1946, the Union of B.C. Municipalities learned Wednesday.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb told the union this is the plan for distributing the tax share. He stressed the percentages worked out are approximate only.

THE UNION said representations have been made to the finance department on payment this year and "if the tax is imposed without delay and arrangements made for payment this year, in all probability the payment will cover a six-month

period." Estimated share of the municipalities for 12 months is \$4,000,000.

VANCOUVER'S percentage amounts to 41.0551, which would mean \$821,102 of the \$2,000,000 which may be paid in 1948.

Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay and Esquimalt will get \$230,320; the city's share of this being \$132,222.

New Westminster 4.0261 per cent; North Vancouver 1.6020; North Vancouver 1.0295 (one for city and other municipality); West Vancouver 1.3064; Chilliwack 1.4087; Surrey 3.4160; Burnaby 4.9727; Kamloops .9358 Kelowna 1.1855; Nelson .7787; Prince Rupert 1.0189; Revelstoke .3851; Trail 1.3005.

## Straith, Turner Clash Over School Circular

VICTORIA—(CP) — A C.C.F. munity without blackening the attack on the wording of literature sent out to schools in support of the Canadian Appeal for Children drew spirited defense from Education Minister W. T. Straith in the Legislature Wednesday.

A. J. Turner (C.C.F.-Vancouver East) quoted at length from a printed circular showing a harrowing picture of hardships in Europe, and declared:—

"I submit this isn't good for the morale of our children. There are other ways of spreading appeals through the com-

munity without blackening the minds of little children."

HIS CRITICISM was directed at the education department, and it brought Mr. Straith to his feet to tell the house:

"The department does not encourage appeals in schools, but it has no jurisdiction over them. It refers them to local school boards.

"The paper just read was sponsored by the United Nations and the Dominion of Canada, and I have no hesitation in saying that I give it my blessing."

## Ancient Cars Get Defense

VICTORIA—(CP)—Greatest menace on the highways are not people driving old cars, but those with a few drinks "under their belts," said Arthur J. Turner (C.C.F.-Vancouver East) in the legislature Wednesday. Mr. Turner urged the government to take over automobile insurance, reduce the "present excessively high rates" and at the same time bring new revenue to itself.

## PUTNAM SEES B.C. POULTRY, EGG SHORTAGE

VICTORIA — Poultry production is on the downgrade and there will be a shortage of eggs and poultry meat in B.C. in another year, Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam told the Legislature Wednesday.

Removal of controls on grain prices is responsible for this, the minister said, and is also to be blamed for a drop in hog production.

Butter and cheese production are down, but more ice cream is being sold, Mr. Putnam said.



## DAY IN THE HOUSE

## Mixup Over Budget Stuns Coalitionists

By J. K. NESBITT  
Special to The News-Herald  
VICTORIA. — There was great confusion as the sitting started Wednesday.

Opposition Leader Winch announced he had found the budget is all haywire—that there are two different copies of the estimates abroad, and each had a different set of figures.

He wanted to know how the House could discuss the budget when no one knew what the estimates were.

"WHAT KIND of confusion has the minister of finance got us into?" asked Mr. Winch. "The former minister of finance (Mr. Hart) never made mistakes like this."

Mr. Anson and Premier Johnson looked stunned at all this.

They hastily thumbed through their copies of the estimates and lo and behold each was different.

Mr. Anson said it was no doubt an error in printing.

ALL THIS, following the C.C.F. discovery that the government is budgeting for 11 paid cabinet ministers when the constitution says only 10 shall be paid made the government very red faced indeed.

Later in the day Mr. Anson announced it was merely a mistake in printing, that the budget is perfectly in order and that he never fires anyone just because they make a mistake.

THE MINISTER of agriculture, Mr. Putnam, made a speech. As always, when this honest dirt farmer speaks, the House took on a sort of barnyard atmosphere. Mr. Putnam dug deep into the soil and hurled agricultural statistics about in orderly fashion.

He got away from the land a little when he said the C.C.F.'ers have toned down in recent years. Burnaby's Mr. Winch didn't see it that way. "You're improving—you have a better understanding than you had," explained Mr. Winch to Mr. Putnam.

THIS WAS QUITE a concession from Mr. Winch, but Mr. Putnam didn't seem quite to know how to take it.

Mr. Putnam said one of these days the government will be forced to irrigate a lot more land, in order to produce food. Agricultural production, he said, will have to be doubled in the next 10 or 15 years or there will be a lot of hungry people in the world.

South Vancouver Island in particular will have to have some irrigation and he hoped before too long water will be laid on in Saanich.

THIS DELIGHTED Saanich's new member, Mr. Ash, who pounded his desk in enthusiasm. No one else, however, seemed much interested in Saanich's problems.

The agriculture minister said markets for apples are picking up and it goes to show what can be done when produce is of good quality and attractively

packaged. It was interesting to learn where B.C.'s rosy red apples go—to Brazil, Palestine, Hong Kong, Malaya, Trinidad, United States, South Africa, Newfoundland.

MR. PUTNAM then delivered a little lecture on education. Education, he said, is all very well, but the only thing he got out of school was a lesson in how to think for himself.

He figured that if you can teach young people to think for themselves and have ambition they'll get along.

There's something in education today, said Mr. Putnam, that is taking the dignity out of labor. Callouses on your hands, said the minister, are just as important as a college degree, and probably do more good. This province was developed by calloused hands and no 40-hour week either.

MR. PUTNAM felt sure we'd all have to get back to bigger and better callouses and no foolishness like a 40-hour week.

However, he didn't seem to apply this to his beloved farmers.

He said young people won't stay on the land because they see how hard their parents work and how farm women get round shouldered carrying water.

Twenty-five per cent of B.C. farmers, he said, have no modern conveniences and it's high time conditions were made a little easier for farmers and their wives.

"I'M GOING to tell you," said Mr. Putnam, "the farmer is getting pretty well fed up and as long as I'm head of this department I'm going to do my best to raise his standard of living."

C.C.F. Mr. Turner from Vancouver East came next. He said all Mr. Putnam did was paint a picture of gloom. He said he had hoped to find something in Mr. Putnam's speech about the government's agricultural policy—but nary one little bit of policy could he find.

MR. TURNER then told the government to get busy and operate its own automobile insurance, as the C.C.F. government does in Saskatchewan.

This would not only make insurance cheaper, he said, but would give the government some extra money for the treasury, instead of letting profits go into private enterprise.

Mr. Turner, being a devoted Socialist, pleaded for a planned economic program in the north.

But if development is left to private enterprises, he said, there will be no plan, only hit and miss piecemeal exploitation. GENERALLY it was not an exciting day.

Little business was done. Prorogation indeed looked way in the distance. Members frequently slipped out for tea and a smoke.

Mr. King, lucky man, went fast asleep and had to be nudged awake by his alert neighbor, Mrs. Hodges, when a page boy brought him a message . . .

## DAY IN THE HOUSE

## Laird Asks Action On Medical School

By J. K. NESBITT  
Special to The News-Herald  
VICTORIA. — There were

three speakers in the House, as M.L.A.'s prepared to enjoy the long Easter weekend. Cabinet ministers brought in some bills, but otherwise most of the business of the session—if any—is yet to come.

Young and personable Dr. Laird from Similkameen made his first speech of the session. He left a leg on the beaches of Dieppe and when he makes a speech in the House he gallantly stands on one leg, spurning crutches, quite a remarkable feat and one requiring courage.

DR. LAIRD—one of the three M.D.'s in the House—dealt largely with hospitalization. He spoke from his personal experience, said there must be more hospital beds in this province.

He suggested the government immediately inaugurate a plan for a university medical school. He said "my suggestion is we have the courage to build a 500-bed university hospital on the campus and that this hospital should be the nucleus for a U.B.C. medical faculty."

"IT MIGHT BE the treatment centre for all social service old age pensioners, indigents and referred cases from the whole province. Dr. Laird said a campus hospital in opposition to many members of the medical profession, "because I feel the faculty of medicine should not, nor cannot, be dissociated from other university departments, such a science and the humanities."

Dr. Laird had only one interruption in his well-thought-out speech. He said he would deal with the budget, though he might be out a few millions. He shouldn't have said this for it gave Mr. Gargrave a chance to say "You won't be any worse off than the minister of finance."

But Dr. Laird, being a good Coalitionist, came back quickly with "That's all right—his integrity will stand up, don't worry."

JOHN McINNIS, the C.C.F. member for Fort George, made his second speech of the session. He asked better roads up his way and implored the government to do something about predatory animals.

There are too many wolves in his riding. Two-legged ones or four-legged, Lands and Forests Minister Kenney wanted to know. There aren't many two-legged wolves in Fort George, said Mr. McINNIS — except around election time—and it seemed he looked straight at the cabinet benches as he said this.

BEFORE HE got along to his usual baiting of the Coalitionists for what he calls their stubbornness and lack of foresight, Mr. McINNIS handed around a few bouquets. He said the department of trade and industry

is doing a good job and he disagreed with his colleague Mr. Gargrave, who said the department gets too much money.

Mr. McINNIS would like to see it get more money. The department has capable men and is getting results.

The minister of trade and industry, Mr. Eyres looked as if he would like to rush across the blue-carpeted floor and hug Mr. McINNIS.

MR. McINNIS noted that some people say the C.C.F. is in bad company. That's right, said Mr. McINNIS — but the C.C.F. can't help it if they must associate each session with Coalitionists.

Anyway, he said, there are compensations—and if Coalition company doesn't do the C.C.F. any good, C.C.F. company no doubt helps Coalitionists.

Mr. McINNIS had a bouquet for Mr. Kenney.

He said that minister is a capable administrator of his department.

AND AS FOR Tom King—Mr. McINNIS said he has made a substantial contribution to the House and he marvels at Mr. King's wit and technique in putting it over, and he wondered why Mr. King stays in Golden instead of going to Hollywood where he would doubtless be a success and perhaps get an Oscar.

Esquimalt's Charles Beard had a lot of good suggestions, the best one that there is too much talk in the House and M.L.A.'s should be forced to sit down after 30 minutes.

He had great pity for cabinet ministers, said they work too hard and that there should be at least two more. Fellow Coalitionists looked about hopefully at this. Everyone except Mrs. Hodges wants to be a cabinet minister. Mr. Beard admitted to disillusion since coming to the House—the biggest being that a private member plays so little part in any of the larger constructive measures of government.

Mr. Beard came out flat-footed, and in defiance of the government, when he calmly announced this province is overspending.

He said the government had better master the situation before it masters the government.

AND THEN he said a remarkable thing for a government supporter; he said it was probably futile for him to ask legislation to curb some firms charging too high prices "as we are so wedded to the antiquated slogan of 'free enterprise'—we have too many discontented people who will, quite rightly, make every effort to put this seemingly helpless government out of power."

In my opinion we are their protectors and are failing to fulfill our responsibilities in this respect."

The government isn't very business-like, anyway, said Mr. Beard, because there is too much dilly-dallying getting the session going.

True words, Mr. Beard.

## House Studies Revamped B.C. Mines Act

VICTORIA — (CP) — British Columbia's rewritten coal and metalliferous mines regulation act—product of almost a year's study by government, industry and labor—has reached the legislature.

Repealing the original acts and all their amendments, the new acts will become operative June 1. The two bills were introduced by mines minister R. C. MacDonald and formally put through first reading.

They will be debated on second reading later in the session.

Both bills in draft form were discussed with management and labor at public hearings in main centres of the province last year, and since both sides reached agreement it is not anticipated the new act will provoke any battles on the floor of the house.

## Censor Board Tightens Rules

VICTORIA—In future the motion picture censor may officially classify any film he sees fit as adult entertainment.

This is provided for in an amendment to the Moving Pictures Act introduced in the legislature by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

The amendment says "where a film is so classified, the censor may require that there be displayed prominently the words 'adult entertainment' in such of the advertising of the film as he deems necessary."

## Now The Wear-'Em-Out Half

Third session of B.C.'s 21st Legislature is about half-way through. There have been four weeks of solid talk and nothing much else. That always happens—despite good resolutions to the contrary as the session starts each year.

It is usually this time in a session that the government commences to rush in legislation so quickly that no one could possibly keep up with it. Result in the past has been more than one embarrassing mistake in legislation.

The way M.L.A.'s unofficially agree among themselves that they are fed up and set a date for prorogation—and then rush everything through by that date is nothing short of indecent. M.L.A.'s, encouraged by the government—which finds a legislative session a nuisance—seem to forget they are conducting the people's business—and that the people are paying them \$3000 each a year—a total of \$144,000—to do it. They should do it properly.

End of last year's session was

nothing short of ridiculous. It will be remembered the House sat until 5:30 a.m.—so groggy and tired nobody knew what was happening. Because of this many mistakes slipped through. Such a performance—in the interests of what we call democracy—should not be repeated. The public may think such a wear-'em-out, drag-'em-down spectacle is a lark—but that will last only for so long.

A few days ago in the legislature, two M.L.A.'s, John McInnis of Fort George and Charles T. Beard of Esquimalt, asked the government to start the session earlier in the year. This should be done. This year, to be sure, there was a reason for delay—change in premiers and two by-elections. But, by and large, the session should start not later than Jan. 10 each year.

As Mr. Beard said—the government should have its legislation ready. There is no excuse for the annual delay in this matter. It is not good enough to have the House sitting four weeks before there is much sign of sessional business. And that is the government's job.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1948

## Including A Start On Kingsway

Public Works Minister E. C. Carson in his report to the legislature Tuesday listed what he hopes his department will do in the coming year. It sounded impressive. Governments always pay political attention to their public works departments as more than one election has been won on promises of public works.

Mr. Carson once more made reference to the widening of Kingsway, so a city the size and importance of Vancouver may have a decent approach to it. We have heard a lot about Kingsway in the past and one would have thought something would have been started by now. Mr. Carson, however, did say tenders for the first unit will be called in 10 days. But it sounded like old stuff when he added, "every effort is going to be made to have the work completed at the earliest possible date."

The minister was not so unwise as to forecast date of completion of the John Hart Highway, from Prince George to Dawson Creek—linking Vancouver by road with Fairbanks, Alaska. He did say it is hoped to have the Hope-Princeton-Kaledin highway

ready for traffic this time next year. It was a splendid program of bridges Mr. Carson put forth. He cautioned that their completion will be dependent on supply of materials and availability of labor. It was noted from his speech that construction of public buildings has largely bogged down—though it would be unfair to blame the department for this. Mr. Carson announced no new program of buildings—though many are needed—a new provincial infirmary to take the place of disgraceful, fire-trap Marpole and a new boys' industrial school, so that wayward youths may get a chance.

Much of the minister's speech was rehash. The public should not be too awed with the whole picture. Much of what Mr. Carson said has been said before. His speech sounded perhaps a little bigger and more splendid than actual conditions warrant. Nevertheless, his department is doing work as well as it can, with the money at its disposal and considering present difficult supply conditions. By and large British Columbians may feel satisfied with the progress being made on their roads and bridges.



## Day In The House

## Bridges Are First In Roads Program

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA.—The minister of public works, Hon. E. C. Carson, held the spotlight when the House got back to business Tuesday, after the Easter recess.

The youngest member of the cabinet—he was born in June of 1894—gave a careful accounting of all the vast undertakings of his department, which is always target for much criticism, no matter how good a job it does.

At the start of his speech, Mr. Carson congratulated his brother R. H. Carson on his elevation to the Speaker's chair. The Carson brothers used to have political differences, the minister being a Conservative and the speaker a Liberal. However, they are now joined in coalition and see things through the same political eye — temporarily at least.

MR. CARSON told how the government will spend many millions in the coming year on roads and bridges. As one listened to Mr. Carson it became clear how tremendous in size is this province, how sparse the population, how costly it is to build roads—and how the isolated farmer figures he has as much right to a smart smooth streamlined highway as the folks who live in the big city.

The minister took pains to illustrate how costs have soared in the last decade. For instance, he said, the steel work for the Pattullo Bridge was fabricated and erected, including the concrete deck, for \$180 a ton, while latest bids received for similar types of construction are now approximately \$350 a ton.

Priority will be given to bridges, Mr. Carson said—as the wooden structures in the province generally are in such a condition that work cannot be further postponed. As he went through the bridges, he came to Lillooet—his own riding—and only found one bridge which caused him to remark, he doesn't look after his own district very well. C.C.F. Mr. Garbage muttered something about Lillooet being better looked after than his riding of Mackenzie.

ONE OF HIS department's major problems Mr. Carson said, is how to keep bridge replacements going at a pace that will not make it necessary to have to close any to traffic. He announced he hopes to build 40 bridges at a cost of \$2,457,000 in the next year. This program includes three bridges on the much talked of, neglected and still far from complete West Coast road from Victoria out to where the open Pacific beats on Vancouver Island's rocks and beaches.

Mr. Carson made a nice presentation indeed, showed he is alive to the road needs of the province, but is not going to be stampeded into running hog wild with public funds. He believes in a planned program, methodically worked out. M.L.A.'s hope all his plans will come true, for they know there is nothing makes taxpayers and voters so mad as bumpy roads and rickety bridges.

Peace River's C.C.F. Mr. Corsbie, who will become a bridegroom next week—the last of the legislature's bachelors — briefly mentioned the budget and the sales tax. He said the people of this province do not want an increase in living costs, and that is what the sales tax will do. Why, said Mr. Corsbie, even some Liberal associations are opposed to the sales tax; apparently, he said, it's only the Tories who want the sales tax.

"THAT'S NOT SO," said Conservative Mrs. Rolston, who is as bitter in her condemnation of the tax as the C.C.F. Mr. Corsbie then said he is gravely concerned about the amount of money B.C. is reaping from liquor. This sort of thing, he said isn't economic — because the more liquor the government sells the more money it has to spend curing alcoholism and trying to patch up broken homes.

Mr. Corsbie couldn't understand British Columbians grumbling about price of milk when they spend \$57,000,000 a year on booze. He said liquor advertising should be outlawed and there must be a program that will eventually wipe out all liquor consumption.

THEN CAME a political lecture—and Mr. Corsbie was quite good at it. He said the C.C.F. has no use for the L.P.P. Mr. Corsbie said the C.C.F. stands for elimination of monopoly capitalism. "That's Communism," snapped Mr. McDonnell. Tom King got into this argument and shouted at Mr. Corsbie. Mr. Corsbie kept right on—the C.C.F. would outlaw the policy of putting profits ahead of human needs, it would abolish all exploitation and racial discrimination, instead of encouraging racial discrimination, as the coalition does. The government should go into the automobile insurance business, in order to do away with monopoly capitalism. "You're going to be your own monopoly," observed Mrs. Hodges.

So the day went. Saanich's new member was to make his maiden speech, but called it off when the hour grew late. The session so far has made little progress.

## B.C.'s Road Program To Cost \$18,600,000

VICTORIA — Highlights of Public Works Minister Carson's address in the Legislature Tuesday:

1—\$18,600,000 to be spent on highways and bridges in coming fiscal year.

This is divided as follows: \$7,000,000 for maintenance work, — this is \$1,000,000 more than last year, but will not give increased work, extra money needed because of increased costs.

\$3,100,000 for paving 465 miles of road.

\$5,000,000 for 124 miles of new construction.

\$2,500,000 for bridges.

\$1,000,000 for new equipment.

2—ONLY 65 MILES will remain to be reconstructed on southern Trans-Provincial Highway, between Vancouver and Grand Forks when coming year's work is completed.

3—Reconstruction work west of Lytton will be continued and in vicinity of Boston Bar several bridges will be eliminated by construction of concrete retaining walls and fills.

4—Okanagan Highway six miles immediately south of Vernon will be reconstructed.

5—Cariboo Highway, new road will be constructed from one mile south of Clinton to join up with new highway at Mile 57. At Deep Creek, north of Williams Lake, approach to new bridge at this point will be constructed.

6 — IMPROVEMENTS to northern Trans - Provincial Highway—including reconstruction of section of highway adjacent to Prince Rupert city boundary leading to new celanese plant at Port Edward; other work in vicinity of Terrace and Kitwanga and further continuation of Clucult revision between Prince George and Vanderhoof.

7—Tenders for first unit on widening of Kingsway to be called within next 10 days and "every effort going to be made to have work completed at the earliest possible date."

8—New road to be constructed on Island Highway, from Duncan to Ladysmith, distance of 18 miles.

9—FOLLOWING SECTIONS of road included in paving program in coming year:

Lougheed Highway—Vancouver City limits to Maillardville, 7.5 miles; Hatzic to Pitt River, 26 miles. Trans-Canada Highway, Hope towards Yale, 7 miles; Trans-Canada Highway east of Kamloops, 13.5 miles; Nelson-Nelway highway, 20 miles; Kamloops-Vernon road 7 miles; Kootenay-Columbia highway—Golden south, 6 miles; Okanagan Highway—Armstrong to Enderby, 9 miles; the Island Highway—Red Gap to Qualicum and Union Bay section, 21 miles; and Parksville to Cathedral Grove, 20 miles.

10—New bridges to be constructed in coming year, if materials and personnel are available:

Alberni, River Bend, \$45,000; Atlin, Bear River, \$50,000; Burnaby, Geishon, \$15,000 and Burnett, \$21,000; Cariboo, Springfield, \$140,000 and Likely, \$35,000; Chilliwack, Vedder Canal, \$325,000; McGillivray Creek, \$15,000; Sumas River, \$45,000; Comox, Combs, \$100,000; Courtenay Slough, \$45,000; Diamond Crossing, \$180,000; Cranbrook, Yahk Slough, \$70,000; Delta, Canoe Pass, \$45,000; Dewdney, Stave River, \$200,000.

Esquimalt, Tugwell Creek, \$16,000; Sandstone Creek, \$15,000 (these three on West Coast road between Victoria and Jordan River); Niagara Creek, on Island Highway, \$50,000; Fernie, Coal Creek, \$10,000; Fort George, Garven Creek, \$60,000; Grand Forks, three Boundary Creek bridges, \$70,000; Lillooet, Red Bridge, \$30,000; Nelson-Creston, Kid Creek and Little Kid Creek, \$40,000; North Okanagan, Baxter, \$25,000; South Okanagan, Mission Creek, \$27,000; Omineca, Sherraton, \$25,000; Peace River, Moose River, \$24,000.

Salmon Arm, Sicamous Narrows, \$135,000; Revelstoke, Eagle River and C.P.R. overhead, \$35,000 each; Similkameen, Keogan Creek, \$15,000 and Osoyoos Lake, \$28,000; Skeena Suspension, \$120,000 and Porphyry Creek, \$50,000; Yale, Fraser Canyon bridges generally, \$300,000.

Total of these bridges is \$2,457,000.

## B.C. Cabinet Readies Health Plan

VICTORIA.—(CP) vinctial cabinet is put before a coal shortly British Col hospitalization scheme.

Both the speed throne and Premier son's "policy" spe that the govern place a plan before ture during the cu

Monday' Provinc George S. Pears medical and hospitl cluding represent B.C. Medical A the B.C. Hospita to discuss the hosp scheme.

It is expected ernment may scheme which w benefits similar to Blue Cross to cov of the province.

No official annu been made of the plans.

## Mennonites Left Unsatisfied

VICTORIA — special commit legislature study to the Provinc Tuesday decline specific reco the legislature not Mennonites tended the franc

The committe question at len King, Chairma motion but not the committee C.C.F. member tee made it would not sup which discrim other minority tending the fr nonites.

Mennonites previous to las were specif from being r voters' list.

## Deputy Minister Of Work

Special to 7 VICTORIA Public Works Carson announ ture Tuesday June 30 of hi A. L. Carruth His place v Norman M. M commissioner Alberta, who here with t public works.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1948

## B.C. Cabinet Readies Health Plan

VICTORIA—(CP)—The provincial cabinet is expected to put before a coalition caucus shortly British Columbia's new hospitalization insurance scheme.

Both the speech from the throne and Premier Byron Johnson's "policy" speech indicated that the government would place a plan before the legislature during the current session.

Monday Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson met with medical and hospital leaders, including representatives of the B.C. Medical Association and the B.C. Hospitals Association to discuss the hospital insurance scheme.

It is expected that the government may work out a scheme which will provide benefits similar to those of the Blue Cross to cover all residents of the province.

No official announcement has been made of the government's plans.

## Mennonite Vote Left Unsettled

VICTORIA — (CP) — The special committee of the B.C. legislature studying amendments to the Provincial Elections Act Tuesday declined to make any specific recommendations to the legislature on whether or not Mennonites should be extended the franchise.

The committee discussed the question at length and Thomas King, Chairman, asked for a motion but none was made by the committee members. The C.C.F. members of the committee made it clear that they would not support any motion which discriminated against other minority groups while extending the franchise to Mennonites.

Mennonites were registered previous to last year when they were specifically prohibited from being registered on the voters' list.

## Deputy Minister Of Works Retiring

Special to The News-Herald  
VICTORIA — (Special) — Public Works Minister E. C. Carson announced to the legislature Tuesday retirement next June 30 of his deputy minister, A. L. Carruthers.

His place will be taken by Norman M. MacPherson, former commissioner of highways for Alberta, who is now stationed here with the department of public works.

## JOHN HART CELEBRATES 69TH BIRTHDAY TODAY

Special to The News-Herald  
VICTORIA — Today is the 69th birthday of John Hart, M.L.A., who was longer a B.C. cabinet minister than anyone in the province's history.

Mr. Hart was born in Ireland's county Leitrim March 31, 1879, and came to Victoria in 1898.

He was first elected to the legislature in 1916 and in 1917 became finance minister, holding that office until 1924. He left public life that year but returned in 1933 and was again named finance minister, this time by victorious Premier T. D. Pattullo.

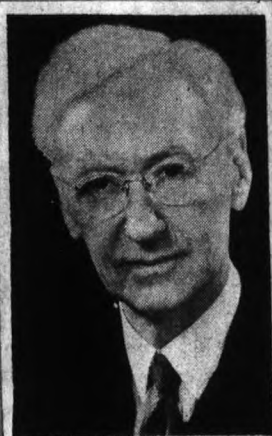
In 1941 Mr. Hart became premier and also continued to hold

the finance portfolio until the spring of 1946. He left the premiership last Dec. 29.

Only other person to near the Hart record is Mr. Pattullo who was 20 years a cabinet minister. But Mr. Pattullo had five years as leader of the opposition. Mr. Hart never served in opposition.

Mr. Hart is one of the few persons to attain such high office without tasting defeat at the polls somewhere along the way. Victoria has elected Mr. Hart in 1916, 1917, 1920, 1933, 1937, 1941 and 1945. He now sits in the legislature as a private member.

B.C.'s only two living ex-premiers are Mr. Hart and Mr. Pattullo, who is 75.



**BIRTHDAY**—Celebrating his 69th birthday today, without a cabinet minister's worries for his first year since 1933, is Irish-born John Hart, now an M.L.A. (Story, Page 3.)

## Prairie Folk Vote Discussed In B.C.

VICTORIA—(CP) — The special committee of the B.C. Legislature studying amendments to the Provincial Elections Act Tuesday heard of problems migrating prairie folk were causing deputy registrars of voters.

G. M. Phillips, registrar general of voters, read a letter from one deputy who reported some persons from the prairies were being registered who had lived in B.C. the required six-month period but were probably planning to return to their prairie homes.

Actually these persons are not qualified unless they have established their homes in B.C.

## Dominion Help Urged For Roads

VICTORIA — (CP) — Works Minister E. C. Carson said in the legislature Tuesday that British Columbia should have federal aid in carrying out its highway programs.

He outlined the need for improvement of main, secondary and industrial roads, terming it an "important phase in our economy."

"Having in mind the revenue presently derived by the federal government in effect from our natural resources, through income and corporation taxes, and the need for American dollars, we should have federal aid. Not only on what is presently known as the Trans-Canada Highway, but also on other main east and west, and north and south routes."



**M A R**

**1948**

# Large Deficit Faced by B.C.

## Budget Short \$10,000,000 As House Opens

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
VICTORIA—The British Columbia Legislature opened its 1948 session today to face the most serious financial situation since depression days.

The situation developed during a year in which the government was tallying a surplus of \$10,502,000, the largest in provincial history.

Here is the picture:

The revenue surplus fund, which two years ago amounted to nearly \$20,000,000, has vanished.

The cabinet is in almost continuous session as it strives to balance the 1947-48 budget, which at present shows a deficit of nearly \$10,000,000.

At March 31, 1947, the revenue surplus account contained only \$4,305,000 not allocated, and informed sources say virtually all of that has been used to meet extraordinary expenditures in the past 12 months.

### INFLATION REASON

The reason for the headache: inflation.

One remedy: a provincial sales tax.

However, it is anticipated there will be concerted opposition from rural members to any suggestion of the tax being imposed.

### THRONE SPEECH

This picture was painted by government sources today as Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks opened the house, with a 900-word speech from the throne that promised:

Establishment of a clinic for treatment of mental patients.

Development of a biological laboratory for the fishing industry.

Amendment of labor laws to improve employer-employee relations.

Consideration of the serious hospital situation.

New public works.

Increased benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

A report on developments in the B.C. Scientific and Research Council.

### MENTAL CLINIC

The legislature will be asked to approve legislation to "introduce a new method of admission to our mental hospitals, and to provide a clinic for treatment of patients who may be saved thereby from the stigma of being committed to a mental institution."

Dealing with the Industrial Arbitration and Conciliation Act (Bill 39), the speech said:

"It is the intention of (the) government to submit for approval legislation revising and amending our labor laws, thereby bringing into effect further improvements in employer-employee relations."

### FOREST ACT

Amendments to the Forest Act, and legislation dealing with agriculture, forecast on numerous occasions, were also announced.

The speech said careful study had been given to "a number of provincial-municipal problems as well as the rising cost of social security and other important public services, and promised action "to alleviate this situation."

Steps will be taken to provide new technical personnel and facilities for the B.C. Scientific and Industrial Research Council to deal with problems relating to industrial chemistry, physics, applied biology, mining and other important fields.

### CARSON SPEAKER

The house formally appointed R. H. Carson, Coalition member for Kamloops and brother of Public Works Minister E. C. Carson, to succeed Mr. Justice Whitaker as speaker.

Then it adjourned to a reception at Government House.

Earlier, Finance Minister Anscomb tabled the public accounts of the government, showing current income for the year ended March 31, 1947, totalled \$56,817,945.

Current expenditures were \$46,315,294, leaving a \$10,502,651 surplus.

But—the government during that year had dipped deeply into its revenue surplus account, spending \$4,652,490 altogether. This left only \$4,305,000 not committed definitely.

### 5,000,000 ON ROADS

During the year the province spent \$15,019,142 from capital borrowings, including almost \$5,000,000 for highways and \$7,611,350 for the B.C. Power Commission.

The balance sheet showed assets amounting to \$332,109,651, an increase of \$17,061,770 over assets at the same time during the previous year.

The figures also showed that B.C. made a net profit of \$14,634,291 on its Liquor Control Board operations in the year.

That is a new record—far beyond the \$11,194,176 profit in the previous year. It was even about \$6,000,000 more than the government expected.

If sales continue at the same pace, the profit for the 1947-48 fiscal year will approach \$15,000,000.

## New Member To Take Seat In Mid-Month

VICTORIA (CP) — Arthur J. R. Ash, Coalition government member elected in the provincial by-election in Saanich, is expected to take his seat in the British Columbia legislature on March 15.

Robert Brydon, returning officer for Saanich, planned to begin the official count for the by-election Tuesday.

It is expected to take two days. Ten clear days must pass after the official count before the election writ is formally filed. This would mean that Mr. Ash, who received more than 1500 votes over his closest opponent, will be able to take his seat in the legislature about March 15.

Walter Hogg, the new member for Cariboo, will probably not be able to take his seat in the House until a few days later, since the official count there will be held later this week.



## Well Dressed Women Add Color To Opening of B.C. Legislature

By HELEN EFFINGER

VICTORIA — The Empress, like the majority of other capital city hostelrys has a "full house" today. Members of the B. C. Legislative Assembly, the majority of them accompanied by their wives, began arriving Monday from their homes throughout the province for the third session of the 21st Legislature, which formally opened at three o'clock this afternoon.

Quite as interested as British Columbians in the ceremonies are the many late winter visitors here from the other side of the Rockies. Easterners who sought the sun in Florida in other years have settled on Victoria to escape part of the rigors of winters in their provinces.

Some of the visitors were fortunate in obtaining seats in the galleries to view the opening ceremonies in the Legislative Chamber, where seats were reserved for guests representing the business, church and political life of the province.

Victoria visitors from afar were also spotted in large throngs lined up outside the parliament buildings to see the arrival of his Honor Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks who, before proceeding up the granite steps to the main entrance, where he was greeted by B.C.'s new premier, Hon. Byron L. Johnson, inspected the guard of honor. This was composed of 50 sailors from HMCS Naden, and 50 men from the Canadian Scottish. Three bands were in attendance and a 15-gun salute was fired across the inner harbor.

### YEAR'S HIGHLIGHT

All this was a most imposing setting for what is admittedly the social event of the year in Victoria. And the feminine guests played up to it. En masse they presented a striking preview of what well groomed women will wear this spring. As they filed into the parliament buildings, there was time only to take mental sartorial notes on a few.

All eyes of course were on Mrs. Bryon Johnson, who was accompanied by her son, Bryon, Jr., who took the day off from University of B.C. to attend the opening with his mother, she lovely in parma purple crepe, with sable furs and small vivid satin ribboned touque in shades of purple, green and blue. With them were Mrs. Johnson's sister, Mrs. B. D. Thorne of Vancouver, her black satin dress-maker suit with its black accents topped by a fur coat against breezes that are far from springlike. Also in the party was Premier Johnson's sister, Mrs. Lillian Russell and her daughter, Miss Joan Russell, who arrived this morning from Vancouver.

### HOUSE GUEST HONORED

Mrs. Gordon S. Wismer, who, with the attorney general, is entertaining prior to dinner at their Joan Crescent home tonight for their Vancouver house guest, Mrs. E. Wynne Jones, was in that springtime favorite, navy blue. It was an afternoon dress of fine crepe styled with pencil slim skirt draped with navy taffeta panels from longer length hem to waistline. Her furs were sables and her New York model hat of navy straw featured a high rolled brim and matching quill. Mrs. G. Kiasick and Mrs. Howard Forrester, both

of Vancouver, were also in Mrs. Wismer's party at the opening.

Special attention, of course, was focussed on the two women members, Mrs. Tilly Rolston and Mrs. Nancy Hodges, the latter was in bright forest green wool crepe with chic black hat feather-mounted on one side, while Mrs. Rolston was in black.

Her suit had the new longer length skirt and the coat's waistline was nipped in. A large black lace picture hat was worn slightly askew.

The University of B.C. was represented by the president, Dr. Norman A. M. MacKenzie, who, with Mrs. Mackenzie is staying at Government House, and by the Chancellor Hon. E. W. Hamber, who arrived at the Empress Monday morning with Mrs. Hamber and Mrs. M. H. Rice. This afternoon, Mrs. Hamber was wearing a black frock of sophisticated simplicity and beautiful cut. Her black felt hat was off face and her furs were sables.

### SABLES OVER SHOULDERS

Sables were also worn over the shoulders of a distinctive grey suit by Mrs. George H. Baillie, who accompanied her husband, CPR vice-president, Pacific region, when he came over from Vancouver Monday morning for the opening. In tone with her suit was the moonstone grey felt hat worn by Mrs. Baillie, the broad brim rolled back in front and caught with a beaded cabochon.

Grey, also, a soft moonlit shade, was worn by Mrs. Gordon McG. Sloan with silver fox cape and model grey hat wreathed in pastel pink flowers. With her was her striking daughter-in-law, Mrs. David Sloan, the former Miriam Lineham, who wore a Piccadilly model of black English Barathean cloth, silver fox furs and black hat trimmed with osprey tips.

Vancouver's new U.S. Consul and Mrs. George D. Andrews, accompanied the U.S. consul at Victoria and Mrs. Leo Callanan, the latter, tall and willowy with fair coloring, wearing black.

### CLOUD GREY CREPE

The wife of the new speaker, Mrs. R. H. Carson, was in cloud grey crepe, scintillant with beaded embroidery, pink feather trimmed black straw hat and brown squirrel coat. Deep violet

was the shade of the frock worn by her daughter, Miss Betty Carson, with a grey topcoat and small floral hat of pink and violet toned roses. Mr. Speaker's daughter-in-law, Mrs. D. J. Carson, of New Westminster, wore a two-piece moire silk model suit and winter white hat with black feather chou. Dr. and Mrs. K. B. Casselmann of Vancouver were in the Carson party.

### BOLERO JACKET

A vestee of shell pink embroidery gave pastel accent to the bolero jacket of Mrs. E. T. Kenney's navy blue suit, worn with navy felt chapeau and brown squirrel coat. Wide taffeta bands were tailored trim on Mrs. Herbert Anscomb's black crepe ensemble. There were gold touches on her small black hat. In ballerine mode was the fine beige wool briefly jacketed suit worn by the wife of the new minister of education, Mrs. W. T. Straith, whose daughter, Miss Mary Straith, wore black accents with a powder blue dress.

Due to her recent accident, Mrs. Banks was unable to be present at the opening of the legislature but received with His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, at the reception following at Government House.

## Mace Omer

VICTOR within sight of hurdle on Tuesday floor.

Byron Johnson as premier, people. The benchman—not front row. The previous cabinet.

And the le But those wondering if the never happened authority, that resting place in but in the great thunder.

Looking down variety of female have had a busy

The Tuesday 40 minutes, but roasting under more hours before social headline over in 40 minutes.

The man Neutenant-governor executive assistant slipped recently He's using a car Mr. Richardson years. He's just

Mr. Hart, fresh as a daisy lightened by a This time has been rever

When Premier Speaker, and money which has

Premier Johnson escorted Mr. Carson arm-in-arm, co But the price would move the second. One late to second

## B.C. L Bill Se New F

VICTORIA (Columbians spent during the Liquor fiscal year ended than any other and a statement for the first six year to end next cated the liquor ince would be st

Sales for the last March 31 totalled an increase of \$9 previous period year the net profit 634,291.

For the six-month last Sept. 30, sales totalled \$26,257,7 that period was paring with \$6,34 month period 1946.

## Mace Falls in House— Omen for Good or Ill?

By GORDON McCALLUM  
From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The fellow who used to play football almost within sight of the august legislative buildings completed the hurdle on Tuesday from muddy fields to rich purple carpeted floor.

Byron Johnson made his first appearance in the House as premier, directing the destinies of a government and a people. The last time he was in the House he was a back-bencher—not an obscure one, but still well back from the front row. This time he was up front, without benefit of previous cabinet experience.

And the legislative veterans agreed he handled everything well.

But those who worry about good luck or bad luck signs are wondering if there was an omen of ill—or good—in something which never happened in the House before. The mace, that symbol of authority, that sacred piece of metal, fell on the floor from its resting place in front of Mr. Speaker. The noise wasn't very much, but in the great silence of that chamber, it was like a clap of thunder.

Looking down from the press gallery, reporters could see a wild variety of feminine hats. The milliners and the hair stylists must have had a busy time of it.

The Tuesday afternoon opening sitting didn't last more than 40 minutes, but it was a cinch some of the ladies had spent hours roasting under the hair driers at the beauty parlors. And a lot more hours being fitted for dazzling gowns. And then the No. 1 social headliner of the year—to sit on the floor of the House—was over in 40 minutes. Heartbreaking, it was.

The man who hobbled outside the legislative chamber as the lieutenant-governor and his party entered was Percy Richards, executive assistant to Premier Johnson. He hobbled because he slipped recently on icy steps at Quesnel and badly sprained an ankle. He's using a cane.

Mr. Richards was secretary to John Hart, ex-premier, for 12 years. He's just carrying on with a new boss.

Mr. Hart, back from a holiday in the southern U.S., looked fresh as a daisy. And he carried a jaunty air, obviously his shoulders lightened by giving up the burden of premiership.

This time he's back-bencher. Like Premier Johnson, his position has been reversed since last session.

When Premier Johnson nominated Bob Carson, Kamloops, as speaker, and the House concurred, there was another bit of ceremony which has its beginnings wrapped up in history.

Premier Johnson and Harold E. Winch, Opposition leader escorted Mr. Carson to the Speaker's dais. They came up the aisle arm-in-arm, cosy like.

But the printed program which announced that Premier Johnson would move the nomination left a blank space for the name of the seconder. One could only guess that Mr. Winch didn't agree until late to second Mr. Carson's nomination.

## B.C. Liquor Bill Sets New Record

VICTORIA (CP)—British Columbians spent more on liquor during the Liquor Control Board fiscal year ended last March 31 than any other year in history, and a statement of the board for the first six months of the year to end next March 31 indicated the liquor bill of the province would be still higher.

Sales for the fiscal year ended last March 31 totalled \$47,961,515, an increase of \$9,218,059 over the previous period. During that year the net profit totalled \$14,634,291.

For the six-month period ended last Sept. 30, sales to the public totalled \$26,257,720. Net profit for that period was \$7,531,039, comparing with \$6,343,205 for the six-month period ended Sept. 30, 1946.

During 1946-47 British Columbians spent \$28,594,839 on wines and spirits, and \$19,356,674 on malt liquors. During the previous fiscal year \$21,198,130 was spent on wines and spirits and \$17,564,324 on malt liquors.

Of the total liquor bill for 1946-47, \$8,552,501 went to the Federal government in duty, excise and sales taxes.

Permits issued during that period to individuals totalled 349,169, compared with 549,913 during the previous fiscal year.

Summary of prosecutions under the Government Liquor Act showed a total of 7793 for the fiscal year 1946-47. Of this total 2957 persons received suspended sentence, 122 charges were dismissed, 1428 went to jail and 2719 paid fines. Bail was estreated for the remaining 587. Fines collected totalled \$135,785 while the estreated bail totalled \$12,635.

## Hospitalization Scheme Near

### Premier Expected to Outline Plan in Friday Speech

By GORDON ROOT  
From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Prospects of a provincial hospitalization plan on a contributory basis appear brighter as the legislature settles down to its sessional duties.

On Friday Premier Byron I. Johnson will present to the House his first report on government policy and sources close to the government say he may outline plans for legislation to provide province-wide hospital coverage.

Details of the plan are not known but it is believed one of the organizations now providing hospital care for employees groups would be commissioned to extend its facilities to everyone in the province.

The step which would carry British Columbia a long way toward a complete health insurance program would be of two-fold benefit.

#### CARE FOR EVERYONE

Primarily, it would provide every man, woman and child in the province with hospital care when needed.

Secondly, it would increase hospital incomes, relieving the desperate financial plight which now faces these institutions and reduce the drain on government revenues.

The hospitalization, it is understood, will be compulsory for all who are not covered at present. Rates, which will be nominal, will be collected periodically.

The hospitalization plan, it is expected, will highlight a policy speech which otherwise will not make very pleasant reading.

In blunt words, Mr. Johnson will tell the House that British Columbia is broke.

#### SPENDING SPREE OVER

He will report that the spending spree of the past four years is over and the province is faced with the urgent need of finding additional revenues.

Meanwhile, in the legislature Wednesday, problems of social welfare, ranging from contributory old age pensions to widows' allowance under the Workmen's Compensation Act, were reviewed.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, (Coalition, Victoria) an able and fervent supporter of social reforms, in moving the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne told the House:

A contributory hospitalization program is urgently needed in British Columbia.

Complete health insurance should eventually be set up by the province if the Dominion fails to act.

Increased protection should be provided for deserted wives.

The sale of undesirable literature should be banned in B.C.

#### REGARDED AS HINT

The Victoria member's reference to a hospitalization plan was of more than passing interest. It

is traditional that the mover and seconder of the Throne Speech reply forecast important legislation which will be considered during the session.

Her reference to the need for increasing widows' allowances under the Workmen's Compensation Act also can be interpreted as a hint of government action.



# Communist Treachery Denounced By Stevenson in B.C. House

## Vancouver Point Grey Member Scores 'Promotion of Turmoil' in Canada

By GORDON McCALLUM  
From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Russia was charged in the B.C. legislature Wednesday with defeating almost every effort to restore peace in the world, and with directing Communistic efforts to promote turmoil in Canada.

The charges came from Leigh Stevenson, Coalition member of Vancouver-Point Grey. He didn't mention Russia by name, but it was obvious he was referring to the Soviet.

In 1942 and 1943 he said, Canada "shared our scarce and precious war materials with a country hard-pressed and almost beaten; a country which now shouts defiance at those who gave her the very shirts off their backs, a country which now defeats almost universal effort to bring the world back into a fit condition in which to live."

He urged that B.C. "get our own house in order so that as a vital and integral part of Canada, we can carry our share of the load and maintain our integrity in any eventuality."

The member added: "Surely those who have been blindly following leaders who make no secret of the source of their ideologies and direction must now be having some misgivings. It is one thing to rebel against customs and conditions within a country and take steps to try and bring about a change, but it is an entirely different matter to operate under treacherous and treasonable direction from another country with which apparently we have nothing in common as a people and as a nation."

### OUT IN OPEN

"The leaders of these subversive forces crawled under their stones during the war, but they are again out in the open, spreading their venomous idealism in far too many channels of our social and industrial life."

"The Canadian Legion was quick to see the subtle tentacles of Communism writhing in their direction and have expelled and are expelling those tempered with disloyalty to Canada."

"If common sense and loyal attention to public affairs fails elsewhere, I look to the Legion and the army, navy and air force veterans organizations as the power to set us straight, and I would urge all servicemen to support these organizations and help to keep them strong and clean."

Mr. Stevenson said that on the Canadian stage "leaders of certain already well-paid groups are clamoring for higher wages and shorter hours and longer holidays, and on the opposite side the Housewives' League or others of that Communistic ilk are screaming for lower living costs and prices."

"Helplessly looking on are those whose working days or best earning days are over. Watching their erstwhile friends,

bewildered at the play which leaves them in the lurch.

"The joker is of course that those upon the stage whose views appear to be so utterly opposed are comrades not interested in welfare but in turmoil and unhappiness for others but themselves."

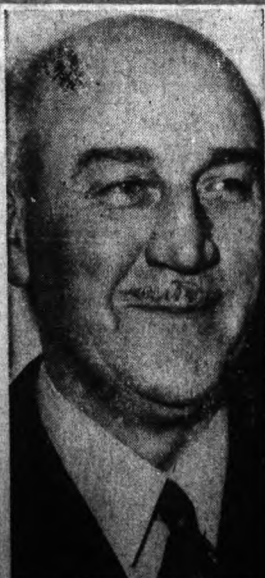
But the speaker found that Canada is not blameless in the situation.

"Perhaps we should not have been in this position if our so-called great Canadian leaders had spent more time and effort welding Canada into a nation... we are sadly lacking in national spirit... Perhaps this is why some residents in Canada have looked elsewhere for leadership. Surely this is a state we can improve."

### URGES PENSION PLAN

On the domestic front, Mr. Stevenson dealt with a wide variety of subjects. He opposed any increase in milk prices, asked for legislation to have milk deliveries made after 7 a.m.; urged greater power production; and asked that more attention be paid to the tourist industry.

Mr. Stevenson supports a national contributory pension plan "but if this is not quickly arranged on a national basis, then this province must proceed with some plan to relieve the situation."



L. F. STEVENSON  
Keep veterans' groups clean.

## Winch Raps Oil Firms; Will Ask Gas Control

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
VICTORIA — British Columbia oil companies were severely criticized as Opposition Leader Harold Winch, opening the CCF attack on government policies in the legislature, examined the price and scarcity of gasoline in this province.

The subject, Mr. Winch admits, was well worked over in the by-election campaign, but he disclosed he will carry his fight for government control of gasoline distribution to the floor of the legislature.

Wednesday in the House was interesting if not sensational.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, who is admittedly one of the finest women speakers in Canada, and who, in addition to representing Victoria in the legislature is president of the National Women's Liberal Federation, devoted her address to subject social welfare and salacious literature.

Air Vice Marshall L. F. Stevenson (Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey), covered many of the items dealt with in the throne speech.

### FINANCE AVOIDED

But neither the mover or second order of the address in reply stepped into the field of finance, the number one problem facing the legislature at its present session.

Presumably both speakers felt that the subject should be avoided until Premier Byron Johnson reports on government policy Friday.

There was a new addition to the staff in the chamber Wednesday. In a secluded corner, with a panel of switches in front of him, sat the loudspeaker control operator whose duty it is to see that the appropriate microphone is open when a member is speaking.

### HART PRESENT

John Hart was there, sitting for the first time in 22 years of political life as a private member. In recognition of his services to the province he was seated to the immediate right of the cabinet.

Another former Premier, T. D. Pattullo was also in the House, occupying his seat in the press gallery as an honorary life member of that group.

Apart from the two speakers, the House re-appointed Thomas Love (Coalition, Grand Forks-Greenwood), as deputy speaker and at 4:15 p.m. called it a day.

## Boost Urged In Timber Royalties

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA.—Prefabricated all-steel buildings can be bought in the east, shipped to the Pacific coast and erected for less than the cost of homes built with B.C. lumber "from a yard a stone's throw away."

This charge was made in the Legislature Wednesday by Leigh Stevenson, Coalition member for Vancouver-Point Grey.

He said prices of local lumber and its fabrication into homes and buildings have "passed all reasonable limits."

### WANTS ADJUSTMENT

He suggested the government should adjust its royalties on timber, saying:

"Our forests are beyond comparison to any in the world. Measures now in hand to provide sustained yield, if effective, should provide us with a substantial and stable industry in perpetuity."

"Despite the highest wages in this land, the lumber and pulp industry is producing profits from our forests at a rate which well may indicate that the province has underestimated the value of its forest resources."

"The government should examine this matter carefully with a view to adjusting our royalties before too many long-term management licences are granted."

### SLIDING SCALE?

"Perhaps some sliding scale based on retail prices might be appropriate."

"I trust some improvement in this direction may be included in amendments now in line."

Mr. Stevenson urged that small companies be given a better opportunity to study Forest Act amendments. He felt that smaller operators did not have this opportunity last year.

## Cariboo While

From The VICTORIA floor of the legi but that isn't k

Mr. Hogg, member for Carib 23 by-elections. H seat until all the vote-counting and have been compl of the ballot bo transported by he returning officer

So Mr. Hogg doing the chores be done for his part in the gover—in fact, doing except going into chamber itself.

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Harold Winch, ting ready fo speech, reached legislative build Wednesday. An until 2:45 a.m. c it. His fact-hunti after Tuesday's throne.

## Cariboo MLA Does Chores While Waiting For Seat

By GORDON McCALLUM

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Walter Hogg won't be admitted to the floor of the legislature until somewhere around March 18, but that isn't keeping him from his new job.

Mr. Hogg, a retired rancher, was elected as Coalition member for Cariboo in the Feb. 23 by-elections. He can't take his seat until all the formalities on vote-counting and ballot boxes have been completed, and some of the ballot boxes had to be transported by horseback to the returning officer in Quesnel.

So Mr. Hogg is in Victoria, doing the chores which have to be done for his riding, taking part in the government caucuses—in fact, doing a complete job except going into the legislative chamber itself.

### HE DIDN'T MEAN IT

Leigh Stevenson, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, didn't mean it this way when he said this in the House on Wednesday: "It was the tourists or their war equivalents who have been responsible for the tremendous increase in our population during the last five years."

What he meant was that the tourists and servicemen who came to B.C. during the war liked it so well, that some of them returned to stay. He wasn't talking about the birth rate.

Ex-Premier John Hart strolled into the press room, admitted that when he goes to work these mornings, he has to watch himself to keep from driving to the legislative buildings instead of his business office. After years of driving to the buildings each morning, it's hard to change a habit.

### POLISHED DELIVERY

When Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition, Victoria, made her speech Wednesday, her voice was slightly hoarse as a result of a cold. But it didn't stop her from making the polished delivery for which she is famous.

Harold Winch, CCF leader, getting ready for his Thursday speech, reached his office at the legislative buildings at 6:45 a.m. Wednesday. And he'd been up until 2:45 a.m. doing research for it. His fact-hunting had to be done after Tuesday's speech from the throne.

## Press Gallery Fellows Poor Insurance Risks

By GORDON McCALLUM

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — If the insurance companies ever had a look at the steep stairs up which the reporting fellows have to clamber to reach the Legislature's press box, they'd probably shudder and put them down in the "increased risk" class.

Duff Pattullo, former premier of B.C. clambered up the steps on Thursday, stayed throughout Harold E. Winch's two hour speech, and gingerly made his way down again.

### PORTLY PATTULLO

It wasn't easy for portly Mr. Pattullo. It's not easy for anyone.

"I wish you fellows had spoken to me about this when I was premier," he grumbled. "I'd have done something about it."

Mr. Pattullo, who left the premiership when John Hart went in, is around the Legislature pretty regularly these days. And as honorary president of the press gallery, he gets up to the press box once in a while.

### PROUD GRANDPARENTS

About the proudest grandparents in these parts are Don Brown, Coalition, Vancouver Burrard, and Mrs. Brown. For a couple of days now they've been parading their son, daughter-in-law and tiny grandson around these August Halls. Any time this corner saw the group, Grandpa Brown was carrying the little fellow. Seemed like no one else could get a turn at all, at all.

Harold E. Winch, CCF leader,

was a little fearful that his voice wouldn't hold out for all of his Thursday speech. But when he sat down two hours and many words later, it was still strong. Both sides of the House agree that Mr. Winch is one of the ablest speakers in the Legislature. There are many who disagree with his philosophies, but they listen to him.

## Here's Why B.C. Faces Deficit:

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Here's why British Columbia's financial situation is bad, according to Premier Johnson:

The province had expected that by January, 1948, there would be 16,670 old-age pensioners. Instead, it had 21,305 and will have 25,000 by December next.

By 1947 agreement, each applicant is sole B.C. responsibility if he has lived in B.C. more than 18 months.

### PENSION COSTS UP

Old age pension costs were \$1,900,000 in 1945-46; will be \$5,000,000 in 1948-49.

Unemployables, receiving social allowances, are increasing by 2000 yearly.

Per capita costs of social services rose from \$1.60 in 1944-45 to \$2.07 in 1946-47.

More money had to be given to hard-pressed hospitals.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Costs of all social services increased from \$9,300,000 in 1945-46 to \$19,346,000 in 1948-49.

Municipalities are asking the province to pay 60 per cent of educational costs, instead of 40 per cent.

Expenditures in 1946-47 were \$46,309,000; for 1947-48 they are estimated at \$65,644,000, an increase of \$19,344,000 in one year.

Appropriations from the surplus account have cut it to \$4,661,374, nearly all of it committed for school construction.

## Power Rate Cuts Studied For Island

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Rate reductions ranging from 30 to 50 per cent have been achieved by the B.C. power commission in 11 of the 18 power districts it serves.

Premier Blron Johnson made the announcement to the legislature on Friday.

He said further cuts may come:

"The commission is studying rates on Vancouver Island and expects to introduce new rates in the Alberni area, the Nanaimo-Duncan areas, and other districts supplied by new John Hart hydro-electric development at Campbell River. It is expected these reductions will be made by April 1."

Premier Johnson said a new pulp mill and sawmill at Port Alberni has contracted for 10,000 horsepower, and "the commission is negotiating for a further 10,000 horsepower for another new pulp mill. A third mill is under consideration for Vancouver Island. If it is constructed, it will require 35,000 to 50,000 horsepower."



# BC Seeks More Revenue; Entire Surplus Used Up

## Winch Hits Government For Information 'Ban'

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
VICTORIA—B.C.'s Johnson-Anscomb coalition government was accused in the legislature Thursday with bringing down the "iron curtain" on information from the premier's office.

The charge came from CCF leader Harold E. Winch. The 40-year-old head of the Opposition turned on his full oratorical guns to blast away at the government in a two-hour speech which was without bitterness.

His "iron curtain" charge dealt specifically with information which he thought that he, as opposition leader, should get from the premier. He complained that Mr. Johnson wasn't doing it like John Hart did it when he was premier.

"The former premier," he said, "gave me every reasonable access to information. And the ex-premier never had a confidence broken. But now there has come

down a great iron curtain on facts which should be available to the leader of the opposition."

Mr. Winch didn't spare his adjectives as he walloped the government.

He accused it of "indecision, inactivity and stumbling," said it was "irresolute and lacking of courage at a time of auspicious economic circumstances," and, he said, there was stupidity.

## 'Conservatives Come to-Heel'

When Premier Hart retired, he said, there was left an impression that "everything is rosy; things were never better." But now, he said, just two months after Byron Johnson took over as premier, Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Victoria, in her speech referred to "the most difficult times in the history of the province."

He said Premier Johnson did not become premier of the Coalition government without a battle with the Progressive Conservatives.

Mr. Johnson, a Liberal, he said, fought with "his spouse, the Conservative leaders, to a point close to divorce." He wondered what brought them together.

"You'd like to know," inter-

jected Herbert Anscomb, minister of finance and Conservative leader.

"But I can guess," Mr. Winch fired back. "I can guess that the Liberals were prepared to go it alone and form a minority government, and then the Conservatives came to heel."

Mrs. Hodges, said Winch, had now told of a period of difficulty which the CCF had forecast.

"And in doing so, year after year, "we were regarded as prophets of gloom."

"There was blindness and stupidity on the part of Liberals and Conservatives in facing a situation which you now point out as existing."

## Advocates Health Scheme

He described the speech from the throne as "the most bankrupt of all in stumbling and uncertainty" of the 17 he has heard since he has been in the House.

Mr. Winch charged that in the Cariboo Feb. 23 by-election, people who are dead, or who have left the riding, are still on the voters' list and that others voted in their names. He called for a revision in the Election Act.

"The provincial government is just asking Ottawa for the same thing which it has been asking year after year."

There are reports, he said, that the government is going to bring in a health insurance scheme. He wanted to remind the House that "seven times the CCF has been defeated on health insurance resolutions brought before this House."

If the government does bring in a scheme, "I hope that it is not tied in with present associa-

tions or with the Blue Cross. Any plan, to be successful, must be laid down and administered by the province itself.

"I am convinced that the province can lay down a self-supporting plan which will not cost as much to the individual as the present Blue Cross plan of \$15 a year to the individual.

"One serious illness can bankrupt the average working class family for years to come."

Mr. Winch said B.C.'s population is 1,047,000 of whom 756,000 are adults. Deducting Indians and those covered by veterans' legislation, there remain 722,000.

He advocated a hospital scheme of \$10 a year for the 722,000 at \$10 each "with no charge for children." To this fund of \$7,220,000 he would add the present \$3,000,000 annually contributed to hospitals by the provincial government and municipalities, making a total of \$10,220,000.

## Plan for Education Costs

If 200,000 persons enter hospital each year, with an average bill of \$50, and with administration costs set at eight per cent, the total would be \$10,800,000, "very close to the \$10,220,000 I suggest as a fund."

The opposition leader scored the government's automobile insurance plan charging that it is far more costly than the government sponsored car insurance of Saskatchewan.

He noted that the municipalities are complaining about the cost of education and offered the CCF solution, involving the assumption of all school costs by the province and the establishment of an equitable mill rate for education throughout B.C.

Such a plan, Mr. Winch admitted, would not cover current expenditures and the amortization of capital costs but he argued that a portion of the profits of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., the H. R. MacMillan Co., and the Canadian Western Lumber Co. could be utilized.

The report of the MacDonald Royal Commission on the manufacture and distribution of oil products returned to the lime-light as Mr. Winch examined the price of gasoline and the shortage of the fuel in the province.

He noted that 70 per cent of the Imperial Oil Company's stock is owned by Standard Oil of New Jersey and that the Standard Oil organization is being investigated by the U.S. Attorney General on price fixing charges.

Oil companies in British Columbia, he charged, are still using the sales realization method of fixing prices, despite the declaration in the MacDonald report that such a method is not satisfactory.

Imperial Oil, he found, had paid in dividends since 1934 more than \$13,000,000 each year.

The opposition leader then turned his attention to the Doukhobor problem, reading from the translation of a letter purportedly written by J. J. Verigin which offered members of the sect an opportunity of joining a new group provided they agree to refuse Canadian citizenship, refuse to swear the oath of allegiance and renounce any war service with the Canadian Army.

The Sullivan report, he said, should be presented to the Legislature so that its recommendations can be considered and a solution sought.

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## Premier Johnson Outlines Government Program

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The legislature and the people of British Columbia learned today the Provincial government:

- Has reached the end of its revenue surplus fund;
- Is considering a general compulsory hospitalization plan;
- Will provide further aid for municipalities;
- Must increase revenues and reduce expenditures to balance its budget for the coming fiscal year.

In his first report on government policy, Premier Byron Johnson painted a gloomy picture of the financial position of the province, its municipalities, its schools districts, and its hospitals.

But his only reference to solutions planned by his administration were in generalities.

The Industrial Conciliation Act, Mr. Johnson said, will be amended but the government plans to retain the compulsory strike vote and the other broad principles underlying the legislation.

### Revenue Surplus Fund 'Empty'

The revenue surplus fund, which totalled more than \$16 million on April 1, 1944, now contains only \$300,000 that has not been allotted.

"This means there is little or no reserve left with which to meet abnormal economic conditions now confronting the province."

In the current fiscal year, he disclosed expenditures will total \$65,644,000, which is \$7,000,000 more than anticipated.

"Every indication points toward a further substantial increase in expenditures during the coming fiscal year."

"The province has been caught between rising costs, due to expansion of public services, particularly social services and education, and the spiral of inflation."

In contrast to the \$10,000,000 surplus of 1946-47, the end of the current fiscal year will produce a slim \$356,000 revenue in excess of expenditures.

He told the municipalities the government has implemented all the recommendations in the Goldenberg report for which it is responsible, with one exception, and that the municipalities should "fulfil their end of the undertaking."

The administration, he said, is "prepared to submit to the legislature measures for granting still further assistance."

What form this aid will take, he did not explain, but his declaration that "it meet the desires of the municipalities" was interpreted here as indicating a form of provincial sales tax.

Flatly he told the civic administrators of the province that "inflated costs cannot be assessed against deflated assessments" and that the assistance planned will be the government's final effort to remedy the financial troubles of the cities, towns and villages of the province.

### Problems Covered in Detail

The prepared text in the 90-minute address covered in detail the problems of government resulting from "the spiral of inflation."

Of the plan for providing universal hospitalization, the prepared text of the Premier's address said only the government had been studying the problem "and proposes to submit to the House, measures designed to bring hospitalization within the financial reach of the people."

At a press conference prior to the opening of the day's session, he indicated, however, he might extemporaneously expand this brief reference.

The financial difficulties he outlined were as extensive as they were numerous.

The government's share of hospital costs have doubled in the past year.

Changes in old age pension regulations and pension increases have jumped the province's share from less than \$2,000,000 in 1945-46, to an estimated \$5,000,000 in the coming fiscal year.

Social allowances in 1947-48 will be double the amount required in 1945-46.

On the revenue side of the picture, Mr. Johnson placed his hope for aid largely in the Dominion government's implementation of the social security provisions of the green book proposals.

### Cost of Measures Skyrockets

Despite the fact that cost of these measures has skyrocketed in British Columbia from \$9,000,000 in 1945-46 to an estimated \$19,000,000 in the coming fiscal year he indicated curtailment of social services is not being considered.

The Dominion government, he reported, had collected \$140,000,000 from income and corporation taxes and succession duties in 1946-47, and current payments to the province amount to \$23,000,000 or 16 per cent.

Believing the time has arrived when social security proposals should be discussed with the Dominion government, Mr. Johnson said, he had visited Ottawa to confer with the Prime Minister.

"I was encouraged to believe something would be done in connection with these proposals."

"I, therefore, propose to make the necessary arrangements to prepare British Columbia's case to be presented to Ottawa for implementation of social security measures."

There was a hint of a thorough examination of the administration of hospitals throughout B.C. in the Premier's analysis of increasing costs for these institutions.

The 100 per cent jump in these costs in the last 12 month period, he reported, is far beyond increase in living costs.

"It would seem," he continued, "that administration of hospitals require more strict examination to ensure that the maximum of service is obtained for the money expended."

### Position on Social Services

Mr. Johnson related to the House the position of the government on social services, a position that has developed from an increase in per capita costs from \$1.60 to \$2.07 between 1944-45 and 1946-47.

The relaxation of old age pension regulations, which places on British Columbia the responsibility for caring for recipients who moved to this province 18 months ago has raised the number of new cases by 2000 a year.

Despite the introduction of unemployment insurance on a national scale, the province is still responsible for unemployed who have used up their insurance benefits.

The number of unemployables, who are a charge on the province, is increasing.

Mr. Johnson urged school districts show greater restraint in expenditures, particularly with respect to the construction of new buildings.



## Province is Broke, Too; Premier Predicts Action

By GORDON McCALLUM

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. is like the family man who is taking home the fattest pay cheques he ever had, but there's still not enough to buy the canned peas and milk and bread and butter for his children.

Inflation in costs has hit the family man. B. C. as a province, has been hit by an inflation in both costs and places that it has to spend its money.

In the sense that B.C. hasn't enough dollars for what it has to do, it's broke; just the same as the family man, trying to stretch his dollars, feels that he, too, is continually broke. There just isn't enough money coming in.

The family man has dug into his cash reserves.

B.C. did that, too.

### SURPLUS GONE

And now both are wondering, "where do we go from here?"

Premier Byron Johnson frankly told the legislature Friday that all the big surpluses of the past few years — they totalled around \$42,000,000 — just aren't there. They've been spent. And he made it clear that they were spent on things that the government felt had to be done. On things like \$15,000,000 for extra road maintenance.

In a way it was a pretty gloomy picture which the premier gave in his maiden speech as premier.

### PENSIONERS INCREASE

First of all B.C.'s old age pensioners will number 25,000 by the end of the year. The total is growing rapidly because of people coming from other provinces. All of its social service charges have increased.

Mr. Johnson, who generally speaks rapidly but without rancor, sounded almost mad as he complained that Ottawa takes in \$139,000,000 this year in income taxes from B.C. and pays back only \$23,000,000 to the province on the deal. Part of the pact was that Ottawa was going to introduce the famous Green Book proposals on social services, which would take the old age pension load off B.C.'s neck. And Ottawa hasn't done it. And Premier Johnson is annoyed.

The premier obviously wants more to be done for the people, especially on hospitalization. But he warned that it will take money, and B.C. hasn't got any — that is, any to spare, even though it's getting lots in comparison with other years.

### BUDGET EXPECTED

The province may know the full picture in less than two weeks. There was talk Friday that the budget will come down about March 17 or 18.

It's anybody's guess what the total will be. Last year, expenses were budgeted at \$58,000,000. It's a pretty safe bet the 1948-49 estimate will be far beyond that total, perhaps even approaching \$70,000,000 even with liquor profits running at a new high — at about \$15,000,000 annual if the sales volume is maintained — and even if gasoline tax revenue — its other big money source — is continued, there probably won't be enough coming in.

People are asking for more things. For instance they want the government to pay 60 per cent of educational costs instead of 40 per cent.

### NEW REVENUES

That adds up to revenue sources some place. A sales tax could be one of them. And already there's a fight there. The municipalities want to cut in if there's a sales tax. The junior boards of trade don't want a sales tax at all. They argue that anything added to costs are hitting at the family man who has to buy new shoes for his four of five children next week. The family man's dollar is pretty thin now and he doesn't want it thinner.

On Thursday, Harold E. Winch said that when John Hart left as premier, things were said to be "all rosy." He argued that obviously they were not.

Friday's speech by Premier Johnson seemed to indicate that he didn't think so, either.

## B.C. to Resume Negotiations To Extend PGE

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. will resume negotiations soon with the transcontinental railways and the Federal government on the extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

Premier Byron Johnson told the legislature ex - Premier John Hart, as president of the PGE, will represent B.C. in the negotiations. They will be resumed as soon as W. M. Neal, C.P.R. president, returns from a vacation.

## Premier Predicts Action On Hospitalization Plan

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Provincial Legislature listened intently Friday afternoon as a new figure, standing in the premier's place, outlined government policy on social welfare, finance, municipal aid and the price of gasoline.

In an address that, at times digressed completely from his written text, Byron Ingemar Johnson told the House that: he will not be in office long before a hospitalization plan is put into effect.

He is definitely concerned over the cost of social services.

### NO MUNICIPAL GRANTS

There is little hope the provincial grants to municipalities for construction and maintenance of trunk highways recommended in the Goldenberg report, will become effective this year.

The problem of finding an equitable solution to the complicated gasoline price fixing problem is very difficult but a remedy is being sought.

Mr. Johnson, speaking for the first time from the cabinet benches, lacked the polish of his two predecessors in the premier's chair who listened to his address.

### DELIVERY BETTER

But his delivery was much improved over public platform performances in the by-election.

He opened and developed a bit of a kindred spirit with Opposition Leader Harold Winch, agreeing with the principle, if not the methods, of some of Mr. Winch's social welfare plans.

Throughout the speech he generated sincerity that brought new respect from government members.

There were flashes of humor, too, in his report on recent developments and plans ahead.

### FINEST CITY

Briefly he returned to the role of a private member to report that New Westminster, his own constituency, is the "finest little city in North America."

He had been to Ottawa re-

cently, he reported, and while there had been well treated, "but not in the sense some people would," the non-drinking premier added cheerfully.

To his comment that the ideas of the opposition leader on social services were not far from his own, he added for clarification "but it will be a long time before there is a Socialist government at Ottawa."

"That's what you think," retorted E. E. Winch, (CCF Burnaby).

At one point during his report on the gasoline price problem, he paused in his prepared text to enter into a lengthy argument with the leader of the opposition over the price of stove oil and crude, an argument that proved nothing on either side.

His hospitalization plan was crystallized in a flat declaration that followed a glowing report on the activities of the Blue Cross and the Medical Services Association.

### GROUPS PRAISED

If the government, he continued, could take the services provided by these two groups and "wrapped them up together — we would be doing the finest thing for this province that anyone has ever done."

He has never forgotten, the premier said, that he had to work for a living and for the past 15 years he has been close to other men who earned their daily bread by manual labor. All of them, he had found, were earnestly interested in hospitalization.

For school boards throughout the province he had a solemn word of warning. Costs are getting out of hand and only essential construction on new schools should be attempted.

The throne speech debate will resume Monday afternoon with the private members taking over. A. R. MacDougall (Coalition Point Grey) will open next week's talkfest in the Legislature with Alex Hope (Coalition, Delta) and E. F. Rowland (Ominca) completing Monday's roster.

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## A Big Step in B.C.'s Social Progress

THE provincial government's proposed general hospitalization plan, referred to by Premier Johnson in the legislature last Friday, would be such a long stride along our path of social progress that nothing should be allowed to stand in its way.

Families of low and moderate incomes live in fear of hospital bills. One serious illness in an average working class family can financially hamstring that family for years.

Many men, women and children in need of proper hospital care are denied such attention because of the high cost, and overcrowding of existing hospital facilities.

Under a comprehensive hospitalization plan we could, through small, week-to-week contributions, matched by government grants, create our own personal hos-

pital funds against the dark day when the doctor points his finger at us and tells us we must pack off to the hospital.

Hon. Louis St. Laurent reminded the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress in Ottawa last Friday that public health plans can not be properly established until hospital and convalescent facilities are greatly extended. This, of course, means huge expenditures, a large portion of which would have to be paid by the thousands of potential patients involved.

But there are few wage earners who would complain of the extra cost of a hospitalization plan if they were guaranteed against some of the worry and financial drain of serious illness.

And those who never had occasion to reap the benefits of their insurance shouldn't complain anyway. They will have drawn the best dividend—continuing good health.

## B.C. Sales Tax Support Drops

### Alternative Plan Likely To Balance 1948 Budget

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The case for a provincial sales tax, originally suggested by the municipalities as a means of balancing education budgets, appears much less popular here as the legislature opens its second week.

It is now apparent that an alternative measure to balance the 1948-49 budget will be considered when the government members meet in caucus to discuss financing.

It is also apparent that, unless very heavy pressure from the cabinet is placed on them, the private members of the Coalition will not approve the sales tax plan.

#### WITHDRAW SUM

Instead of imposing such a tax to balance the coming budget, it will be urged that the government withdraw the unspent \$10 million of a \$15 million grant allotted at the 1947 session from the revenue surplus account for highway construction.

This \$10 million would make up the anticipated deficit in 1948-49.

The highway construction program would be continued but the money would be obtained by borrowing.

It is argued here now that it is only proper that expenditures on capital investments should be covered by loans and should not be met from current revenue.

#### YEAR'S RELIEF

Admittedly the plan would provide relief only for a single year, but that period would give the province a further opportunity of pressing on the Dominion

the need for immediate implementation of the social security measures in the green book proposals.

At the same time other capital charges, now covered by the revenue surplus account, including school construction costs, could be transferred to borrowings.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1948

### Bill Introduced

VICTORIA (CP) — First message bill of this year's session of the legislature was introduced in the House by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald Monday, and given first reading.

It is a bill to validate the 1947 election of commissioners of the village municipality of Ossoyoos.

## Legislature To Argue Jap Rights

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Rights of the Japanese in British Columbia, an important issue in Provincial politics for many years which was revived a month ago when the government attempted to bar members of that race from working on logging operations on crown lands, will be threshed out by the legislature.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch today gave notice that he will place on the order paper this week a resolution that "no discrimination should be recognized by the government, either in law or contract, against any Canadian citizen because of color, religion, or land of racial origin."

#### AUTOMATICALLY CANADIAN

The preamble to there solution points out that under the Canadian Citizenship Act of 1946 any person born in Canada prior to passage of the act is automatically a Canadian citizen.

In spite of this, the Provincial Elections Act "denies voting privileges, to certain minorities" and "ineligibility for inclusion on voters' list denies certain citizens the right to practice in some professions."

#### 300 LOGGERS

The action against Japanese loggers, 300 of whom are employed in the interior, was taken under a motion passed by legislature in 1902 which provided that in contracts or leases signed by the government, provision be made that Chinese or Japanese could not be employed.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1948

## Hope Urges Cut in Car Insurance

VICTORIA (CP) — New business brought to insurance companies by British Columbia's new highway safety responsibility law should bring down rates, A. C. Hope (Coalition-Delta) said in the legislature Monday.

He also suggested the government might go into the insurance business itself if rates could not be reduced.

Mr. Hope said the financial responsibility plan was "all right," but many people thought the cost was too high compared with Saskatchewan's compulsory insurance scheme.

"I think the volume of business the insurance people have picked up must be tremendous," Mr. Hope said. "It's high time they adjusted their rates."

While not agreeing with the CCF opposition that everything Saskatchewan did was good, he thought "they might have something" there in car insurance.

Insurance rates are based on actuarial experience and can not be predicated on future possibilities, it was stated in Vancouver today by K. M. Sabiston, manager of the British Columbia Underwriters Association.

"The driving public makes its own rates and, if the new B.C. law creates an experience better than present conditions, insurance rates will automatically come down," Mr. Sabiston said.

"It is difficult to predicate rates on the future or on an unknown equation," he said.



# Coalitionists Hit Victoria Policies

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The voice of the common people of British Columbia rose from the floor of the legislature Monday afternoon, swirled through the comparatively well filled galleries, and bounced back from the ceiling with considerable force on the benches occupied by the cabinet.

It was an unusual day—an interesting day—as the private members of the House opened their annual review of affairs in the province.

It was interesting because of the thoughtful analysis of a dozen subjects offered by the two government members and the one CCF supporter who spoke.

It was unusual because the only one of the trio who was not sharply critical of the administration was the opposition member.

## ATTACKS REPORTS

A. R. MacDougall (Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey) declared that a government promise to implement the recommendations of the Cameron and Goldenberg royal commissions before their contents had been thoroughly studied amounted to the "very negation of responsible government."

Said A. C. Hope (Coalition, Delta) "When we say the municipalities have to put their houses in order I think it's time the government put its house in order."

With an apologetic mien, E. F. Rowland (CCF, Omineca) admitted it would be nice if the government could improve the 1200 miles of highway in his riding and provide some form of assistance for the crowded, understaffed hospitals.

## CHAMPIONS

Mr. MacDougall presented to the House the arguments of the supporters of free enterprise, Mr. Hope stood in his place as the champion of rights and needs of municipalities, and Mr. Rowland, as the representative of his fellow men in Omineca.

The member for Point Grey believed that taxes on land in British Columbia should not be increased, that a sales tax would be welcomed by "property taxpayers, farmers, home owners and those wishing to become home owners," and that legislation controlling the price of gasoline should be repealed or suspended.

## NOT CARRYING SHARE

With figures to prove it, the member for Delta argued that the unorganized territories of the province are not carrying their full share of the tax burden; that companies dealing in car insurance should reduce their premiums if they plan to remain in business; and that the forest management licence plan for logging government timber should be reviewed.

The member for Omineca wondered what the government had done about a resolution passed in 1939 supporting sweepstakes that would benefit hospitals.

Mr. MacDougall, a successful Vancouver lawyer with many years of experience at the bar, presented a more polished, more comprehensive—but no more sincere—study of the problems confronting the province than his fellow speakers.

## OPPOSES WINCH PLAN

He was not in accord with the argument of opposition leader Harold Winch that financial difficulties could be solved by taxing successful corporations who "have been able to show a tidy profit, to the joy of their shareholders, who include many widows and orphans."

He renewed the plea for a medical faculty at the University of B.C., an issue that precipitated much debate at the 1947 session, confessing that he was not competent to deal with the technical problems involved, but arguing that somewhere, somehow it should be started anyhow.

In the extent of government revenue that accrues from the sale of liquor Mr. MacDougall found reason for alarm, declaring that these profits "constitute such a large proportion of our total income that it is becoming an unhealthy sign in our economy."

## REPORTS LIKE COLOGNE

He noted that the municipalities have on many occasions recently visited the government to press for increased aid, and there was considerable sagacity in his observation that these pleas have been no more frequent and no more fervent than the province's appeal for help in Ottawa.

The member for Point Grey, in his lengthy and thoughtful analysis of the financial difficulties of the province, was not pleased with the outcome of the implemented recommendations of the educational, finance and provincial municipal royal commissions.

The reports of experts, he contended, "Are like cologne water . . . to be smelled, and not swallowed."

Both Mr. MacDougall and Mr. Hope were perturbed at the comment in Premier Johnson's policy speech Friday that financial aid to be given the municipalities at the present session will be considered final until the recommendations of the Goldenberg report are put into effect.

## "CINDERELLA CITIES"

Mr. MacDougall, who termed the municipalities "the Cinderellas of Canadian economy," believed it "crucial of a parent to bring a child into being and then, at any stage of its existence, to proclaim that under no circumstances will that child receive a parent's consideration in the future."

Mr. Hope, whose directness is noted in the House, was somewhat more suave on this point.

The premier, he was sure, couldn't have made the remark seriously. There must have been a twinkle in his eye when he announced that so much, and no more, would the civic governments receive.

But the Delta member's suavity ended with that brief tactful effort.

With knuckles bared and muscles bulging he tossed full length punches at the government and the insurance companies.

He had figures to prove the administration is letting residents in unorganized territory escape lightly in the tax field; that municipalities must pay a part of cost of hospitalization for old age pensioners; that the excess cost of school construction is much the fault of the department of education as it is of the municipalities.

But it was price of automobile insurance that really offended the Langley member.

The subject so far aroused him that he committed the unpardonable sin of confessing that the policy of the CCF government in Saskatchewan on car insurance might not be wrong.

## CAR INSURANCE

The minimum cost for financial responsibility, he understood, is about \$18 in B.C. and with everyone in the province, under the amended Motor Vehicle Act being placed in a position where they must buy it or face the consequences, he believed the rates should be much lower.

"Someone should tip someone off and tell them they'd better get busy and adjust rates," he declared.

"I don't believe the government should go into a lot of things but they should suggest that if something isn't done there'll be a change."

# Anscomb To Outline Cities' Aid

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—B.C. municipalities won't know what extra help they will receive from the provincial government until the budget speech.

Premier Byron Johnson so informed three UBCM representatives today, despite their plea that municipal councils should know at once so they can pass their own education budgets.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's budget speech is slated for March 17 but may be set back several days.

In his policy speech last Friday, Premier Johnson announced additional aid to municipalities was forthcoming.

The municipal delegates—UBCM President Mayor W. M. Mott of New Westminster, Mayor Percy George of Victoria and R. R. F. Sewell, UBCM secretary—today told the cabinet the province should not take two per cent of the proposed three per cent sales tax and leave only one-third for municipalities.

# City Member Would End Gas Control

VICTORIA (CP) — Removal of provincial gasoline price controls, leaving it to competition to hold prices down was suggested in the legislature Monday by A. M. MacDougall (Cln.-Vancouver-Point Grey).

The Dominion Combines Investigation Act could take care of any tendency for a combine to develop.

"No one wants to pay more for any commodity than he is obliged to do, but why gasoline should be singled out to be sold at a loss is more than I can understand," the Progressive-Conservative member commented.

He said he saw no reason why the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Act should not be repealed this year, or its operations suspended, subject to the power of the executive to reinstate it if that became necessary.

# Health Plan, Rent Control To Be Debated

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Resolutions calling for introduction of a provincial health insurance plan and provincial control of rents in B.C. will be placed on the legislature's order paper this week by Opposition leader Harold E. Winch.

The resolution on rent control refers to the abandonment of control on commercial properties by the Dominion government and Finance Minister Abbott's comment that "the provinces can take care of the commercial field now."

The motion for health insurance calls for a provincial plan that would fit into a Dominion government scheme when implemented.

# Omineca Member Wants Sweepstakes To Aid Hospitals

VICTORIA (CP) — Sweepstakes to raise money for hospitals throughout the province were urged in the legislature Monday by E. F. Rowland (CCF—Omineca).

Reminding the House of its unanimous resolution in 1938 favoring sweepstakes as a means of financing hospitals, Mr. Rowland said he would like to know what representations had been made to the federal government and what answers, if any, were received.

There was no reply from treasury benches.

Mr. Rowland declared during the throne speech debate that one of the two hospitals in his district had been on the verge of closing down last summer because it had insufficient funds to offer fair wages to nurses. For some weeks it had had to carry on with the matron as its only trained nurse.

# Resource Features

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
VICTORIA—The province is richly endowed with natural resources, but the province is not doing enough to develop them, according to a report by the province's resource committee.

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## Resources and Liquor Feature House Debate

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature on Tuesday plodded drearily through the fifth day of the throne speech with recapitulation of a dozen well worn issues. But with few new ideas.

It was a typical rural members' day in the throne speech debate, a day when the elected representatives of the vast and sparsely populated regions of the province report on the state of affairs in the country districts.

### FOUR SPEAKERS

Government and opposition were equally represented in the four members who offered their views on the speech by the lieutenant governor.

W. H. Brett (CCF-Prince Rupert) produced a spark of Socialism, raising the perennial cry for government ownership of power corporations and the breweries, overlooked by Party Leader Harold Winch last Thursday.

J. H. Corsbie (CCF-Peace River) created no surprise by introducing into the debate the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and the vast coal deposits of his riding.

Tongue in cheek, W. D. Smith (Coalition-Atlin) assailed the liquor control board's watered stock.

### GARDEN PANORAMA

And A. B. Ritchie (Coalition-Salmon Arm) painted a panorama of green gardens and orchards, a dream, he contended, that could be realized through a extensive irrigation project in his constituency.

The short, perpetually smiling Bill Smith from Atlin riding produced the session's best laugh.

Watered liquor, he argued is an extravagance in his constituency because it costs no less than eight cents a pound to ship from the south. Any upstanding resident of Atlin will contend the product of the mountain streams in that district is as pure and as satisfactory as the variety from the Capilano River.

### SEES TUSSE

Mr. Brett was uneasy at the lack of constructive plans in the Throne Speech but he suspected the failure to enunciate more definite plans resulted from a tussle between the minister of finance and his colleague in the public works department for the available funds.

The member for Prince Rupert also examined the liquor question—but from a slightly different angle. It is now obvious, he said, that a government can not legislate a people into temperance. He said all the profits from the manufacture of spirits and beer should belong to the government.

He took the premier to task for the reference in the policy

speech to the administration's plan to retain the "secret ballot" in the Industrial Conciliation Act.

All labor unions, he said, have provision for the secret strike ballot in their own constitutions, but that does not imply a government supervised ballot.

There was much merit in the contention of both the member for Prince Rupert and Mr. Smith that the government should subsidize essential mercy flights from isolated outposts to hospitals in populated centres.

### COSTLY SERVICE

The cost of chartering aircraft for such trips places an overwhelming burden on a fisherman or a rancher who must fine immediate transportation to medical facilities for a member of his family.

Few constituencies have a more ardent representative than the Peace River's Mr. Corsbie.

It was only natural that he should ponder government plans for extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway to provide an adequate link for his district and Vancouver.

The much maligned forest management plan drew fresh criticism from Mr. Ritchie, whose constituency of Salmon Arm contains a host of small but thriving logging operations and sawmills.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

To him the idea of one company taking over a large area of crown timber, on which these small loggers must now depend for their operations, was most repulsive.

Out of the day's proceedings there was just one firm conclusion on the temper of the legislature this season — health insurance, or at least a form of hospitalization, is a major issue in British Columbia.



T. A. LOVE, MLA for Grand Forks - Greenwood, has been chosen deputy speaker for the B.C. Legislature.

## Police Court Witness Fees To Be Doubled

VICTORIA (CP) — Police Court witnesses soon will get double their present fees for attendance at court, under an amendment to the Summary Convictions Act introduced as a message bill in the legislature by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

Present schedule of fees gives witnesses \$1.50 for each day attending trial. New scale will raise it to \$3. In addition, they and interpreters will get 20 cents one-way mileage, in place of the present 15 cents.

Interpreters' fees will remain unchanged at \$2.50 for each half day of attendance, but in addition they will get actual living expenses not exceeding \$5 a day when away from ordinary place of residence.

The bill also provides for upward revision of other fees in the scale under 30 different headings, including fees to justices of the peace, clerks, and constables.

## 'Kennedy Popsicle' New 'Confection' For Northern B.C.

VICTORIA (CP) — An anti-freeze for liquor shipped to Atlin Riding was suggested in the legislature by W. D. Smith, Coalition member for that riding, as he told of liquor freezing and having to be thawed out.

"Kennedy's popsicle is the name prospectors give spirits sold by liquor vendors," he said. "The stuff freezes, breaks the bottle and is lost."

"One man found his frozen bottle before the contents thawed, removed all the broken glass and then licked his Kennedy popsicle to complete enjoyment, as the core was the real stuff," Mr. Smith told an amused house.

Prospectors in Yukon territory had no such trouble, the rum in that region being 35 overproof, the Atlin member said.



## VICTORIA REPORT Legislative Session Dull, Devoid of Ideas

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Wednesday was the session's seventh day and veteran members, from cabinet rank down, agree that so far, it has been a dull, as uninteresting, as devoid of new ideas, as any in recent years.

It is apparent that, to a large degree, it was planned that way.

Premier Byron Johnson has been in office for a little more than two months and prior to his elevation to the post of government leader, he had no experience in the cabinet.

It was only natural that he should try to get through his first session quickly and quietly, avoiding, as far as possible the controversies involved in important new legislation.

### LITTLE MATERIAL

As a result, the throne speech provided little new material and the premier's own policy report was far from being revolutionary.

C. W. Morrow (Coalition, North Okanagan), the first of three speakers Wednesday, combined his duty to his riding as a rural member with an outline of several province-wide problems he believed should be solved.

He asked for larger salaries for police court magistrates, further aid for old age pensioners, and the inevitable new roads.

John MacInnis, (CCF, Fort George) fending off a half dozen hecklers from the government side of the Chamber, staunchly defended his party against the charges leveled by Coalition supporters on the hustings during the February elections.

Years ago, he recalled, the Liberals at Election time "went into the highways and the byways, and even the cemeteries" in search of votes.

### ARGUMENT DENIED

With some annoyance, he referred to the Coalitionists' conception of socialism, stoutly denying a common campaign argument that under the CCF all the people in the province would be civil servants.

On the constructive side the

Fort George member recommended to the minister of lands, as a site for major park development, the grandeur and vastness of Mount Robson Park.

He pointed to the shortage of school teachers and nurses, and to the unfinished stretch of highway between Prince George and Jasper as symbols of the problems facing the government.

W. J. Johnson, Coalition, Revelstoke, was well pleased, as a member of the board of directors of Revelstoke's Queen Victoria Hospital, in any government arrangements to eliminate the overdraft at the bank.

### OVERHEAD HIGH

He declared that while oil companies are applying for increased gas prices on the grounds they are losing money, it is apparent that in many instances the overhead is too high and this matter should be investigated.

He stressed the importance of suggested amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act that were placed before the cabinet by the railway brotherhood.

Hospitalization was also a prominent subject in Mr. Morrow's address to the House.

There is an imperative need, he said, for a new hospital at Vernon and since the city itself can not afford it, and as it serves the surrounding community as well, he urged that a bylaw for a new building be placed before the residents of the district.

Education costs, a bitter pill in both municipalities and unorganized territory throughout the province, naturally enough crops up in the speech of most country members.

Mr. Morrow argued that the government, instead of making minimum grants for the basic cost of operating schools, as recommended in the Cameron Report, should pay the whole of these basic costs.

### COSTS ANALYZED

He analyzed education costs in Vernon, contrasting the financial position of his home town with that of Oak Bay.

"Are there any sewers in Oak Bay?" asked Mr. Turner.

"I don't know if there are any sewers but there must be some sewer-rats" was the reply.

The member for North Okanagan was opposed to the business tax but he suggested that it would not be a hardship to triple the present trade licences charged in most municipalities.

## Veteran Trade Unionist Backs Province in House

VICTORIA—A veteran trade unionist, who sits on the government side of the legislature on Wednesday told the House that he has been a subscriber of The Vancouver Daily Province since 1910 and he strongly objects to the inference of other unionists that he is supporting a "scab" paper.

W. J. Johnson (Coalition-Victoria) declared that a former member of the House of Commons and a former member of the provincial legislature had taken him to task for his support of the "Province."

"I have been informed, and I consider the information reliable, that in the ITU local there were some 95 member employees of the 'Province' while the rest were employed by various other papers.

"But when the vote was taken as to whether or not 'The Province' men would go on strike, they all had a vote on what was a grievance only of the employees of The Province.

"I can imagine what the employees of the CPR would say if the employees of the CNR and the PGE were allowed to vote with them on a grievance with the CPR, even though they belonged to the same union."

## MLA Supports Trade Union Members' Wives

VICTORIA (CP)—Wives of trade unionists received the support of W. J. Johnson (CLN Revelstoke) in the legislature.

He criticized trade unionists for "demanding as much as four weeks' annual holiday with pay . . . I've never heard of any of them saying to their wives 'here's \$100, go away for a holiday and don't come back to work for a couple of weeks'."

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1948

## Legislature May Restrict White Cane Use

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Restriction of the use of white canes in British Columbia to blind persons will become law in the province if the legislature approves a bill to be introduced by Provincial Secretary George Pearson.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1948

## Winch Loses First Round In Gas Fight

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The CCF Thursday afternoon lost the first round in its fight to launch a full scale debate on the price of gasoline in British Columbia, but Opposition Leader Harold Winch immediately laid plans for a second attempt to bring the issue into the legislature.

The opposition leader was defeated in his attempt to adjourn the House at the opening of Thursday's sitting to discuss the government-sponsored increase of two cents a gallon that went into effect at midnight.

This morning he filed notice of two motions, one for a return of all documents dealing with the cost of producing and distributing gasoline, the other to place the issue before the legislature's public accounts committee.

### HOUSE DIVIDED

Mr. Winch's attempt to adjourn the House brought the first two divisions of the session and the first tinge of political controversy the legislature has seen since it opened 10 days ago.

On the first division, an appeal from a ruling of Mr. Speaker, one Coalition member, W. A. C. Bennett (South-Okanagan) voted with the 10 CCF members and Tom Uphill (Labor-Fernie). The appeal was lost 28-12.

In the second vote, taken on the motion itself, Dr. J. J. Gillis (Coalition-Yale) joined Mr. Bennett in supporting the opposition.

The opposition leader's attempt to place the gasoline issue before the legislature followed the announcement by Premier Byron I. Johnson that the government had granted a two-cent increase effective at midnight.

### \$5,000,000 PROFIT

The change in price, Mr. Winch contended, would mean a \$5,000,000 profit for oil companies this year.

He contended that unless all documents relating to the government's investigation of gasoline costs were made public there would be a justifiable suspicion among the public that the oil companies and the government have something to hide.

The premier opposed the adjournment of the House on the grounds that the government had accepted full responsibility for the increase.

In today's notice of motion to place the subject before the public accounts committee, Mr. Winch asks that the committee be given power to summon witnesses and request the production of relevant documents in its investigation.

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## UBC May Get Medical School By Autumn

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—There is every reason for believing that the University of British Columbia's medical faculty, subject of many discussions in the legislature in the past two years, will be a reality this fall.

In the House Wednesday, Charles W. Morrow (Coalition, North Okanagan) obviously speaking with some knowledge, intimated the medical faculty is being arranged.



## Three Speakers Attack Administration Policies

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Thursday, all counts, was the biggest day to date in the legislature's 1948 session.

Three speakers in succession levelled potent, effective attacks on administration policies, and Opposition Leader Harold Winch enlivened proceedings by taking advantage of the government weakness in parliamentary proceedings.

For the first time this year the administration was told in language that was concise and crystal clear what some of the members think of laws now in effect and legislation that is planned.

Mrs. Tillie Jean Rolston (Coalition-Vancouver Point Grey), described the proposed provincial sales tax as "the most retrograde tax that ever could be devised."

Arthur Turner (CCF-Vancouver East), charged that the government's automobile insurance plan, which became law on March 1, is "fraudulent."

And H. J. Welch (Coalition-Comox), attacking the forest management plan passed last year, declared that "the public domain should not be used for the financing of private industry."

### MR. WINCH EXPLAINS

To top off a bad day, Premier Byron I. Johnson's lack of knowledge on parliamentary procedure, understandable enough in his first year as government leader, proved embarrassing, particularly when Mr. Winch insisted on explaining how Bill No. 3 should be piloted through the House.

The bill, validating the electing of village commissioners at Osoyoos, must become law today to permit the municipality to carry on its business.

It was only natural that Mrs. Rolston, fresh from a lengthy tour of the Scandinavian countries and Britain, should have something to say about affairs in Europe but her remarks on her travels were confined to word of praise for British Columbia House in London and some pointed comments on immigration.

It was to the sales tax, that the first member from Point Grey directed most of her attention.

She opposed the plan, reportedly sponsored by the cabinet, on the grounds that it would impose a new burden on those of low income and with large families.

"I am opposed 100 per cent," she declared and Dr. J. J. Gillis (Coalition-Yale) chimed in "you're not the only one."

Politically, Mr. Rolston continued, the sales tax would amount to suicide for the government that invokes it.

The financial responsibility plan to protect motorists and pedestrians involved in traffic accidents, pet hate of all CCF members, was thoroughly examined by Mr. Turner, and found wanting.

As a cause of its introduction the CCF member main-

tained, insurance companies of the province will get an additional \$4,000,000 in business this year "without any appreciable outlay."

Under its terms, he said, 91 per cent of the accident victims of the province would not get compensation.

Collection can only be obtained on proof of negligence and such proof requires court action.

The "unsatisfied judgement fund," from which persons injured in traffic accidents where the motorist can not show financial responsibility, are compensated, was described by the member for Vancouver East as "fraudulent."

"The fact that the attorney-general made an arrangement with the insurance companies to meet any awards from this fund indicates they both must have felt guilty at fisting this whole costly monstrosity on the motorists."

Mr. Welch, chief representative in the House of the province's vast logging industry, assailed the forest management legislation and urged a return to the government's former policy of disposing of crown timber through auction.

On several points the Comox member found logical, practical reasons for opposing the licensing plan.

He contended that the setting up of working circles to operate in perpetuity is impractical since changes in logging methods and the demand for timber products can change the whole industry over a comparatively brief period.

## Debate Close Expected On Friday

VICTORIA (CP) — Attorney-General and Labor Minister Gordon S. Wismer will wind up the debate on the speech from the throne in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday night if current plans are followed, and Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb will present his budget to the House Wednesday afternoon.

Friday afternoon four speakers are scheduled to participate in the throne speech debate. They are J. H. Cates, Coalition, North Vancouver; Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie; Sam Guthrie, CCF, Cowichan-Newcastle, and Randolph Harding, CCF, Kaslo-Slocan.

## Shrinking Grain Trade Worries Captain Cates

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The legislature Friday afternoon covered the field of provincial subjects — some relevant, some irrelevant, as the throne speech debate neared its windup.

Capt. John Cates, Coalition, North Vancouver, who is admittedly far more at home on the deck of a stout harbor

tug than in the marble-pillared chamber of the House, spoke of the diminishing quantity of grain passing through B.C. ports.

Veteran Socialist Sam Guthrie (CCF, Cowichan-Newcastle) attacked government policies on a half dozen fronts, with special treatment for the new auto insurance regulations, and labor legislation.

The Doukhobors, their history and misdeeds, were reviewed at length by Randolph Harding (CCF, Kaslo-Slocan).

### PLUGS FOR SWEEPS

And the venerable Tom Uphill (Labor, Fernie) who in 27 years of legislative debate has learned the fine art of humor, produced a perennial plug for government sponsored sweepstakes.

There were, of course, countless other subjects mentioned on the eighth day of the Throne Speech debate.

West Vancouver's need for a high level road, extension of the Deep Cove Road to Indian River, and provincial administration of the main north shore highway through North Vancouver were included in Mr. Cates' list of requests from the public works department.

He reminded the government that among the Goldenberg recommendations it has failed to implement are the proposals that grants in lieu of taxes should be paid to municipalities for crown lands within their boundaries.

But it was on the grain shipping issue that the North Shore skipper based his main topic.

Wheat shipments through B.C. ports, which ran as high as 100,000,000 bushels a year before the war, have been reduced now to 38,000,000 bushels annually, he said.

Figuring that each ocean freighter coming into port spends \$20,000, this loss in cargo would mean millions of dollars to B.C.

Worse than that, Captain Cates declared, is the fact that grain is a complementary cargo to lumber and the reduction in wheat shipments would make it more difficult to get vessels to take only lumber cargoes.

### POLICE CRITICISED

Mr. Uphill's pleas for sweepstakes included a sharp criticism of the Vancouver police department for its repeated raids on Chinese gambling houses.

"Why do they have to go after the poor Chinks," the Fernie member asked.

"God knows they have a hard life and here the police are stopping the only form of amusement they have."

He was no more serious in

recommending a three-man commission to operate provincial sweepstakes, a board, he said that should be composed of former Eire Premier Eamon De Valera, former B.C. Premier John Hart and veteran Canadian Press correspondent in the legislative press gallery, C. F. Moriarty.

But there was nothing humorous in his fervent appeal for increased pensions for widows receiving workmen's compensation benefits.

He urged that the government double the present \$40 pension received by these women whose husbands lost their lives in industry, declaring that the companies should pay the difference.

### DOUKHOBOR PROBLEM

New roads were also on Mr. Harding's mind but they were secondary for the need of a permanent solution to the Doukhobor problem. "The solution is a very difficult one," he declared, "and while we must wait for the Sullivan report and study his findings, I would suggest that any solution, to be satisfactory, must come of necessity along educational lines."

Mr. Guthrie joined the outraged chorus in the legislature in a vociferous condemnation of the financial responsibility section of the Motor Vehicle Act.

He reported that old age pensioners had been refused insur-

ance in Duncan and he described the rates as outrageous.

The supervised strike vote in the Industrial Conciliation Act also aroused the Cowichan member's ire, and he insisted that a Dominion subsidy should be used to reduce the price of milk.

## Girls Can Start Hospital Training Now at Eighteen

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Amendments to the Registered Nurses Act to be introduced in the legislature next week by Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson will reduce the age at which a girl can enter a hospital training school from 19 years to 18.

At the present time, it is pointed out, students planning to enter nurses training must wait for a year if they complete their high school education at 18.



## Oil Firm Profits Listed Under Higher Gas Price

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Of the three big oil companies in British Columbia, only Standard of B.C. showed a profit in 1947.

Details of the findings of Touche & Co. together with submissions of the oil companies themselves in their request for an increase in the price of gasoline were tabled in the Legislature Friday.

Pertinent facts in the reports also indicate that on the increase of 4½ cents now granted to the oil companies, Imperial will have an estimated profit in 1948 of \$576,000, Standard, \$1,000,000 and Shell Oil, \$607,000.

The figures deal only with B.C. operations of the companies after the crude is laid down in Vancouver and do not cover the profits or losses of the operation of company tankers which transport the crude from California wells.

Gasoline sales of all three companies were greater in the first nine months of 1947 than the total sales for 1946.

At the same time while the gasoline recovery from crude at the Standard and Shell refineries was substantially increased, Imperial dropped from 33.41 per cent to 25.78 per cent in its gasoline recovery.

The report, showing a monthly report on crude oil price for each company since Jan. 1, 1946,

reveals a continuous fluctuation in the cost.

Standard and Shell, as subsidiaries of California Corporations, the report states, have been able to buy crude at a lower price than Imperial which claims it has had no affiliations in California.

Prior to 1947 Imperial was purchasing crude from the Standard Oil Co. of California at a price higher than that paid to the same company by its subsidiary, Standard of B.C.

In the last year Imperial has been obtaining an inferior product from the General Petroleum Corporation, explaining in part its lower gasoline recovery.

The accountants found that Shell has been charging, in its books double the normal rates for depreciation on the cracking plant completed in 1946.

In nine months of 1947, Standard charged off \$225,000 of the \$450,000 cost of repainting stations and purchasing new signs in connection with the switch over in its Chevron sales policy.

## Timber Royalties Up As Forest Act Amended

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Royalties on timber logged in British Columbia this year would be substantially increased, but the principle of the forest management licence plan will remain unchanged if amendments to the Forest Act, introduced Friday in the legislature by Lands Minister E. T. Kenney, are passed by the House.

The amendments also provide for the establishment of a wood lot plan whereby farmers can obtain from the government up to 640 acres of timber land adjacent to their farms to implement their incomes from agriculture.

Royalties are increased as

much as 50 per cent on all timber cut in the province.

In the Vancouver forest district, No. 1 grade fir, cedar, cypress, spruce and white pine will pay \$3 a thousand instead of \$2; No. 2 grade will be up from \$1.50 to \$2; and No. 3 grade from 75 cents to \$1. Hemlock royalties are jumped from \$1.50 to \$2 for No. 1; \$1 to \$1.50 for No. 2; and from 75 cents to \$1 for No. 3.

In the Prince Rupert forest district, fir, cedar, cypress, spruce and white pine, No. 1 \$1.65 to \$2.50; No. 2 \$1.25 to \$1.75; No. 3 75 cents to \$1; hemlock No. 1, \$1.25 to \$2; No. 2 90 cents to \$1.25; No. 3 75 cents to \$1.

The legislation also provides a \$2,500,000 revolving fund to be set up by the government to grant loans to logging operators to build roads and bridges into their operations.

Loans from this forest development fund will be repaid by the logger as he cuts the timber.

The farmers' woodlot plan allows a farmer to cut up to 50,000 feet a year, providing he carries on a sustained yield program in accordance with government regulations. There will be no rental or taxation on the land but he will pay the normal royalty and stumpage charges.

## Hart Highway Completion Date Extended

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Hart Highway into the Peace River country will be completed by Dec. 31, 1948, Hon. E. C. Carson, minister of public works, told J. H. Corsbie, member for Peace River, Friday.

The minister explained that an application made by the contractors building the section from Summit Lake to Azouetta Lake for an extension of time for the completion of the section, had been granted. Contractors building the eastern section had made no application.

He told A. J. Turner, Vancouver East, that negotiations were progressing between the Dominion and Provincial governments for the building of a road to connect Atlin with the Alaska Highway.

Mr. Corsbie was informed by the Minister of Lands and Forests that lumber production in the Peace River district last year totalled 23,495,000 board feet, an increase of more than two million feet over the previous year.

## Two Speakers For House

VICTORIA (CP) — Only two speakers are scheduled to take part in the debate on the speech from the throne on Monday afternoon in the B.C. legislature.

They are both Mainland members, D. C. Brown, Coalition, Vancouver-Burrard, and E. E. Winch, father of the CCF opposition leader Harold Winch, who represents Burnaby.

## Vets' Homestead Time Extended

VICTORIA (CP) — Veterans will be given another year to take up homesteads in British Columbia under an amendment to the Pre-emptors Free Grant Act introduced in the legislature by Lands Minister T. Kenney. Deadline has been extended to June 13, 1949.

## Committee Names T. King Chairman

VICTORIA (CP)—Tom King, Coalition, Columbia, today was elected chairman of the legislative committee on agriculture. Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Coalition, Esquimalt, was selected secretary.

## Unearned Increment Tax Urged

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — British Columbia's budget will be presented to the legislature by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb Wednesday afternoon but the question of a sales tax remains a mystery.

It is now apparent that the Coalition caucus has not yet discussed the issue and that there are as many government supporters opposed to such a tax as there are favoring it.

In the meantime a number of other plans for increasing provincial revenues have been suggested to the government. Of these the most practical is the establishment of a capital gains or unearned increment tax.

Such a tax would provide revenue from a source that is not now tapped by either the Dominion or Provincial governments. It would tax profits on sales of homes, business and industrial concerns, and other capital turnovers.

A capital gains tax could be imposed without violating the Dominion provincial agreement. In fact, it is pointed out by its supporters in the house, Alberta already has a similar tax.

Mr. Anscomb's budget will announce that the province is going to spend a record breaking \$73,000,000 in the next year, and that existing revenues can not be expected to provide for such expenditures.

He will certainly repeat his warning of last year that the costs of social services and education are increasing at a rate that threatens the economic structure of the provincial government.

The legislature will hold its first night sitting of 1948 tonight in an effort to wind up the debate on the Speech from the Throne.

## Tempo Clash

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**GORDON ROOT**  
Vancouver Daily Province  
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## Tempers High as MLA's Clash at Night Sitting

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The legislature's first night sitting has come and gone—with some of the finest humor, the sharpest debating, and most biting criticism of both the government and the opposition that the House has heard this year.

Lights burned—and at times, tempers flared—in the chamber until 10:45 p.m. as Herbert Gargrave (CCF-MacKenzie) and Alan Macdonell (Coalition-Vancouver Centre) held the stage in sparkling presentations in the throne speech debate.

There was considerable difference in their technique but both were effective.

Mr. Gargrave was the stylist, the master of satire and wit.

### GRIM, DETERMINED

Mr. McDonell was grim, determined and to the point.

Twice he was compelled by Mr. Speaker to accept the word of opposition leader Harold Winch that charges he had levelled at the CCF were false.

There are few of the chosen representatives of the people of B.C. who can excel Mr. Gargrave in debate.

The rugged little leader, who learned on the docks along the Thames that his size dictated a powerful tongue rather than husky right arm, is deadly effective in oral combat.

Monday night he was at his fighting best, poking verbal jabs and dealing haymakers all along the cabinet benches.

### ROUSES CABINET

His comments on government policy, past and present, drew replies from Premier Byron Johnson, former Premier John Hart, Attorney-general Gordon Wismer, Public Works Minister E. C. Carson and a dozen government back benchers.

He charged the government had deliberately misled the voters in Saanich and Cariboo in the by-election campaigns by failing to disclose the province's difficult financial position and government plans to implement a sales tax.

He described the order banning Japanese from working in interior logging camps as "a disgraceful exhibition of racial discrimination on the part of the B.C. government."

And he termed the financial responsibility plan for automobile insurance, "the great proposition that the attorney-general put over on the legislature at the last session."

### CHARGES "IMPOSITION"

The proposed sales tax he condemned as "an imposition on the people least able to pay," and he blasted the Imperial Oil Co. as the monopolistic subsidiary of a monopolistic U.S. corporation.

With the usual decorum he opened his speech with the formal congratulations that are expected in the throne speech debate.

In the first minute the formality vanished and he settled down to the task of embarrassing the government — with a considerable degree of success.

He congratulated former Premier Hart "for getting out while the getting was good."

He congratulated Attorney-General Wismer "for still having his job."

And he congratulated the "honorable member from South Okanagan (W. A. C. Bennett, Progressive Conservative candidate, in the Yale federal by-election, on "becoming a Tory".

Looking around the House, Mr. Gargrave continued, one was apt to become confused about these provincial affiliations.

"You get confused without looking around the House," interjected A. R. MacDougall (Coalition - Vancouver Point Grey).

Government claims and promises in the by-election campaigns, Mr. Gargrave asserted, were little short of fraudulent,

and he read excerpts from newspaper reports of speeches by coalition supporters in Cariboo to show that "a new pulp mill, a plywood plant and a hydro plant are to be built" in that constituency.

"Brother, what you'll do to get one seat is nobody's business!"

"My friend from Cariboo (Walter Hogg, the newly-elected member) will be in and out of the House before the hydro plant is built," he said.

Mr. McDonell's flare-up with the Opposition leader developed when the member from Burrard charged that the CCF and the Labor-Progressive Party "have formed a second coalition in B.C."

### "ABSOLUTELY INCORRECT"

"Absolutely and positively incorrect," replied Mr. Winch. "There never has been any understanding between the CCF and the L-PP and there never will be."

Speaker R. H. Carson called the House to order, declaring the member for Burrard would have to accept the Opposition leader's statement.

"I said at the outset that I was stating facts from my own knowledge," said Mr. McDonell.

Again the Speaker intervened and Mr. McDonell accepted adding that "the honorable members may place their own interpretation."

Later the Burrard member declared Mr. Winch had said, "we must fight with every means in our power to wipe out capitalism and private enterprise and bring about national socialistic state."

Mr. Winch was on his feet. "I never made any such statement in my life."

"He made it in my hearing," Mr. McDonell retorted.

### "MAKE ALLOWANCE"

"Make allowance for senility," interjected E. E. Winch (CCF-Burnaby), turning to his son.

Again the member for Burrard, at the request of Mr. Speaker, accepted the Opposition leader's declaration.

Mr. McDonell, a foundry operator in private life, has long taken a keen interest in the development of a British Columbia steel industry, and with the completion of a rolling mill which will start production in Vancouver in April, he foresaw the start of such an industry.

Power from Elk Falls, he believed, would provide energy for smelting iron ore by the electric process, in a plant which could produce and sell 100 tons a day.

He was critical of the legislature's habit of rushing through bills without fully analyzing the results of such legislation.

Last year the government had found it necessary to increase the contract prices on work being done by private companies because the legislation had increased their operation costs, he said.

The same laws, he argued, had also affected costs in the municipalities but similar consideration had not been given to them.

He recommended that a board of deputy ministers consider legislation before it is presented to the House.

### ATTACKS GAS BOOST

Mr. Gargrave condemned the Provincial government's action in granting a further two cents increase in gasoline prices last week, on top of the three cents allowed in January.

Quoting from the report made to the government by George A. Touche and Company, chartered accountants engaged by the petroleum control board to investigate oil company operations, Mr. Gargrave said the 4½ allowed to the companies represented 4.75 per cent return on capital to Imperial Company, 12.23 per cent to Standard Oil, and 11.25 per cent to Shell Oil.

He declared Imperial Oil had on old, outdated refinery at Ioco, and charged "with 4½ cents, you are subsidizing an inefficient operation on the part of Imperial Oil. That's on the word of your own auditors."

Premier Byron Johnson interjected that Imperial Oil was importing 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 gallons of gasoline at a high price. It was not a question of an inefficient plant, he said, but of importing gasoline that the people of the province must have to keep running.

"The company has allowed its refinery to get into that position because under this set-up it doesn't have to worry about refineries so long as the government protects it as it is doing," replied the CCF whip.

## Bill Restricts White Cane Use

VICTORIA (CP) — Use of white canes by other than blind persons soon will become illegal in B.C.

Provincial Secretary George Pearson introduced in the legislature a bill to restrict to the blind use of white canes in any public place, and to provide for fines not exceeding \$25 for wrongful use.

## Reds Spur B.C. Strikes, House Told

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Don C. Brown (Coalition - Vancouver Burrard) charged in the legislature Monday many illegal strikes in B.C. in the past year have been promoted in Moscow.

He urged, too, that Communist-dominated unions should not be recognized by the newly established Labor Relations Board.

Dealing with labor problems in this province, Mr. Brown declared "the curious fact about it all is that here in Canada we allow Communists to attack our system, our leaders and our governments, excite strikes and cause all sorts of turmoil and trouble."

### STALIN AGENTS

"If the truth were known, many of the illegal strikes in B.C. have been promoted by the Kremlin clique in Moscow, through Stalin agents operating on the Pacific coast."

The member for Burrard was encouraged by indications responsible labor unions are taking steps to remove the menace of Communism from their ranks.

"Now that we have a Board of Labor Relation it is the contention of many people that unions that have Communists in charge of their affairs, and it can be proven they are Communists, should be given little or no recognition by the board and should not be permitted to use its facilities."

The time has come, he continued, when all who love liberty must speak out against Communism.

### LARGE SUMS

"The Communists are spending in B.C. alone very large sums of money annually in propaganda and Red literature for one purpose only, to destroy our democracy and free enterprise way of life."

"We are alarmed about what is happening in France and Italy these days."

"The Bolsheviks have confiscated in the last year nearly all the small countries of eastern Europe."

"People say it can't happen here."

"It can happen here, and will happen if we are not careful."



# Three Per Cent B.C. Sales Tax Expected to Raise \$14 Million

## Budget Due Tomorrow

VICTORIA (CP)—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's second budget speech, to be delivered tomorrow, is expected to show an all-time high of \$75,000,000, increased from the \$58,000,000 figure last session.

This record amount is expected to be met through imposition of a three per cent retail tax on everything but essential foods, expected to net between \$13,000,000 and \$14,000,000 annually.

### NOT UNANIMOUS

Imposition of a sales tax is by no means unanimous. So far this session it has received support from several coalition members but has been blasted by other supporters of the government.

While some supporters advocate sales tax revenues be earmarked wholly for education and social service costs, it is believed that a third of its total, roughly \$4,000,000, will be given municipalities for school costs, with the remainder going to help meet social service costs which are soaring year after year.

### RUNNING CLOSE

British Columbia has been running close to its revenues in expenditures during the past two years, only about half a million dollars being uncommitted.

This session it is expected timber royalties will show an increase of a million dollars over the \$2,100,000 last year.

### CITY APPROVES

Most City Council members indicated today they have no objection to imposition of a three per cent sales tax, provided the province does two things:

Earmark the entire tax for education and hospitalization as municipalities have asked.

Give each municipality its share on a population basis.

## Brown Plays Opposition For Tactics in Strike

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Proposal for introduction of a capital gains, or unearned increment tax as an alternative to the sales tax in meeting the government deficit and a gentle chiding of Mr. Speaker featured the afternoon sitting of the legislature Monday.

Don C. Brown (Coalition-Vancouver Burrard) declared that, if necessary, the sales tax to be allocated solely for educational and social welfare measures, should be imposed, but he believed an unearned increment tax would be even more equitable.

E. E. Winch, (CCF—Burnaby) recalled for Mr. Speaker's benefit that a former occupant of "that high office," H. G. T. Perry, had seen fit to protect the rights of all private members in the House, contending the government was well able to take care of itself.

### CRITICAL ANALYST

Mr. Brown proved as critical an analyst of the opposition tactics and as staunch a supporter of the government as the House has seen this session.

When his criticism of the CCF drew a retort from Arthur Turner (CCF—Vancouver East) the member for Burrard quelled the uprising with a sharp, "you had your turn and I didn't interrupt you, so don't you interrupt me."

It wasn't the usual manner of dealing with such incidents but it was effective. Mr. Turner, blushing deeply, remained in his chair for the remainder of the speech.

Opposition leader Winch took issue with the member for Burrard when Mr. Brown, after praising the B.C. government's stand in raising old age pensions last year, charged that Saskatchewan had cut pensions for its senior citizens by \$5 a month.

It developed into a "they did" — "they didn't" argument and finally ended with no one knowing for certain what did happen in Saskatchewan.

### BACKS LABOR ACT

Mr. Brown placed himself solidly behind the principles of the Provincial Labor Act, and raised, for the first time during the session, the point that two CCF members, Opposition Leader Winch and Herbert Gargrave (MacKenzie) had appeared on the picket line in an illegal strike in Nanaimo.

"Let me say that things have come to a pretty pass when duly elected representatives of this legislature deliberately and flagrantly defy a law of our province and especially one which they helped to make."

He declared himself in favor of the government-supervised strike vote and charged the opposition with attempting to use that section as a weapon to destroy the entire act.

Nominally the Burrard mem-

ber attacked those in opposition who had criticized the government on the grounds it had not been active.

In the past year, he said, British Columbia has been well governed, the administration has made "unequalled headway" in its hydro electric developments; re-opened the Borstal home; increased gold production; and set up the Labor Relations Board.

He praised the introduction of an educational program on temperance by the department of education and urged that a grant from liquor profits be given to Alcoholics Anonymous to aid them in constructing a headquarters at Homer and Robson Streets, Vancouver.

Health insurance must be instituted at the present session, he contended, warning that "excuses will not any longer be tolerated."

### COMMUNITY CENTRES

At length he considered the importance of community centres, and the need for increased transit fares.

Noting that the federal government in 1943 had promised assistance in creating community centres, he suggested joint financing with the community itself, the municipality, the province and Dominion each paying a quarter of the cost.

Mr. Winch urged the establishment of legalized clinics for drug addicts.

In support of his attempt to interest the government in such a step, the member from Burnaby quoted statistics of the U.S. narcotic farm at Lexington, Ky., to show victims of the "habit" can be cured.

### SENT QUESTIONNAIRES

To further prove his point, he said he had mailed questionnaires to 900 doctors throughout the province and of the 400 who arrived, 352 supported the establishment of a hospital for treating drug addicts while 255 favored legalized clinics.

He drew extracts from official reports of the RCMP to show the use of narcotics is costing the province hundreds of thousands of dollars annually because of thefts by addicts in addition to jail charges when the offenders are caught.

"Establishment of legalized clinics," argued Mr. Winch, "presents the only rational approach

that has come to my knowledge."

Under such a system, addicts who do not otherwise violate the law would be able to obtain narcotics at cost from a clinic operated by a physician.

The exorbitant profits of the trafficker in drugs would be eliminated and dope peddling would be halted, he said.

The immediate effect, he asserted, would be the elimination of the source of drugs for new addicts.

## MLA Claims Winch Tried To Stir Riot

VICTORIA (CP) — Canadian labor union leaders in B.C. now have at least a measure of control over their affairs, Allan J. McDonnell (CLN — Vancouver Centre) said in the House.

No labor management agreements had been signed during the last year with American citizens named on the bargaining committees.

The coalition members charged that the labor meeting in Vancouver July 20, 1947, which followed the Nanaimo Laundry Workers' strike, was called by the B.C. Federation of Labor, "a Communist organization."

"At this meeting," said Mr. McDonnell, "the opposition leader (Harold E. Winch) tried to justify his advocacy of lawlessness and anarchy on the part of a large body of Canadian citizens."

"If that is not an invitation extended to a large body of the public to lawlessness and rioting, I do not understand the English language."

## Make Big Loggers Work With Little Ones

LESS than a month ago, in a speech at Quesnel, Premier Johnson made a promise that his government would maintain and expand the timber resources of the province under a sound reforestation policy and would protect the interests of the small operators. The first fruits of that pledge are coming to light in amendments to the Forest Act laid before the legislature, last week. The amendments make provisions for higher forest royalties, for a woodlot plan for farmers and for the creation of a revolving fund which will help logging operators build roads and bridges into their operations.

While the amendments are important, especially the provision for higher royalties, which will build up the forest protection fund and make possible a larger reforestation program, the implementation of Mr. Johnson's promise must lie in administration rather than in legislation. The Forest Act already gives the minister large powers in the forest management license plan and Mr. Kinney has intimated that this part of the act will remain.

Forest methods are changing rapidly in British Columbia and forest administration must take cognizance of the change. The old hand logger, who could operate with an axe and a saw and a couple of jacks, is pretty much a thing of the past. A lot of capital is required now to

operate a logging show—even a small one—and there is danger, as one member pointed out in the legislature, recently, that the whole lumbering industry of the province will fall into the hands of ten or a dozen large companies that can operate sawmills and plywood mills and pulp mills and perhaps even steamship lines as well as logging camps.

The big operator has advantages. He has the money for expansion and research. He can take advantage of market opportunities or wait for them. He can squeeze out the middleman and take his profit. Most important of all—certainly from the public point of view—he can work on a sustained yield basis. The little fellow can hardly afford to do that unless he gets encouragement and assistance. And the sustained yield basis is vital to the future of the industry.

And yet the little fellow is important. We need him to balance the industry. We need him to harvest blocks and corners that are not worth the big fellow's while. We need him to control the waste problem. We need him to keep the big fellow from getting too big and powerful.

It is the job of the forest department, under the new circumstances, to make it possible and profitable for the big operators and the small to work together for their own advantage and the perpetuation and expansion of the forest industry.

## Captain Cates Jogs Victoria's Memory

CAPTAIN JOHN CATES, the Coalition member for North Vancouver, has reminded the cities and municipalities that they have overlooked a good argument in favor of better financial treatment from the provincial government.

In the legislature the other day he recalled that the government has failed to implement the Goldenberg recommendation urging that grants, in lieu of taxes, be paid to municipalities for crown lands within their boundaries.

Mr. Goldenberg held that on provincial property used for commercial purposes, such as warehouses and stores of the Liquor Control Board, the government should not only pay sums equivalent to normal taxation but business taxes and licenses as well.

If there is an "undue concentration" of crown property used for governmental purposes, or where taxation on such property is discriminatory in its effects on

local taxation, the government should make a grant in aid of local taxes, the commissioner recommended.

This city qualifies on both counts. The provincial government owns in Vancouver buildings with a total assessed value of \$2,115,000 and land assessed at \$1,597,000, all of which is exempt from taxation. If the government holdings were taxed at the normal rate the city would benefit to the tune of around \$145,000 a year.

This would certainly seem to discriminate against the local taxpayer and indicate an "undue concentration" of crown property.

The government's failure to act on this section of the Goldenberg report was pointed out at the last session of the legislature but nothing was done. Special legislation is required to meet the situation and if anything is going to be attempted at this session the cities and municipalities, especially Vancouver, will have to work fast and forcefully.

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## Claims Tried Riot

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# Record Budget Has Sales Tax

## New Levy on Everything Excepting Food

Budget details on pages 6, 9 and 25.

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb announced today the government plans to impose a three per cent sales tax on all purchases in British Columbia, except on food for human consumption.

In a budget address that was otherwise spectacular only in the vastness of the sums to be collected and expended in

the next fiscal year, the finance minister disclosed that:

1. Revenues and expenditures in 1948-49 are estimated at more than \$77,000,000, a little better than double the estimates of three years ago.

2. \$12,000,000 of the revenues will come from the proposed sales tax with \$4,000,000 of that amount being divided among the municipalities.

3. While the capital expenditures for the coming year total \$28,600,000, all but \$900,000 of this amount is based on prior commitments.

4. Rural school districts will share in the distribution of \$1,100,000 as special aid.

5. Increased royalties on timber will provide an additional \$900,000 for the government coffers.

6. The government will borrow \$5,000,000 to cover capital expenditures on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and \$800,000 of this amount will be spent in 1948.

7. The B.C. Power Commission will spend an estimated \$11,000,000 this year in new construction and purchase of existing plants.

8. \$100,000 of a \$2,500,000 fund will be loaned to logging operators for construction of roads and bridges.

9. Revenues from the Dominion-Provincial agreement will show an increase of \$1,400,000 over 1947.

### STRONG POSITION

In sharp contrast to the stern warnings of financial problems ahead that were contained in his first budget at the 1947 session, Mr. Anscomb today reported that British Columbia, in spite of the difficult times is able "to face up and deal adequately with the problems that confront us."

He announced that at no time in the past 30 years has the province been "in as strong a position as today with respect to its public debt."

Full provision for sinking fund instalments were made for the first time in 14 years in 1946-47, the minister said, and these have been fully maintained in the past year.

In his address, however, the finance minister did point out that provincial revenues for the coming year can not be expected to exceed the estimates and it will be essential for all departments of government to remain within their expenditure allotments.

### ROAD PROGRAM

In 1948, he said, the government will spend from its capital account \$13,650,000 for construction of highways and bridges and for the purchase of maintenance and construction machinery; \$1,750,000 on university buildings; \$1,300,000 on public buildings; and \$11,000,000 on projects on the B.C. Power Commission.

All of these amounts, however, have been previously allocated and no new loans or commitments will be required.

The Pacific Great Eastern Railway has nearly exhausted its current borrowing authority and a loan bill providing \$5,000,000 for capital expenditures on the railway will be submitted to the House.

Of this amount it is estimated \$800,000 will be used to meet the railway's need for new rolling stock, equipment and extraordinary maintenance.

A further loan of \$2,500,000 will be submitted to meet the cost of setting up a revolving fund from which the forest department will loan sums to logging operators for construction of roads and bridges in connection with their operations. In 1948, it is anticipated, \$100,000 of this fund will be placed with logging companies.

The government policy of paying for 50 per cent of school construction costs, adopted on a recommendation of the Cameron report, has resulted in a flood of requests from school districts for such grants.

"The minister of education now has before him applications for schools in various parts of the province to the extent of about \$40,000,000 which, if we agree, will cost the province \$20,000,000."

"It must be quite obvious to everyone that a program of that sort can not be financed by the province, as far as its share is concerned, out of current revenue."

This year, the minister continued, the government will allocate \$4,000,000 from revenue surplus for school construction and future contributions will have to be covered by provincial loans.

However, no loan bill will be submitted until the 1949 session.

On the question of expenditures for the coming fiscal year, Mr. Anscomb said the increase of nearly \$19,000,000 over the estimates for 1947-48, and nearly \$12,000,000 more than the latest

anticipated cost of government for the current year is due to "the spiral of inflation" and the widening scope of social services.

Among the individual departments of the government the greatest increase is recorded in department of finance with a budget that exceeds the present year's by \$4,134,236. Most of this, however, is attributable to the plan to turn over an estimated \$4,000,000 of the sales tax receipts to municipalities.

Health and welfare, with a budget of \$14,679,691, is up \$2,611,226, of which \$1,150,000 is required for the old age pensioners' cost-of-living bonus.

Education will cost the province \$12,981,537, an increase of \$1,731,960. The special aid to rural school districts will require \$1,100,000 of this amount.

A \$400,000 boost in forest protection fund, salary increases of \$327,000 and \$107,600 for parks account for most of the additional \$1,240,000 in the forest department estimates.

In a reminiscent mood, the minister turned to the department of public works, recalling after reporting the department's estimates total \$11,945,000, that in 1942-43 when he took over public works the expenditure was \$2,402,000.

To pacify those critics who insist the revenues from motor vehicle licences and gasoline taxes should be utilized for highway maintenance only, Mr. Anscomb presented figures to show that income from these sources does not cover current grants and the service and redemption of \$54,000,000 in loans attributable to highway construction.

Of the general cost of government, he reported that in three years debt charges have dropped from 21.31 to 14.75 per cent of the total expenditures; social services have remained almost constant at 42 per cent; productive services are up from 15.45 to 22.44 per cent; while there has been little change in general services.

New loans will be kept to a minimum this year, the finance minister said because the government still has authority to borrow nearly \$40,000,000 for various purposes.

Of the \$30,000,000 allotted to the B.C. Power Commission, \$11,105,000 still remains, enough to meet the coming year's anticipated expenditures.

The highway loan acts of 1943, 1946 and 1947, can provide nearly \$13,000,000 for roads, bridges and ferries. There is \$3,500,000 available for construction of buildings at the university and \$9,350,000 for public buildings.

## Debt Position Stable

By GORDON ROOT  
From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — British Columbia, on December 15 sold \$5,000,000 worth of debentures at the lowest rate in the history of the province, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb told the legislature today, but he added that the same low rates could not be expected in the future.

Withdrawal of the Bank of Canada from active support of Canadian Victory Bonds had forced the price of these bonds down to par, and provincial securities had suffered accordingly.

Reporting on B.C.'s financial position in his annual budget address, Mr. Anscomb said, "at no time in the past 30 years was the province in as strong a position as today with respect to its public debt."

### CHARGES LOWER

"Its full carrying charges now require less than 15 per cent of our total revenue, instead of 30 per cent and more, payable but a few years ago."

The finance minister disclosed that while the gross debt at December 31, 1947 was \$165,703,000, an increase of \$7,556,000 during the year, the net debt had dropped \$10,242,000 to \$122,406,000.

Cost of servicing the provincial debt is now \$5,697,000.

The sinking fund at December 31 amounted to \$24,296,000, showing a deficit of \$24 million if all instalments and compounded interest were taken into consideration.

### NOT EXCESSIVE

The minister declared he did not believe that the provincial debt is excessive but he warned the "we shall, in the not too distant future, be faced with tremendous capital expenditures—expenditures of a nature that can not, in the ordinary course of things, be paid for out of revenue."

Unless a project is revenue-producing, he said, it requires \$60,000 for every \$1,000,000 borrowed to meet the cost of servicing and liquidating the debt.

## Few D Of Ne Availa

From The Vancouver  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Finance Minister today announced will ask the prove a three per cent sales tax session, few of new tax will bill covering the House.

The finance comments on the tax were:

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In addition demands for pleas for sp comb contin lie good th provided for

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## Few Details Of New Tax Available

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

**VICTORIA** — Although Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb today announced the government will ask the legislature to approve a three per cent provincial sales tax during the present session, few of the details of the new tax will be known until the bill covering it is presented to the House.

The finance minister's only comments on the working of the tax were:

Liberal exemptions will be granted on food for human consumption.

The municipalities will receive one third of the net revenue.

Because the province can only levy a direct tax, the new impost will have to be added to the retail price of every article purchased.

It is not known whether the government plans to introduce a token system similar to that in vogue in Washington, or alternatively to exempt articles selling for less than 25 cents.

### FOR LIQUOR?

It is not known if it will apply to purchases of liquor. If the plan follows that in force in other provinces and states where such a tax is collected, the duty of collecting it will be placed on the retailer.

It will increase the price of a package of cigarettes by one cent and a \$2000 automobile by \$60.

The plan, Mr. Anscomb disclosed, has been under consideration by his department for some time, and considerable research work has been done during the past two years.

The tax, it is expected will come into force as soon after the House prorogues as the necessary machinery for collecting it can be set up.

The minister's announcement of the impending new tax was prefaced with a brief review of the conditions that made it mandatory.

### GRAVE DECISIONS

Recalling the warning he had sounded last year that expenditures were overtaking the restricted provincial revenues, he declared the "day of grave decisions came, perhaps, sooner than anticipated."

"It is very easy for some to clamor for drastic cuts in expenditure, which one of our services shall we cut off altogether, and which others shall be pruned drastically?"

"It is no longer a matter of thousands of dollars, but rather of millions."

In addition, there had been demands for new services and pleas for special aid, Mr. Anscomb continued, and in the public good the government had provided for some of these.

"It dare not go beyond that point, lest it aggravate further the trend of inflation."

### TAX COMPULSORY

"The sum total of current requirements for the coming year, notwithstanding every effort to restrict their extent, scope and cost, make it compulsory upon us to recommend the imposition of new taxes."

"It was neither easy nor pleasant to arrive at this decision, but it was inescapable because of economic forces beyond our control."

"One thing certain was that we had reached a point when neither compromise nor deficit budget could be tolerated."

"To becloud the real issue and facts would have been an unforgivable disservice to the people of this province; to have done so would only postpone until the next year the evil to face in double measure."

The most common objection to the sales tax, declared the finance minister has been that, in contrast to the income tax, it strikes more heavily at the lower income brackets.

"It would be foolish to deny that in it's all inclusive state this is to some considerable measure true."

"What must be remembered, however, is that the progressive feature of our tax system is to a considerable measure taken care of by the Dominion income tax, which is steeply graduated."

He explained that in addition to disastrous effects on inflation on the government's economy, the increased scope of social services and the expanding demands of these services on the treasury left no alternative.

The \$12,000,000 anticipated as revenue from the tax in the first year would be net revenue, he continued, and would be exclusive of the cost of collecting it.

"It is the government's intention to devote the two-thirds of the net return to purposes of a nature such as social services, health, and welfare and old age pensions, and to distribute one-third to municipalities."

## Hospitals To Receive Bigger Grant

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

**VICTORIA** — Apart from the brief mention that hospitals are to receive larger grants generally and "a greatly increased amount" will be allocated for mental hospitals and homes for Herbert Anscomb gave no indication of government plans of financial assistance to these institutions.

Estimates for the provincial secretary's department, which includes these institutions, show an increase of \$727,578 for the coming year.

This amount, said Mr. Anscomb, will be used largely for hospitals, mental hospitals and homes for the aged as well as for meeting increases in government's contribution to the Civil Service Superannuation Act.

Early this year the government allocated \$550,000 from the revenue surplus fund to cover hospital deficits.

This amount, however, was not included in the list of 1947-48 expenditures.

## VICTORIA REPORT

### Buck, Morgan in Gallery As Wismer Scores L-PP

By B. A. McKELVIE

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

**VICTORIA** — With Tim Buck, national leader of the Labor-Progressive party, and Nigel Morgan, provincial head of the same Communistically dominated organization in the Speaker's gallery, Hon. Gordon Wismer, attorney-general and minister of labor wound up the throne speech debate Tuesday with a ringing call for a strong front in Canada against Communism.

He branded the message of congratulations sent by Buck and Morgan to the new Communist government in Czechoslovakia, as an "exhibition of effrontery, which is like a slap in the face."

"This is a time when Canadians inside and out of politics must close their ranks. They must unite in the face of this, the most alarming threat to Canada and to our Canadian way of life that this nation has yet experienced," Mr. Wismer declared. There are proportionately four times as many Communists in the Dominion than in United States, he said.

The attorney-general declared that he accepted the assurance of Harold Winch, as leader of the CCF, that his party was not allied with the Communists, but the Communists had supported the CCF candidates in recent by-elections.

### Supports Automobile Act

The attorney-general entered into a vigorous defence of the recently invoked Drivers' Responsibility Act. He compared it with Saskatchewan legislation, which he said was not preventive, but purely a compensation act.

In British Columbia, he pointed out, the toll of highway accidents and deaths had become so alarming that legislation was necessary to reach the careless driver. An examination was made of all similar legislation on the continent. It was found that the Manitoba act more nearly fitted the requirements of British Columbia.

Complaints had been made that foreign cars were impounded. "It makes no difference to a man who loses an arm or leg in a traffic accident, whether he had been struck by a foreign car or one bearing a B.C. licence. His only hope of obtaining redress may rest in the act that a foreign car has been impounded" the attorney-general added.

### Social Services Board Stays

Mr. Wismer said the financial load in social services will remain on B.C. until federal government Green Book (social services) proposals are implemented. He said Prime Minister King has made it clear that Ottawa can not implement them until Ontario and Quebec join in the plan.

He charged Premier Drew of Ontario and Premier Duplessis of Quebec with playing politics. They are refusing to sign social service agreements, he claimed, because they want to see the King government defeated.

"How long are the people of Canada going to allow these provinces to stand in the way of social security proposals?" he asked.

Mr. Wismer said changes would be made at this session in B.C. labor legislation. He was not prepared to say now what they would be.

## Budget Highlights

**VICTORIA** — Here are the highlights of Finance Minister Anscomb's budget speech.

British Columbia is to have a three per cent Provincial Sales Tax with one-third of the revenue allotted to municipalities.

Expenditures in the coming fiscal year are estimated at \$77,449,896, highest in provincial history and nearly \$19 million more than in 1947-48.

The budget will be balanced.

Total revenue anticipated from sales tax is \$12 million. Municipalities will get \$4 million.

Rural school districts to get additional allotment of \$1,100,000.

Capital expenditures in the coming year are estimated at \$28,500,000 but all except \$900,000 is on previous commitments.

Total financial aid to municipalities in 1948-49 will be \$17,988,000 compared to \$2,965,449 in 1941-42.

Net value of production in British Columbia in 1947 estimated at \$680,000,000, \$120,000,000 higher than previous year.

Gross debt at December 31, 1947, \$166 million, an increase of \$7.5 million over previous year.

Net debt \$122 million, reduced \$10 million from previous year.

British Columbia in stronger financial position than it has been for many years.



## Coalition Will Press B.C. Rights at Ottawa

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The two partners in British Columbia's Johnson-Anscomb Coalition government plan to press on the Dominion government the need for a further Dominion-Provincial conference to discuss social security measures.

In his budget speech today, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb said that both he and Premier Byron Johnson are "prepared to take a very definite stand the moment the House adjourns to use every effort and every means possible to have a further conference called."

"It will be pressed," he promised, "until we do receive what is our just and right return for the revenues we have handed to them."

It was Mr. Anscomb's opinion that the vast majority of people in Canada believe that social services should be, to a much larger measure, a federal responsibility.

### PROPER SOLUTION

He noted, too, that in recent years many people have realized that the proper solution lies in a contributory plan for all social services, including old age pensions.

The Dominion government, he said, had agreed when the province a year ago gave up the income and corporation tax fields that social security measures would be implemented "when a sufficient number of provinces had signed."

"It appears to me that all this is conclusive evidence that our taxation agreement, which was signed in good faith, was predicated on the definite understanding that the government of the Dominion would, as soon as there were sufficient acceptances of the tax agreement, implement its promises with respect to social security measures and public investment requirements."

### LANGUAGE CLEAR

"The language used 'that when a sufficient number of provinces had signed' is surely clear enough."

"Seven out of nine provinces have signed, and yet there has not been any indication from the Dominion that they propose to implement their promise."

On the formula agreed to when British Columbia signed its agreement with Ottawa, Mr. Anscomb explained, the revenue from the Dominion in the coming fiscal year will amount to \$22,705,771, an increase of \$1,413,000 over 1947-48.

Since 1940, the last year in which the province collected income tax, the gross national product has increased from \$6708 million to 13,952 million, but the minister added it was impossible to say whether or not this increase would have resulted in a

greater yield from the old provincial tax than B.C. now receives from the Dominion.

### NEW TAX IMPROVED

"We have remembered, however, that in completing the agreement we were compelled to impose a five per cent tax on corporations until all provinces have signed."

"It looks as if we'll continue to collect it because indications are that neither Quebec nor Ontario propose to come in."

"In effect that means that we collect five per cent from our own industrial and other corporations, handing the money over to the national government to apply on the money they give us."

### IN GOOD FAITH

"We signed the agreement in good faith, knowing full well that a goodly proportion of our people's income would be used to aid other areas not so favored as British Columbia, but we signed in the belief that the surrender value of our tax rights would be used essentially for the common benefit of the provinces and their respective municipalities."

"I do not think there can be any argument used against a further conference on the definition of 'when a sufficient number of provinces have signed up.'"

## Rise Claimed In Auto Insurance

VICTORIA (CP) — Advisory board of Farmers' Institutes told the Legislative Agriculture Committee that automobile insurance costs had risen as much as \$6 since the government's highway safety responsibility plan was passed by the provincial legislature last year.

"We have no protection against insurance agents and consider the charges excessive," the board said in a resolution submitted to the committee. "We suggest the government carry this insurance and charge for it when licences are issued."

A. H. Pepper, Ioco, reported insurance companies used to give lower rates in rural areas because the hazard was less. This year, he said, the rates had been raised about \$5.

The board called on the committee to use its resources to get some changes made this year.

## Increase in Grants In 7 Years Shown

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — These figures were presented to the legislature today by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb to show the increase in grants to municipalities in the past seven years.

	1941-42	1948-49 (estimates)
One-third retail sales tax		\$4,000,000
Education salary grants, etc.	\$1,774,328	5,848,000
Conveyance of pupils	86,100	250,000
Pensions to teachers		702,000
Share of motor vehicle licences	570,000	1,600,000
	\$2,525,821	\$15,400,000
Indigent relief in municipalities		1,800,000
Indigent medical services	415,000	360,000
Hospitalization of indigents		188,000
Keep and transport of prisoners		60,000
Local roads	24,628	70,000
Interest on certificates of loans in connection with municipal pension plan		110,000
	\$2,965,449	\$17,888,000

## Anscomb Blames Inflation

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, told the legislature the financial picture today is not particularly bright due to continued inflation.

Reviewing the rise in living costs Mr. Anscomb declared that from January, 1943 to January 1946 the cost of living index had risen less than three points to 119.9.

"Then it rose by 7.2 per cent during the next 11 months, remained at the 127 level for three months, then leaped upward by 23 points in the following 12 months."

"Anyone reliably informed on our fiscal structure will appreciate immediately our relatively fixed provincial income can not keep pace with the automatic inflation as well as growth in service costs."

"A national survey of business conditions during 1947 reveals a year of great activity and accomplishment."

"The consideration of economic developments, however, suggests the possibility of critical times ahead."

Conditions had never been better in British Columbia than during 1947, he found.

Whether or not these levels are to be maintained is dependent on Canada's export trade and the ability of her traditional customers to secure dollars for payment.

The Marshall plan might prove a part solution but it was not designed to balance Canadian-U.S. trade.

Mr. Anscomb was far from satisfied with the Dominion government's handling of the U.S. dollar crisis, contending the austerity program might have been reduced if the Canadian dollar had not been pegged to the U.S. dollar.

## Revenue Exceeds Estimates

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Revenue for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1947, totalled \$56,818,000, exceeding the estimated income for that year by \$14,665,000 and providing a surplus of \$10,503,000, the largest in the history of British Columbia.

Chief explanations for the increased revenue, Finance Minister Anscomb told the House, were found in the fact that liquor profits exceeded the estimated return by \$3,565,000, that motor vehicle licence monies were \$1,240,000 more than anticipated, and that the gasoline tax returned \$1,352,000 more than estimated.

### LAND SALES UP

Other sources of income that substantially exceeded the estimates were: succession duties, up \$1,195,000; land sales and water fees, up \$428,000; and timber sales and royalties, up \$540,000.

In the latest revision of governmental costs and income for the fiscal year ending on March 31, briefly reviewed by Premier Johnson in his policy speech, Mr. Anscomb reported that while revenues are expected to total \$66 million, \$7 million more than anticipated, expenditures have jumped an equal amount.

It is now expected the current year will end with a surplus of \$320,000.

## Third Revenue

From VICTORIA flatly advised from a new p

Taking cognizance of civic government appeals to "hog" the tax, Anscomb denied of the municipal had originated the

He went on to point out that \$9,000,000 of the surplus will come from the surplus would be most estimate that "all as a municipal area for use therein."

### NOT EQUITABLE

"When we consider the deal of the heavy equipment that chased within would be utilized areas, and that should not equaled a municipal will find the price \$4,000,000 rather third of the total ly 50 per cent of sales within areas."

The Golden Rule continued the minister the fact that municipal finally spent in originates in the

"The needs must be considered and not with various separate NEEDS CLARIFIED"

Mr. Anscomb the findings of the commission had for all" the municipal claims to a vincial income.

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### ANOTHER FACTOR

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Dealing w nicipal relati Anscomb said



## Third of Sales Tax Revenue for Cities

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb today flatly advised the municipalities that one-third of the income from a new provincial sales tax is all that they can expect.

Taking cognizance of the complaints of civic officials that the government apparently planned to "hog" the tax revenues, Mr. Anscomb denied the contention of the municipalities that they had originated the idea in B.C.

He went to considerable length to point out that while probably \$9,000,000 of the sales tax revenue will come from municipalities, "it would be most erroneous" to assume that "all sales made within a municipal area are of articles for use therein."

### NOT EQUITABLE

"When we consider that a great deal of the heavy machinery and equipment that would be purchased within municipalities would be utilized outside such areas, and that the tax on such should not equitably be considered a municipal share, we will find the proposed grant of \$4,000,000 rather than being one third of the total is approximately 50 per cent of the return from sales within such municipal areas."

The Goldenberg report, continued the minister, emphasized the fact that much of the wealth finally spent in municipal areas originates in the hinterland.

"The needs of the province must be considered as a whole, and not with relation merely to various separate parts."

### NEEDS CLARIFICATION

Mr. Anscomb said he had hoped the findings of the Goldenberg commission had settled "once and for all" the question of municipal claims to a share of the provincial income.

"Apparently, however, the matter requires further clarification."

"The main basis of argument would seem to be that inasmuch as a large part of such revenue is collected within their corporate limits, it, or some major percentage of it, is the rightful property of the municipal authorities."

"This, of course, is not an acceptable viewpoint, either in theory or practice."

"The idea that physical location of the tax base should determine its distribution is fallacious."

### ANOTHER FACTOR

"There is also the most important factor to be considered, that distribution according to origin in many cases benefits areas to an extent much greater than they have either need or can use to advantage."

The main reason for imposing the sales tax, the finance minister declared, is to meet the increasing cost of social services, and while in the past these had been considered a municipal responsibility, the province has voluntarily shouldered much of this burden in recent years.

Dealing with provincial-municipal relations generally, Mr. Anscomb said that the govern-

ment readily admits that since the recommendations of the Goldenberg report were put into effect, the country has been swept by inflation, creating new financial difficulties for the municipalities.

"But let us not forget that Commissioner Goldenberg took great pains to assess the problems and to suggest, not palliatives, but long term solutions for them."

"Let us likewise remember that it was the stated belief of the commissioner that municipalities generally were in a satisfactory financial position."

As a result of the Goldenberg report, the minister declared, the government had increased its annual grants to municipalities by \$1,807,000.

Added to the cost of implementing the Cameron report on education finance the previous year, the total increase in municipal grants in two sessions amounted to \$4,328,000.

This year the municipalities will receive another \$4,000,000 from the sales tax and "there will be no vestige of coercion as to where or how the money shall be spent."

### OUTLINES GRANTS

Mr. Anscomb reiterated the declaration in Premier Johnson's policy speech that civic authorities must adopt the recommendations of the Goldenberg report for which they are responsible.

He outlined the grants provided by the province to municipalities in the fiscal year 1941-42 and for the coming year to show that the government contributions have increased from \$2,965,449 to \$17,988,000 in the seven year period.

"Surely no better evidence of generosity could be submitted."

"In addition to this direct aid, the government annually extends costly indirect aid by way of grants to hospitals, health and welfare services," he said.

## BC Legislature to Hear Farmers' Resolutions

VICTORIA, (CP) — Fifteen resolutions were carried by the Advisory Board of Farmers' Institutes in the legislative buildings Tuesday to be passed on to the legislature's agriculture committee. Four affected the Attorney-General's Department, four affected the Lands and Forests Department, and seven the Public Works department.

### BIRD SANCTUARIES

More migratory bird sanctuaries established on lakes adjacent to main highways in the Shuswap-Okanagan district.

Every effort be made by the B.C. Game Commission to keep down predatory animals.

Continued bounties on predatory animals, with an increased staff of predatory animal hunters and provision of a game fund in connection with both matters.

### FOREST PROGRAM

Resolutions affecting the Lands and Forests Department sought:

A forest conservation program for the Peace River district.

Assumption of greater responsibility by the department in regulating and controlling all matters pertaining to grazing and range improvement in the East Kootenay district, particularly in the Cranbrook grazing area.

Removal of charges on reverted government land, so as to be open for pre-emption.

### WATER SHED SURVEY

A survey of all water sheds in the Okanagan Valley, and adjacent areas with a view to taking over all irrigation systems in the Okanagan and putting more land under cultivation, allotting water supplies and equalizing rates, also ditching and flood control, and that every effort be made to enlist the Dominion government's assistance along the lines of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act.

Resolutions affecting the Department of Public Works sought: A traffic bridge across the North Thompson River in the immediate vicinity of Little Fort.

### BRIDGE ASKED

A bridge across the Kiskatinaw River between Sunset Prairie and Sunrise Valley.

Removal of brush along the sides of highways.

Installation of power equipment to spray roadsides to kill noxious weeds.

### SEEK BETTER ROADS

Completion of the unfinished portion of the Jasper-Prince George link of the Northern Trans-Canada route.

Better roads in the Shuswap-Okanagan district.

Completion of the Fort St. John cut-off commencing at Sunset Prairie and running north to a point on the Alaska Highway known as Ten-Mile Corner.

## School Tax Demands Fresh Start

VICTORIA (CP)—The legislature's agriculture committee was told today that the provincial government would probably have to "start afresh" on school tax measures.

The statement was made by Cmdr. C. T. Beard (Coalition, Esquimalt) to the committee, of which he is secretary, after the committee had heard protests from the Advisory Board of Farmers' Institutes against the burden of school costs in rural area.

"The Cameron report sounded very fine and the government in its lack of knowledge implemented it," said Cmdr. Beard. "Now it has got out of control. You are just repeating what we as members are all trying to tell the cabinet."

The delegation said farmers and ranchers couldn't support the burden of the school taxes, multiplied several times, in some area, without an additional benefit in school service.

The burden must not be taken off unorganized areas and placed

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Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau  
A — Revenue for the  
ended March 31, 1947,  
\$8,818,000, exceeding  
estimated income for that  
year, \$8,665,000 and providing  
a surplus of \$150,000, the  
highest in the history of British

planations for the in-  
crease, Finance Minis-  
ter told the House,  
in the fact that liquor  
taxes exceeded the estimated  
\$3,565,000, that motor  
vehicle monies were  
more than anticipated,  
the gasoline tax re-  
sulted in \$52,000 more than es-

### LES UP

sources of income that  
ly exceeded the esti-  
mate: succession duties, up-  
land sales and water  
taxes, up \$28,000; and timber sales  
taxes, up \$540,000.

latest revision of gov-  
ernment costs and income for  
year ending on March  
31, reviewed by Premier  
Johnson in his policy speech, Mr.  
Anscomb reported that while  
government is expected to total  
\$17 million more than  
last year, expenditures have  
increased by an equal amount.

He expected the current  
year to end with a surplus of



## Big Budget to Pay For Big Services

THE \$77,000,000 budget which Finance Minister Anscomb laid before the Legislature, yesterday, would be alarming in its proportions were it not that the people of the province are well aware of the circumstances which made necessary such great demands of a public nature. The public as well as the private dollar has shrunk in purchasing power. The population of the province has increased. And our ideas of the services the government should provide have expanded greatly.

These circumstances were, of course, considered by the government, which saw that it had to accept one of two alternatives. It had to reduce its services to correspond with its available revenue and the dollar's diminished purchasing power; or it had to ask the people to provide more money. It chose the latter course in the belief that that was the course the people wished it to choose. If it was wrong, the

people will tell it so at the next election. Meanwhile, the people will receive the services and pay the bill.

It is unfortunate that the government, in its search for extra revenue, could see no sufficiently lucrative source except the sales tax, which has many faults and few merits. So the sales tax we are to have. The severity of this tax will be softened somewhat, however, by the government's decision not to impose it on food.

On the capital side of his budget, Mr. Anscomb was able to present a favorable picture. While the province's gross debt is up \$7,500,000 to \$166,000,000, the net debt is down to \$122,000,000, \$10,000,000 below last year's level. At no time in thirty years, as Mr. Anscomb put it, has British Columbia's debt position been so satisfactory. After fourteen years of milking the sinking fund, more or less, it has been possible, during the past two years to make full provision for it.

## Group Asks Aid to Halt Soil Erosion

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Assistance of the provincial government in preventing erosion along the banks of the Fraser River from Hope to Sea Island was urged here by representatives of the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

R. R. F. Sewell, secretary of the union, and Reeve R. M. Grauer of Richmond, said some assistance from the dominion has been obtained and the municipalities affected have been contributing to the work but additional help is required.

The perennial question of taxation on pole lines of public utility companies was raised again with the municipalities complaining that the three per cent tax recommended in the Goldenberg report is returning less income than the former system.

A co-operative fire insurance plan for municipalities was also suggested and the municipal affairs committee was asked to press for authorization of such a

## B.C. Firemen Propose Tax For Pensions

VICTORIA (CP)—A 12-man delegation of the B.C. Provincial Association of Fire Fighters today began lobbying among members of the provincial legislature seeking support for a two per cent tax on fire insurance premiums to go to help boost their pension funds.

The lobby is composed of 10 members from Vancouver and two from Victoria headed by James Luse, Victoria, president of the association, and M. O. Howell, Vancouver, secretary-treasurer.

## Victoria's Hall Bill in Hands Of Committee

VICTORIA (CP)—Petition for a private bill to give Victoria authority to lease or sell its city hall site subject to a plebiscite is before the private bills committee of the legislature.

Petition was also received from the City of Vancouver and another to incorporate the National Fidelity Insurance Company.

The committee chose C. W. Morrow (Coalition, North Okanagan) as chairman, and A. R. MacDougall (Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey) as secretary.

## Immobile Patients Treated

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Amazing story of recreational therapy in a mental institution was unfolded before the Social Welfare and Health Committee of the legislature.

W. R. Brown, director of recreational therapy at Essondale Mental Hospital, described how patients who had been completely immobilized had been returned to a normal physical life.

He cited the case of a patient who at times did not move a muscle for a day, and who through treatment was able to climb to a 10-foot diving board.

In other cases patients tensed through insulin treatment had been relaxed on the archery range.

Mr. Brown declared that although there has been startling progress in the two years he has been at the hospital, he believes that with proper facilities much more important progress can be achieved.

He stressed the need for a recreation building, larger staff and additional equipment.

## Plan Course In Alcohol Education

VICTORIA (CP)—A course in alcohol education designed to provide at least one teacher in every secondary school of British Columbia with an understanding of the nature, problems and subject matter of alcohol education, will be given at the summer school of education to be held in Victoria July 5 to Aug. 6.

Described by the department of education as a workshop, which will be of two and one-half week's duration, the course is a preliminary to getting B.C.'s alcohol education program underway in the secondary schools of the province next fall.

## REPORT

### Oppo

By GOR  
From The Vancouver  
Victoria

VICTORIA—bate opened Thursday, with international policies comments on and the introduction of parliamentary Opposition. Winch, as the chief critic, had the day, but the province's financial position was less notable than national and international and other problems. And to cap McDonnell (Coalition Centre), revealed of parliamentary members of

### DIFFICULT

It is one of the duties of the parliament to matter of a bill in 24 hours of criticism of the

Unless the genius — an possessed of there is little except what

He replied denunciation of party; he de political scene part of even world, and any CCF Labor-Progressive

### PICTURE OF

He presented picture of the should be used by the administration of the Columbia Bill assumption by financial resources health insurance whose operation depended, and to the government

Of the budget was faithful

It appeared gets appear leaders, as

He noted that has attributed to inflation services, but it was the cooperative development increased in by 76 per cent

Mr. Winch liquor act with the opposition

### FOR VETERANS

He asked prohibiting a club from veterans club beer by the Union off the

Affairs of Association, suspended a ago, arouse asked the examine the the light of prosecutions.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1948

## REPORT FROM VICTORIA

## Opposition Asks B.C. Bill of Rights

By GORDON ROOT  
From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The budget debate opened in the legislature Thursday, with a pot pourri of international developments, socialist policies in Canada, some comments on the budget itself, and the introduction of a new parliamentarianism.

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, as the CCF's chief financial critic, had the floor for the day, but his analysis of the province's financial position were less notable than his review of national and international events, and other provincial issues.

And to cap proceedings, Alan McDonell (Coalition - Vancouver Centre), revealed a knowledge of parliamentary rules that startled most of the veteran members of the House.

## DIFFICULT DUTY

It is one of the most difficult duties of the opposition in any parliament to cull the subject matter of a budget address and in 24 hours produce a competent criticism of that address.

Unless the critic is a financial genius — and the CCF is not possessed of such a wizard — there is little that can be done except what Mr. Winch did.

He replied to government condemnation of himself and his party; he dealt with provincial political scene as a minuscule part of events in an unsettled world, and he flatly denied any CCF affiliation with the Labor-Progressive Party.

## PICTURE OF PROJECTS

He presented the opposition's picture of major projects that should be undertaken this year by the administration including: the introduction of a British Columbia Bill of Rights, the assumption by the province of the financial responsibilities of six health insurance associations whose operations have been suspended, and minor amendments to the government Liquor Act.

Of the budget itself, Mr. Winch was faithfully critical.

It appeared to him, as all budgets appear to all opposition leaders, as a defiant budget.

He noted that the government has attributed all of its troubles to inflation and cost of social services, but he wondered why it was the cost of purely administrative developments had increased in the past four years by 76 per cent.

Mr. Winch's reference to the liquor act would be the first of the opposition.

## FOR VETERANS

He asked that the section prohibiting guests of a member of a club from purchasing drinks from others be removed, and that veterans clubs be allowed to sell beer by the bottle for consumption off the premises.

Affairs of the National Health Association, which voluntarily suspended operations two weeks ago, aroused his ire, and he asked the attorney-general to examine the auditor's report in the light of possible criminal prosecutions.

To assist in solving the problems of British Columbia's municipalities, he urged that a provincial-municipal conference be called this year with representatives of the government, the municipal groups and the legislature present.

## L-PP TIEUP

Staunchly he disavowed any linking of the CCF with the Labor-Progressive Party.

For the benefit of those government critics who had gleefully capitalized on the L-PP support of the CCF, he recalled that the Communist-dominated party had in 1945 backed the Liberals in the Dominion election.

"There is no member on the government side of this House who dislikes Communism any more than I do: who dislikes totalitarianism any more than I do; who knows more of their despicable tactics in Canada than I do."

Mr. McDonell and Mr. Winch are political adversaries of some years' standing.

In addition, the opposition leader is probably the best-informed member on procedure.

## A SHOCK, SORT OF

It was a bit of a shock, therefore, when the member for Vancouver Centre interrupted on a point of order to contend that Mr. Winch could not reply to criticism levelled at him by government members in the throne speech debate.

To back him up, Mr. McDonell had a copy of May, the accepted authority on such matters, and he quoted chapter and verse.

Altogether, the point raised created considerable confusion. The opposition leader was a little startled by it all and Mr. Speaker, after some deliberation, reminded the member for Vancouver Centre that it had not been the practice in the House to restrict the subject matter in such debates.

Mr. Winch, who had been replying to criticism levelled at the CCF by Don C. Brown (Coalition - Vancouver Burrard) said he had completed that part of his address anyway, so the matter was forgotten.

## A PRETTY COMPLIMENT

Later, the opposition leader referred to Mr. McDonell as the "second member for Vancouver Centre" and the latter rose to object that as he is the first member from that constituency, the reference was incorrect.

"Mr. Speaker," asked Mr. Winch, "can I refer to him as the hide-bound Tory from Vancouver Centre?"

"You may," replied Mr. McDonell.

With that issue said, the opposition leader turned up a pretty compliment for his vociferous opponent.

Mr. McDonell, he said, had on Monday made the first fighting speech that has come from the government benches during the present session.

"He didn't know what he was talking about, but at least he did a good job of saying it."

## New Tax Gets By In Test

By GORDON ROOT  
From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — British Columbia's proposed provincial sales tax passed its first test in the legislature Thursday.

After being warned by Premier Byron I. Johnson that an opposition amendment to the budget motion, proposed by CCF Leader Harold E. Winch, would be considered a want-of-confidence vote, 32 of 34 government members in the House supported the new tax measure.

The new amendment "This House condemns the policy, now sought to be introduced, of imposing a provincial sales tax," was backed by only two government supporters along with the ten CCF members and Tom Uphill (Labor-Fernie).

Mrs. T. J. Rolston (Coalition-Vancouver-Point Grey) who last week voiced her opposition to the tax, and W. A. C. Bennett (Coalition-South Okanagan) were the lone government supporters of the amendment.

## PLANS FIGHT

It is now evident that the CCF plans to fight the tax with every means available when the bill itself comes before the legislature.

Thursday's vote came after five Opposition members and Mr. Bennett had opposed the measure. None of the government members spoke in support of the tax.

Mr. Winch charged that it bears more heavily in proportion on the poor man than the rich man; that it is an "income tax in reverse;" and that it increases the cost of living and has an inflationary effect.

In a balanced tax system, he continued, a regressive levy such as the sales tax might be permissible, but in Canada the balance is already typed by the imposition of other commodity taxes including the eight per cent Federal sales tax.

He quoted from the National Tax Policy League: "The sales tax is the child of panic and unpreparedness," and the Brookings Institute of Washington: "How long the sales tax continues will be determined not by its merits but by ability of the wealthier groups to shift the burdens of taxation to the poor."

## "KILL BUSINESS"

"This is not a business tax," said Mr. Bennett, only government member to speak, "this is a tax that will kill business."

He regretted the premier's move in describing the amendment as a want of confidence motion, but he had already made his position clear:

"This is an unfair tax."

To J. F. Corsbie (CCF-Peace River) the tax looms as a definite threat for the country retailer.

People in the country, he said, will order from mail order houses on the prairies rather than pay an additional three per cent.

In his own district, Mr. Corsbie continued, farmers buying machinery would cross the Alberta border to make their purchases without having to pay from \$10 to \$1000 additional tax.

"The more I think of the sales tax," said Arthur Turner (CCF-Vancouver East) "the more I think how barren the government is of financial ideas."

## City Amendments

Amendments being sought by the city to its charter will be considered by the B.C. Legislature Wednesday. On that day the private bills committee meets at 10 a.m.



## Why Not Make Laws Intelligible?

THE B.C. Legislature has appointed a committee to go over the Elections Act and suggest changes. It is to be hoped the committee and the Legislature, between them, will, this time, turn out and publish an Elections Act that will be intelligible to the average reader.

We had such an act in 1939. It might not have been perfect, but at least anyone who read it could see what it meant. Almost immediately, the Legislature began to manhandle it. It passed six pages of amendments in 1940, six pages more in 1945 and 33 pages last year. The original act consisted of 109 pages. If the Legislature had directed that the amendments be collated with the original and the revised act published in the Statutes, that would have been intelligent legislation. But as the thing stands, now, it is a mess.

And there are even bigger messes in the statute book which contains the laws the people are supposed to know and obey.

The Public Schools Act, for instance, stands in the revised statutes of 1936, 101 pages in length. It has been changed seven times since and the revisions—92 pages of them—are scattered through the Statutes of these seven years. Who, who does not make a business of keeping his law books up-to-date, can make head or tail of such hodge-podge? And the Forest Act is much the same. It has been revised nine times since 1936 and 53 pages of amendments have been added to the original 66 pages.

If the laws are made for the lawyers, it may be all right to leave our statutes in unintelligible form. But if they are made for the people, it would be a good thing to put them in such shape that the people can understand them. Why are the statutes not kept up-to-date? When a law is revised why is it not published in the revised form? That is the only way it can be read.

## Okanagan MLA Assails Sales Tax as 'Iniquitous'

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Coalition member told the legislature Friday that the current budget had been ill-conceived, that the sales tax is iniquitous, and that things would be different if John Hart were still premier.

W. A. C. Bennett (Coalition, South Okanagan) rose in this place in the House as a man with a purpose.

Farmers, already trapped by the government's school taxation program, would be forced to pay the sales tax on all machinery and supplies they buy.

"If ever a man asked for bread and was given a stone, this is it."

### BY MAIL ORDER

"You can buy a pair of shoes by mail order. You can buy a car by mail order, because this province has no control over inter-provincial trade and they know it."

He described the sales tax as a brick that will be hung around the government's neck.

"I challenge any member of the government to stand in his place and justify it."

Alberta had a sales tax, continued the member for South Okanagan, but threw it out.

The CCF government in Saskatchewan is attempting to get rid of the tax in that province at the present time.

### WANTS IT WITHDRAWN

He urged the government to withdraw the budget before it is too late and to reconsider the tax.

"I believe there would be no sales tax if John Hart were still in office."

"It seems to me that since Mr. Hart left there has been no heart in the government."

The budget, he asserted, was the work of a very capable accountant but it was the budget of private industry rather than of the government.

He criticized the expansion in government expenditures in recent years, charging that much economy that existed in the

Coalition administration when it was first formed has vanished.

Mr. Bennett was not prepared to admit the necessity of devoting funds to meet sinking fund requirements.

### CAN CARRY DEBT

"The former premier brought us a sound balance sheet each year without making allowances for the sinking fund, and the present minister of finance admitted himself that the province could carry a \$75,000,000 debt without liquidating it."

The unearned increment tax, he argued, would be much more effective because it would be a tax on inflation itself.

Such a tax, he contended, would produce as much revenue as the sales tax.

Mr. Bennett's main attack was directed at the administration but the opposition also felt the sting of his lashing tongue.

He goaded the members across the floor with a list of unfulfilled election promises made by the CCF in Saskatchewan, and when he noted that "the opposition benches are pretty silent," Herbert Gargrave (CCF Mackenzie) replied in a small voice, "We've got nothing to say."

## Licence Plan Held Only Solution

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Forest management licences are the only practical solution to the overcutting of British Columbia's timber resources, Deputy Forests Minister C. D. Orchard said today.

Appearing before the legislature's forestry committee, Mr. Orchard denied that the small logger is being cut off by the issuance of forest management licences.

There is no reason, he declared, why the small operator can not himself obtain a management licence, except the logger's own refusal to accept the responsibility of keeping the province's forest industry intact for future generations.

Questioned concerning the application of the Canadian Western Lumber Co. for a management licence on central Vancouver Island, he said that the licence, if issued, would comprise "from 25,000 to 75,000 acres and not the 800,000 acres that the company originally applied for."

The whole problem of forestry in British Columbia is one of simple arithmetic, he stated.

"We now have 150 billion feet of timber left on the coast and we are cutting three billion feet a year."

"In 50 years at the present rate we will be through cutting, and it takes 100 years to grow new trees."

## Cheap Power For Island Plants Urged

VICTORIA (CP) — Extension of the British Columbia Power Commission's services from Port Alberni to Zeballos, Tofino, Ucluelet and Bamfield was advocated in the legislature by James Mowat, (Cln-Alberni) to give cheaper power to fish processing plants on the isolated west coast of Vancouver Island.

More processing plants would be established in that region if cheaper power were available, he said, and added that he could see steady development of industry and the tourist trade if electricity and roads were available to the various settlements on the west coast.

Long Beach would prove a mecca for tourists, situated as it is on the open Pacific. He hoped the west coast road would be placed on the preferred list by the minister of works.

Dealing with social services, Mr. Mowat advocated old age pensions of \$50 a month with ages lowered to 60 for women and 65 for men; cost-of-living bonuses for recipients of mothers' allowances and provision for government employees discharged at 65 without pension.

## Ban Ask On Exp Of B.C.

VICTORIA (CP) — Mr. McInnis has a motion to this B.C. legislature, much of Canada trade balance with States is the result of new material and unfactured articles from raw materi

## Death Pen Abolition

VICTORIA (CP) — abolish capital been launched in ture by E. E. W. aby.

He has filed calling on the F the lieutenant-g quest "praying will cause to be federal governm of this House th be taken" to a penalty.



MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1948

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948

## Plan Only tion

Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

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## ap Power Island ts Urged

VICTORIA (CP) — Extension

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of \$50 a month with  
ered to 60 for women  
men; cost-of-living  
s for recipients of  
allowances and provi-  
government employees  
d at 65 without pension.

## Ban Asked On Export Of B.C. Logs

VICTORIA (CP) — John Mc-  
Innis, CCF, Fort George, is ask-  
ing the Provincial Government  
to petition the Dominion govern-  
ment to halt the export of  
logs from British Columbia to  
the United States.

Mr. McNinnis has filed notice of  
a motion to this effect in the  
B.C. legislature, saying that  
much of Canada's unfavorable  
trade balance with the United  
States is the result of exporting  
new material and importing man-  
ufactured articles, processed  
from raw materials.

## Death Penalty Abolition Asked

VICTORIA (CP) — A move to  
abolish capital punishment has  
been launched in the B.C. legisla-  
ture by E. E. Winch, CCF Burn-  
aby.

He has filed notice of motion  
calling on the House to send to  
the lieutenant-governor a re-  
quest "praying that his honor  
will cause to be conveyed to the  
federal government the opinion  
of this House that action should  
be taken" to abolish the death  
penalty.

## Forest Management Plan Assures Timber Future

By HUGH WEATHERBY

With the introduction of the new forest management  
licence plan and better utilization methods, British Colum-  
bia's dwindling forests are now on their way towards a  
sustained-yield basis, which means the annual cut will not  
exceed the annual tree growth.

Both of these innovations are  
an outgrowth of the Sloan Re-  
port, in which Royal Commis-  
sioner Gordon Sloan gave his  
findings, after an extensive  
examination of all aspects of  
forestry within this province.

Forest management licences  
have been devised as a method  
of allowing private industry to  
practice sustained-yield forestry.  
The Forest Service, acting for the  
provincial government, can allot  
a sufficient forest acreage to a  
private mill owner, or other  
manufacturer of forest products,  
to sustain his industry for all  
time, if he practices good  
forestry.

### FOREST FARMS

This means, in simpler terms,  
that the manufacturer will have  
what might be termed a forest  
farm, on which he can produce  
enough wood each year to meet  
his needs. So long as he fulfills  
his share of the bargain, the land  
remains in his possession. He is  
assured of a wood supply for  
his plant.

The Forest Service, however,  
holds the reins of control, and  
if any operator fails to use his  
area in a proper manner, his  
licence can be cancelled.

All applications for manage-  
ment licences must include bar-  
ren, non-producing, and second  
growth areas, as well as mature  
timber, it these complete a  
natural unit.

Because the licences are in-  
tended to provide land upon  
which timber can be grown, any  
application including too much  
mature timber will be restricted,  
and a block of this timber may  
be set aside as a provisional re-  
serve, and can be given to small  
operators for immediate cutting,  
even though within the licenced  
area.

### USE NEW METHODS

Where there are small mills  
already operating within a na-  
tural licence unit, the minister  
of forests can grant the mill the  
right to log on crown land with-  
in the licenced area.

All holders of forest manage-  
ment licences will be required to  
keep their land in a state of max-  
imum production.

The new methods of utiliza-  
tion, that is the using of smaller  
logs which were considered to  
be waste in the past, will add  
greatly to the timber resources  
of the province, and in many  
cases make the operation of  
forest management licences  
possible.

Pulp and paper mills, handle  
factories, makers of box shooks,  
and others, are learning to use  
the small logs, which will prob-  
ably constitute the bulk of their  
timber supply in the future.

### GRADUAL GROWTH

Government foresters, and of-  
ficials high in the Forest Service,  
one of the being the man who  
will be responsible for laying out  
and supervising the administra-  
tion of the management licences,  
says that it was the aim of the  
department to make the change  
over without disturbing existing  
industry more than was absolute-  
ly necessary. He said it was  
hoped that industry would grow  
gradually from the present era  
into the sustained-yield period.  
Every effort will be made, he  
also stated, to keep the small  
operator in business.

### LIVE WITHIN MEANS

The forester's concluding state-  
ment was: "There is no longer  
any choice about what we are  
going to do. If we intend to re-  
main a factor in the timber  
markets of the world, we must  
learn to live within our means."

"The solution in the past has  
been to simply go out and cut  
more of our existing timber sup-  
ply to meet rising demands; in  
future, we will have to change  
our methods and grow more  
timber to cut, because the origi-  
nal stands will no longer sustain  
indiscriminate cutting."

## Elder Winch Celebrates 69th Birthday

VICTORIA (CP) — Political  
rivalries were forgotten for a  
few moments in the British  
Columbia Legislature Monday.

CCF opposition leader Har-  
old Winch told the members  
that his father—E. E. Winch—  
(CCF-Burnaby)—was celebrat-  
ing his 69th birthday. He also  
noted that Joseph Corsbie  
(CCF-Peace River) was en-  
gaged to Miss Margaret Carr  
of Victoria and would be mar-  
ried before the end of the cur-  
rent session.

Premier Byron Johnson con-  
gratulated the senior Mr.  
Winch on his youthful appear-  
ance and told the members of  
the splendid work he was do-  
ing in visiting various insti-  
tutions.

## Winch Asks Election Act Changes

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition  
Leader Harold E. Winch today  
moved in the legislature's spe-  
cial elections committee to wipe  
out all discrimination in the Pro-  
vincial Elections Act.

Describing the present ban on  
Japanese, native Indians, Douk-  
hobors, Mennonites and Hutter-  
ites as a "disgrace to the prov-  
ince," Mr. Winch asked that the  
right to vote be extended to all  
who are Canadian citizens under  
the Canadian Citizenship Act.

"This committee has the op-  
portunity of wiping off a dirty  
blot on the good name of Brit-  
ish Columbia."

The issue was raised, he said,  
because changes in the Elec-  
tions Act had banned Mennonites  
from voting and "a certain mem-  
ber of the government had found  
that a large number of his con-  
stituents were disfranchised."

At the request of Chairman  
Tom King the issue was tabled  
until a full meeting of the com-  
mittee can be arranged.

A resolution by Herbert Gar-  
grave, CCF Mackenzie, to re-  
duce the voting age from 21  
years to 18 was also tabled.

## Anscomb's B.C. Budget Illegal

From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—It may be a gov-  
ernment error or, alternatively  
it may forecast an impending  
addition to the cabinet—but in  
any event Finance Minister Ans-  
comb's budget at the moment is  
quite illegal.

Government estimates for  
1948-49 include salaries of \$7,500  
each for 11 cabinet ministers and  
under the provincial constitution  
the maximum number allowed  
is ten.

Beneficiary at present is At-  
torney General Gordon S. Wis-  
mer who will also, according to  
the estimates, receive a salary as  
minister of labor.

It could be a mistake because  
until last fall, Hon. George S.  
Pearson was drawing his pay  
cheque as labor minister.

When Mr. Wismer took over  
the labor portfolio, Mr. Pearson's  
salary was transferred to the  
provincial secretary's office and  
it may have been that, in draw-  
ing the estimates for the coming  
fiscal year the extra salary was  
overlooked.

At the same time, it is known  
that Mr. Wismer has been find-  
ing the pressure of the two de-  
partments too strenuous. It has  
also been hinted in the past that  
the Progressive - Conservative  
wing of the coalition might get  
another cabinet seat as a result  
of their acceptance of Liberal  
Leader Byron I. Johnson as  
premier.

## B.C. Sessions To End April 15

VICTORIA (CP) — The B.C.  
government is aiming at winding  
up the current session of the  
B. C. legislature by April 15.

The session, which began  
March 2, will enter its fourth  
week Tuesday. A four-day ad-  
journment on Thursday of this  
week is planned for Easter.



## REPORT FROM VICTORIA

## CCF Finds Too Many Ministers on Payroll

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The legislature learned on Monday that:

The government apparently has no intention of increasing the size of its cabinet despite the inclusion of an additional ministerial salary in the budget.

The administration, in accordance with a recommendation in the Goldenberg report, will make grants to municipalities this year in lieu of taxes on government owned buildings used for commercial purposes.

Another Coalition member is not happy over the plan to impose a sales tax.

Herbert Gargrave tossed a minor bomb into the government ranks when he contended at the opening of the day's proceedings that the budget debate has been out of order because the estimates provide for 11 cabinet ministers when the constitution only permits 10.

A ripple of amazement that was something akin to consternation swept the Cabinet benches.

Attorney General Gordon S. Wismer, who is generally called upon to take care of such technicalities, was not in his seat at the moment, and Premier Byron I. Johnson and Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb stared blankly at each other.

## LAWYER HELPS

One of the other lawyers in the House, A. R. MacDougall (Coalition, Vancouver - Point Grey) stepped into the breach.

The fact that the estimates provide for 11 ministers, he argued, does not make 11 ministers so obviously there had been no violation of the limitations laid down in the constitution.

The premier, at this point, explained that salaries were planned for only 10 ministers, then his predecessor, John Hart, stepped into the picture.

Said Mr. Hart, "The estimates do not come into effect until April and the point raised by the member for MacKenzie has not been well taken."

Speaker R. H. Carson reserved decision on the question and opposition members agreed to continue with the debate in the meantime.

## A KINDLY GOVERNMENT

Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald, first cabinet minister to speak since the budget debate opened on Thursday, painted the Provincial government as the kindest of parents in dealing with the municipalities.

He announced that the government "is prepared, this year, to make a grant to municipalities" in lieu of taxes on government owned liquor stores, warehouses and other commercial buildings but did not add the details.

The virtues of Saskatchewan's CCF government, as overworked in the House by the opposition as are its shortcomings by government members, were again drawn to the attention of the legislature by Randolph Harding (CCF Kaslo-Slocan).

And Tom King (Coalition, Columbia), polished off the day's oratorical efforts with a friendly warning that the sales tax is going to drive business away from B.C.

The honorable minister of municipal affairs is no orator, and his speeches in the House are far from spellbinding.

But his 18 years in the field of municipal politics, the tenacity inherited in the highlands of Scotland, and an ability to

apply himself have given him a thorough grounding in civic affairs.

He stood in his place as the benevolent and considerate father of the province's 96 municipalities.

No other administration in this province—indeed, no other province in this Dominion—had done so much, has shown "a finer record of kindness and sympathetic consideration to the requirements of her municipalities," as has the present Coalition government.

It was with regret that the minister found it necessary to disagree with some of the municipal representatives.

They had come to Victoria to express dissatisfaction with the government's new aid plan before they knew what that plan will mean to them.

## "SURPRISE!"

"And I want to tell you that they will receive a pleasant surprise."

Officials of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, Mr. MacDonald recalled, had said they would be satisfied if the government would pay 60 per cent, of education costs.

That would amount to \$1,500,000 but the share of the sales tax to be allotted them will mean about \$4,000,000.

The high cost of building schools is already well known to the members of the House and since the budget debate opened they have become used to dealing in astronomical sums, but when Mr. MacDonald announced that a two-room school was being built at a cost of \$50,000,000, they were visibly skeptical.

The minister hastily changed the figure to \$50,000.

He reported that the financial position of British Columbia's municipalities is excellent, that revenues from tax sale lands have netted the civic administrations \$2,000,000 a year since 1944 and that they still hold tax sale lands valued at \$20,000,000.

Mr. King, the sage from Golden, who takes time out from running a sawmill, farm and general store to look after the interests of his fellow constituents in Columbia, opened up with an attack on the opposition.

The CCF, he found had slipped in recent years.

Before the war they were a violent red but the dye "must have been the same as the stuff they used in those wartime socks," because the color has changed to a pale pink.

Like a youngster with a new toy, he described the shiny new snow plow that arrived recently to clear the roads in his riding.

He was opposed to the sales tax because he believed it would drive the farmers and the loggers to Calgary to purchase their equipment.

"It means the storekeeper will have to absorb the tax himself and then it won't be a sales tax."

## BEER PARLOR TAX

As alternatives he suggested a tax on producing mines and liquor control board levy on beer parlors.

If, as had been reported, a beer parlor proprietor in Vancouver who owned only a licence and the furniture in his tavern could demand \$85,000, then it is logical the government should be getting a far greater return.

Mr. Harding, a school teacher and the youngest member in the house, was also opposed to the sales tax.

In it, he found a new burden on those with small fixed incomes.

"Already the cost of living has soared to such an extent that many of our people are in a desperate plight and the proposed sales tax will only serve to aggravate the present serious condition."

## Anscomb Asks Highway, PGE Funds

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb on Monday introduced in the legislature three bills authorizing the government to borrow \$12,500,000 for public works and the purchasing of equipment.

Only \$1,900,000 of the amount is earmarked for the current year.

The first of the three bills provides an additional \$5,000,000 operating capital for the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. Expenditures from the fund will total \$800,000 in 1948.

A second \$5,000,000 loan will make available \$4,000,000 for road construction in the future and \$1,000,000 for the purchase of road maintenance machinery.

The third loan, for \$2,500,000 will go into the forest development fund from which logging operators may borrow to build roads and bridges in their operations. It is expected that \$100,000 of this amount will be loaned out this year.

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# Report Urges B.C. Boost Grants for Education

By GORDON ROOT  
From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—British Columbia's problem of educational finance can be solved, the legislature was advised Tuesday by: Substantial increases in government grants now being made in accordance with the formula laid down in the recommendations of the Cameron Royal Commission.

Appointment of an assessment commission to equalize land and improvement values for school taxation purposes throughout the province.

Governmental control of expenditures in all school districts.

These basic recommendations of the inter-departmental committee appointed last fall to consider the volatile school taxation problems were released when Education Minister W. T. Straith tabled the report in the House.

Their findings:

That inflated prices have raised school costs beyond the level originally contemplated.

## EQUILIBRIUM UPSET

That assessment problems are so varied in different municipalities as to upset the equilibrium of school taxation.

That in some cases school boards have budgeted beyond the means of the taxpayers in their districts, while others have exceeded their budgets.

The increased financial aid for schools recommended by the committee would amount to an estimated \$1,799,000 annually but in view of the government program, announced previously, to provide \$4,000,000 from sales tax revenues for municipalities and an additional \$1,100,000 for rural school districts, it is unlikely any action will be taken this year.

In some districts, also, the school boards have failed to grasp the significance of Dr. Cameron's program for a basic standard of education and have extended their educational facilities far beyond this minimum, the report said.

The committee reported that the number of people protesting

against the school tax was "comparatively small."

Loud protests have been heard from those areas in which there has been an increase in school taxes, but no representation or comments were received from districts such as the former district of Casino where the mill rate was reduced from 46 mills to 6.31 mills.

The report notes a determined effort in some districts to equalize assessments since the Cameron report was implemented two years ago but finds that "Complete uniformity of the assessment has not yet been attained."

It ehfore recommends the appointment of an assessment commission to conduct an educational program for instruction of assessors; to re-assess any parcel of land or all of the land in a municipality or district; and to make orders requiring the adjustment of the assessment base of any municipality or other area for school taxation purposes.

Recommended increases in grants by the government include: an additional \$200 per teacher, to cost \$992,000; an additional two dollars per pupil in meeting school expenses with a minimum of \$500 per classroom, to cost \$337,000, an allowance of at least \$500 for isolated schools, (\$388,000), that the province's share of school transportation costs be increased to 70 per cent (\$82,000).

The report also recommends introduction of a dormitory system for junior and senior high schools in rural areas with the province and the school district sharing the cost of construction and maintenance.

# City Police To Get Right Of Appeal

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Members of Vancouver Police Force will likely be granted the right of appeal from dismissal or disciplinary action through amendments to the Vancouver City Charter this year, but the nature of the appeal remains in doubt.

Corporation Council D. E. McTaggart told the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature today that the City Council is willing to concede the policemen the right of appeal, but want that appeal taken to the attorney-general.

Fred Dougherty, president of Vancouver Police Union, asked that City Council sit as the appeal board.

The attorney-general, Mr. Dougherty pointed, is responsible Dougherty pointed out, is responsible for the appointment of two of the three members of Vancouver Police Commission.

He quoted Hon. Gordon S. Wismer as saying he believed the appeal should be taken to City Council.

Mr. McTaggart argued that the Council is opposed to "turning the clock back 30 years" to the days when the police force was a political issue in Vancouver.

A. R. MacDougall, CLN, Point Grey, suggested that appeals might best be taken to a Supreme Court judge and the committee agreed to consider the whole problem.

# Education Help Urged For Cariboo

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Cariboo's needs were outlined by Walter Hogg, newly elected Coalition member for that senior riding.

The member, in his maiden speech, pressed upon former Premier John Hart to endeavor to bring negotiations for the sale of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway to an early termination.

He asked that something be done soon about school taxation. There were big ranchers in his district paying large sums for schools, and then had either to hire a teacher or sent their children outside to be educated. One such rancher, he said, paid \$2500 in school taxes, and then had to employ a teacher at \$100 a month and board, there being no school in the locality.

Cariboo was fortunate, said Mr. Hogg, in having almost unlimited potential power, but he asked that the B.C. Power commission take action to make a survey and develop some of the available resources.

# New Tax Money Allotted

## City to Get \$1,642,204

VICTORIA — Vancouver's share of the proposed three per cent provincial sales tax would be approximately \$1,642,204. Victoria would get about \$264,444.

Finance Minister Anscomb has advised the Union of B.C. Municipalities that the amount given municipalities will be figured on percentages "based on a total of the school population for 1947 and the total population of each municipality for 1946."

The sales tax is expected to raise \$12,000,000 per year and the municipalities share one-third—\$4,000,000.

Announcing percentages, Mr. Anscomb emphasized they are "approximate only."

Shares in the \$4,000,000 tax allotment of the larger municipalities would be as follows:

	%	
Vancouver	41.0551	
Victoria	6.6111	
New West.	4.0261	(\$160,800)
N. Vancouver:		
(City)	1.6020	(\$64,000)
(District)	1.0295	(\$40,800)
West Van.	1.3064	(\$52,000)
Delta	.6	(\$24,000)
Surrey	3.4160	(\$136,000)
Chilliwack	1.4087	
Burnaby	4.9727	(\$196,000)
Trail	1.3005	
Revelstoke	.3851	
Prince Rupert	1.0189	
Nelson	.7787	
Kelowna	1.1855	
Kamloops	.9358	
Langley	1.3	(\$52,000)
Richmond	2.3	(\$92,000)
Alberni	.3150	
Courtenay	.2606	
Cumberland	.1249	
Duncan	.3683	
Ladysmith	.2466	
Nanaimo	.8304	(\$33,216)
Port Alberni	.8880	
Esquimalt	.5845	
N. Cowichan	.6550	
Oak Bay	1.3304	
Saanich	2.990	

The executive of the Union of Municipalities said representation has been made to the government for payment to the municipalities this year.

"If the tax is imposed without delay and arrangements made for payment this year, in all probability the payment will cover six months," it was said.

# MLA Urges Health Insurance

VICTORIA (CP) — Health insurance was "sadly needed and wanted by the people," declared Dr. F. W. Green, (Cln-Cranbrook) in the legislature today, but no scheme of that sort would work unless it had the co-operation of the medical men.

He suggested representatives of the Medical Services Association and of the Blue Cross, both organizations being non profit hospital and medical schemes, be included in a committee to study the health insurance problem.

The member urged an early start on a medical faculty at the university; that part of the sales tax revenues be used to set up arthritis clinics, similar to tuberculosis and venereal disease clinics.

# Deserted Wives To Get Boost

VICTORIA (CP)—Good news for deserted wives in British Columbia was contained in an amendment to the Deserted Wives' Maintenance Act introduced in the legislature by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer. Taking into account the rising cost of living, it empowers magistrates to order payment of maintenance not exceeding \$30 a week, where desertion is proved. Present maximum under the act is \$20.



## GARGRAVE FLAYS GOVERNMENT

## 'Wanton Waste of Money' in B.C. Budget Charged

By GORDON ROOT  
From The Vancouver Daily Province  
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — British Columbia's \$77,000,000 budget was criticized in a language understood by all but appreciated by comparatively few.

With simple facts and in simple language, Herbert Gargrave (CCF, Mackenzie) flayed the administration for its "extravagant use of public funds," in a manner reminiscent of bygone years.

Mr. Gargrave's criticism was thorough—and, at times, effective. With all the instincts of the parliamentarian of an earlier era, he developed his theme in a storm of superlatives, limited only by the rules of the house.

**"GROSS CARELESSNESS"**

He declared there was "gross carelessness in setting up the budget."

He charged the administration with "the blundering, wasteful and disgraceful handling of public money"

He challenged the government to call an election on "this wanton waste of public money and the levying of the iniquitous, inflationary, regressive sales tax."

The picture presented by the member for Mackenzie was a picture of detail, culled from the estimates for the coming fiscal year.

But back of it all was the main query—why have the expenditures of the province jumped from \$37,000,000 to \$77,000,000 in three years?

Scornfully, he contended that the province's "business man's administration is looking after big business"; that the government has gone "hog-wild" in its efforts to spend all of the money that will be realized from the three percent sales tax.

By reducing excessive expenditures; by overlooking the sinking fund payments as John Hart had overlooked them; and by levying a capital gains tax, he argued, the sales tax could have been avoided.

To back up his charges of inefficiency, negligence and carelessness on the part of the administration, he reviewed some of the estimates for the coming year.

**CITES INCREASES**

In 1945-46 the vote for the civil service commission amounted to \$47,980. Last year it was \$60,000 to \$55,020, but for the coming year it has jumped \$18,000 to \$72,000.

The administration section of the public works department, Mr. Gargrave declared, has increased \$220,000 in a single year; the economics and statistics branch, which had a vote of \$58,000 in 1945-46, will get \$108,000.

Three years ago, he continued, the cost of operating the sheriff's offices was \$22,380. Next year it will be \$38,180.

"As far as I know there are no old age pensions in the sheriff's office, although there may be some political friends," Mr. Gargrave said.

**CHARGES "WILD STABS"**

Attorney-General Gordon S. Warner interrupted to argue that the CCF member was making

wild stabs without knowing the facts and that these matters would be explained when the estimates are under consideration.

"That's fine," replied Mr. Gargrave, "but your explanation had better be good."

He noted an increase in the cost of operating the provincial museum, adding "if you keep spending public money like you're spending it now there will be one or two more dummies ready for the museum."

The minister's vote in the department of trade and industry, he found had been increased by nearly \$2000 and he suspected the additional money might be needed for "the junket that the minister (Hon. L. H. Eyres) and his deputy are going to make to England at the taxpayers' expense."

The trip, maintained the member for Mackenzie, was not necessary because the province already has an agent general and a trade representative in the Old Country.

Mr. Gargrave attacked administration costs in the department of health and welfare and Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson replied that the criticism was unfair and out of order because the estimates are not being considered.

"You say this is unfair," replied the vociferous CCF member, "well so is the imposition of a three per cent sales tax on the people of this province by the government."

**GENERAL ATTACK**

The attack was as general as it was thorough.

Private members on the coalition side of the house, he charged, were being "bamboozled" by the cabinet and "are not doing your duty to the people who sent you here."

"I want to ask the second member for Burrard, I want to ask the first member for Vancouver Centre, I want to ask the member for Comox, the member for Columbia, the member for Yale if they, as business men, can go back to their constituents and report, if they do report, that they approved of this budget and the imposition of a sales tax."

He dug into the annual report of the B.C. Electric for 1947 to show that that company, in contrast to the government's "wild spending spree" had increased its operational expenditures by only six per cent over the previous year.

## Move Fails To Widen Franchise

VICTORIA (CP)—Efforts by Opposition Leader Harold Winch to enfranchise all Canadian citizens who have been in British Columbia six months, came to naught when the special House committee on the Elections Act rejected his request by a 5-2 vote.

Mr. Winch's only supporter was Herbert Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie), with Chairman Thomas King (Columbia), C. W. Morrow, (South-Okanagan), John Cates (North Vancouver), and Don Brown, (Vancouver-Burrard), all Coalitionists, voting against.

The section of the Act which Mr. Winch would have deleted, now disqualifies every Japanese, Doukhobor, Hutterite or Mennonite unless they are veterans, also every Indian, not a veteran, or who has not been enfranchised under the Indian Act or because he is not resident on an Indian reserve.

It is understood another meeting of the committee will be held Tuesday, when ennonites may be exempted from the disqualifying section.

## Delinquency Rate Highest In Better Areas

VICTORIA (CP) — Mrs. Tilly Rolston, chairman, told the legislative social welfare and education committee that her experience on the Vancouver Parks Board had shown that juvenile delinquency rate was highest in areas where well-to-do persons live.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition, Victoria, said that she had noticed the same thing when she had attended the juvenile court in Vancouver.

The remarks were made during a presentation to the committee by Hugh McMillan, president of Boys' Clubs in Vancouver, of the work of movement.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1948

## Has Everybody Forgotten Economy?

SOMEONE was asking, the other day, if the word "economy" had been dropped from the vocabularies of the members of the B.C. Legislature. Apparently it has, for the word has hardly even been whispered, this session.

The government is spending more money, this year, than any previous government ever spent and is budgeting for a still more magnificent expenditure, while the opposition, though questioning the government's method of increasing its revenues is not questioning the scale of expenditure. The emphasis is on "spend, spend." No one is ringing the changes, as in past sessions, on the necessity of saving and paring and making-do.

There are two principal arguments for finding more money. The first is inflation, which has reduced the purchasing power of the dollar. The second is the popular demand for more and better social services. The arguments are powerful arguments. There is no possibility of ignoring

them. But are they final? A lot of people, in the conduct of their personal affairs, have had to face the fact of inflation and cut their expenditure according to the cloth at their disposal. They have had to economize and they would have more confidence in a government that economized than in one that splurged.

Economy, indeed, is one of the important qualities of good government, taking its place beside such other great qualities as honesty and enterprise. If the Johnson-Anscomb government has ambitions to be a good government and so earn the continued confidence of the people of British Columbia, it dare not neglect economy, even when it thinks the people want expenditure.

The people want expenditure sometimes; they want economy at all times, and they will not be disposed to deal leniently with any government which can be proven extravagant, even if it can show that it thought the people condoned extravagance.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1948

## B.C. Assessment Commission Urged

### Board to Prepare Report On School Costs

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A bill to authorize the establishment of a Provincial Assessment Commission, recommended by three royal commissions in the past three years, will be introduced in the legislature by Education Minister W. T. Straith during the present session.

Duties of the commission will be to equalize assessments in school districts throughout the province to obtain a more equitable balance on the distribution of school costs.

For the present, however, it is planned to limit the commission's activities largely to rural areas.

The appointment of such a commission was included in the recommendations of the Cameron

and the MacLean Royal Commission on education finance in 1945.

The recommendation was repeated in the Goldenberg Report and again in the report of the MacLean Commission which was tabled in the House on Tuesday.

The MacLean Commission found that while there has been some attempt to equalize assessments since the Cameron Report was implemented there are still many discrepancies in the collection of school taxes.

## Estimates Estimated Incorrectly

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The harassed Coalition government talked its way out of another budget muddle Wednesday.

It took the better part of half an hour to convince Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch that there was not something wrong about the estimates, but it was achieved and the House settled down to a pithy legislation of the achievements and problems of farmers of the province.

As members eased back in their upholstered swivel chairs, prepared for another day of legislative oratory, Mr. Winch rose to announce an astounding discovery.

In his hands he held two copies of the estimates, and he reported that there was a difference of \$300,000 in the abbreviated list of expenditures in the two books.

Hastily Premier Johnson and Finance Minister Anscomb huddled for a comparison of their copies and discovered the same discrepancy.

Mr. Winch argued it was impossible for the House to consider two different sets of expenditures.

The error, apparently overlooked in the printing, developed in the special grant to aid rural school districts, with one set of books showing the grant as \$800,000 and the other as \$1,100,000.

In his budget address, Mr. Anscomb had announced the assistance at the latter figure and he rose to report that the other amount was obviously incorrect.

## Shortage Of Eggs Forecast

VICTORIA — A shortage of eggs in British Columbia in the near future was forecast in the legislature Wednesday by Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam.

Mr. Putnam said that while in 1947 the poultry population of the province was 57 per cent higher than in 1945, the removal of ceilings and subsidies on feed grain has sharply reduced the number of hens. Only 50 per cent of last year's output is being hatched.

The minister also reported a sharp reduction in cattle because of the increase in feed prices but said the slaughtering has resulted in culling out the poorer breeds. The quality of animals is now considerably higher.



## Victoria Pays Its Municipal Taxes

ON THE FACE OF IT, the Provincial Government has made a generous gesture toward the municipalities by announcing that it will make special grants to them in lieu of taxation on government buildings used for commercial purposes.

But there were no details of how this largesse will be dispensed and a little rough arithmetic shows the concession will neither strain Victoria's pocketbook nor help the cities and municipalities much.

Vancouver, which can expect as much or more than any other city, will qualify for only a small donation. The government's chief business buildings here are its liquor stores, and some of those are leased from private owners. Its biggest holding in this respect is the Beatty street liquor warehouse on which, if the government pays a sum equivalent to normal taxes, the city will net a meagre \$1500 a year.

In making the special grants the government is tardily following a recommendation of the Goldenberg Commission,

which held that such grants should not only include the sum equivalent to taxes but business taxes and licences as well.

Victoria seems prepared to ignore Mr. Goldenberg's second recommendation on the same subject. He urged that if there is an undue concentration of crown property, or where the tax exemption of such property is discriminatory in its effect on local taxation, the government should make a grant in aid of local taxes.

In this city there are provincial buildings with an assessed value of \$2,115,000 and land assessed at \$1,597,000 which, if taxed in the normal way, would net the city between \$125,000 and \$150,000 annually.

Vancouver taxpayers can be excused for considering this exemption is discriminatory. And when they consider there is more than \$20,000,000 worth of tax exempt federal property in this city as well they will begin to have some idea of the municipal tax loads the two governments are escaping.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1948

## FEW NEW ISSUES BEFORE HOUSE

### Members Urge Profit Control, Sales Tax Reduction

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province

VICTORIA — Three back benchers, who held the floor in the legislature through Thursday's two hour sitting, recommended to the government the immediate establishment of a medical faculty at the University of B.C.; control of profits in private industry; and a reduction in the proposed sales tax from three per cent to two per cent.

Obviously, at the end of four weeks of debate there are few new issues to be placed before the House and it takes a fair amount of ingenuity on the part of a private member to keep his colleagues awake.

The fact that Commander Charles Beard (Coalition, Esquimalt) Dr. R. R. Laird (Coalition, Similkameen) and John McInnis (CCF Fort George) accomplished the feat was due in part to their brevity.

#### MORE MINISTERS

Commander Beard contended that the government lacks efficiency because of the doubling up of portfolios in the cabinet, and urged the appointment of two additional ministers.

It was the excessive profits of some private companies, however, that drew from the retired naval commander his oratorical best.

Charges levied for moving furniture from the mainland to Vancouver Island and from Victoria to Cowichan incensed the member from Esquimalt.

"I believe that we are hypocrites if we blame labor entirely for the increased cost of existing."

"In this province we grant

licences to permit firms to do business but has anyone heard of a man or a firm being put out of business for overcharging since the Dominion government gave up controls?"

"If we do licence people to do business we should stipulate that charges shall be fair, otherwise the licence will be withdrawn."

Commander Beard wound up with the recommendation that members of the legislature should be called to Victoria a week before the House opens to expedite the business of the session.

Irrigation problems in the Okanagan were again laid before the House by Dr. Laird who asked for the establishment of an Okanagan irrigation authority.

The Dieppe veteran, who lost a leg as a result of wounds received in the disastrous battle, dealt at length with the problems of hospitalization, but he found time to admit his unquestioning faith in the administration and its actions.

The proposed hospitalization plan he argued, will require additional facilities in existing hospitals.

Overlooking the fact that there is much opposition to the use of current revenues for capital expenditures, he foresaw in the \$77 million budget for the coming fiscal year the opportunity of extending these facilities.

#### OPEN EARLIER

Mr. McInnis joined Commander Beard in urging that the sessions of the House open earlier in the year.

He asked also that the bills

presented to the House be consolidated; that the sales tax, while perhaps essential in principle, be reduced to two per cent; and that rates be reduced on automobile insurance.

Small loggers in his district, said the member from Prince George, are worried, since the introduction of the forest management plan, over their future timber supply.

## Hospital Scheme Near

### Bill Expected This Session

From The Vancouver Daily Province

Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Government sources here today declared the administration plans to introduce legislation at the present session to provide for a province-wide contributory hospitalization plan.

The government's interest in such a project was hinted at in the throne speech at opening of the session March 2.

Several days later in his policy speech, Premier Byron I. Johnson told the house he would like to see a scheme based on the present Blue Cross hospitalization plan provided for every resident of the province.

Details of the proposed bill have not yet been disclosed, but it is understood the plan would provide for periodic payment into a hospitalization fund from which the basic costs of hospitalization would be paid in event of illness.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1948

## Widening of Kingsway To Start Immediately

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
**VICTORIA**—Widening of Kingsway through Burnaby will begin immediately.

Tenders will be called within 10 days for the first unit of the reconstruction.

The artery will carry four lanes of traffic and have

two parking lanes. Every effort will be made to complete the project "at the earliest possible date."

Works Minister Carson made the announcement to the Legislature this afternoon in a 90-minute address in which he revealed:

### TO BE ARTERY

The Southern Trans-Provincial highway is to become one of the main arteries of the province. By the end of the year, only 65 miles of reconstruction will remain on the Vancouver-Grand Forks section.

Trans-Canada, Cariboo, Island and Okanagan highways also will be improved.

The public works department will build 124 miles of new highway, 40 bridges and lay 465 miles of paving.

Hope-Princeton Highway will not be open this year. It is hoped to have it ready for traffic early in 1949.

### HART HIGHWAY DELAYED

Mr. Carson said construction on the John Hart Highway, linking Prince George and Dawson Creek, also has been delayed. He set no date for its opening.

Commenting on increasing costs, the minister explained an all-time high of \$7,000,000 will be spent on maintaining roads, bridges and ferries, yet it will accomplish no more than the \$6,000,000 voted last year.

Bridge construction is a serious problem, he said. The price of steel—when it is available—is much higher; wages are up 25 per cent.

"Effect of these increases is that only a little more than half the structures will be built that had been planned.

"However, the wood structures are in such condition, the work can not be postponed."

Here are other details of highway construction:

Lougheed Highway will be paved from Vancouver city limits to Maillardville and from Pitt River to Hatzie.

ISLAND Highway will be reconstructed from Duncan to Ladysmith.

OKANAGAN Highway will be rebuilt for six miles out of Vernon toward Kelowna; improved between the ferry and Westbank; construction between Kamloops and Vernon, Posthill and Wingate will be extended.

TRANS-CANADA Highway will be widened and straightened near Boston Bar, south of Lytton and between Lytton and Spences Bridge. It is hoped reconstruction east of Kamloops will be completed to Chase.

SOUTHERN TRANS-PROVINCIAL Highway between Kaleden and Penticton will be widened, eliminating sharp curves; reconstructed between Ingram Bridge and Midway, west of Grand Forks and east of Cranbrook to Jaffray.

### INTERIOR PROJECTS

Paving projects planned for the interior and Vancouver Island: Hope toward Yale, seven miles; Trans-Canada Highway east of Kamloops, 13.5 miles; Nelson-Nelway, 20 miles; Kamloops-Vernon, seven miles; Kootenay-Columbia Highway, Golden south, six miles.

Armstrong-Ederby, nine miles; Red Gap to Qualicum and Union Bay section, 21 miles; Parksville to Cathedral Grove, 20 miles.

The Northern Trans-Provincial Highway will be rebuilt between Prince Rupert and Port Edwards; construction will be carried out in the vicinity of Terrace and Kitwanga, Prince George and Vanderhoof.

### BRIDGE PROJECTS

Biggest bridge projects this year will be a \$325,000 span across Vedder Canal in the Fraser Valley and a \$200,000 span over Stave River. Bridges through the Fraser Canyon on Trans-Canada Highway will be replaced at a cost of \$300,000.

The Duncan-Ladysmith revision on the Island Highway, largest single project ever undertaken on Vancouver Island, will require 18 miles of reconstruction.

On the Cariboo Highway, construction of an approach to a new bridge over Deep Cove north of Williams Lake will be undertaken. It will involve removal of 400,000 cubic yards of material—heaviest single cut ever undertaken by the department.

Emphasizing importance attached to the Southern Trans-Provincial Highway, Mr. Carson said:

"It is the highway board's recommendation that construction be continued until it is reconstructed and paved to the Alberta boundary."

Mr. Carson revealed that the government is constructing buildings worth \$2,500,000, and others worth \$3,200,000 at UBC are being built. He announced no new undertakings.

Failure of the government to assume additional costs in construction and maintenance of highways through municipalities—recommended in the Goldenberg report—was due to a staff shortage in his department, he said.

He discussed the question of assistance to municipalities in building through highways, and said it was essential the whole matter be reviewed.

### PURPOSE DEFEATED

"In certain areas ribbon business development is detracting from the usefulness and original purpose of our present highway design.

"Our modern highways in certain sections are merely another street, with comparative hindrances to the free flow of motor traffic."

Reporting on accomplishments in 1947-48, Mr. Carson said work had been undertaken on 214 miles of construction and reconstruction at a cost of \$7,580,000.

Revenues from the three-cent gasoline tax allotted to paving had covered hard-surfacing of 238 miles of highway.

Four bridges were completed, 16 are in process of construction, and 17 have been replaced by permanent culverts and fills, he said.

## Mennonite Franchise Rejected

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

**VICTORIA**—The legislature's Elections Act committee today decided not to recommend to the House that Mennonites in British Columbia be given the franchise.

A motion by Don Brown (Coalition, Vancouver Burrard) to enfranchise the Mennonites failed to reach a vote when CCF members on the committee charged it would be discrimination to allow members of the sect to vote if Doukhobors and Hutterites, who are also barred, are not included.

The committee agreed to the principle of prohibiting independent candidates in provincial elections from using identifying titles similar to those of major political parties.

The move would ban such titles as "Independent Liberal" and "People's CCF."

## Committee Hears Voting Problems

**VICTORIA (CP)**—The special committee of the B.C. Legislature studying amendments to the Provincial Elections Act today heard of problems that migrating prairie folk were causing deputy registrars of voters.

G. M. Phillips, registrar general of voters, read a letter from one deputy who reported some persons from the prairies were being registered who had lived in B.C. the required six month period but were probably planning to return to their prairie homes.

Actually these persons are not qualified unless they have established their homes in B.C.



# Compulsory Hospitalization Plan Bill To Be Introduced in B.C.

## Blue Cross Hospital Plan

Special to The Vancouver Daily Province

British Columbia's new compulsory hospitalization plan is similar to the Blue Cross Hospital Plan, already in operation.

Here is what the Blue Cross system does:

Provides hospital care at standard ward rates, use of operating room, diagnostic X-ray, physiotherapy, serums, diets, dressings (except special drugs and oxygen), clinical pathology and other specified services. Hospital care is given for 30 days in the first year, increasing five days yearly to a maximum of 50 days, with an additional 60 days for bone fractures.

Monthly rate for any employed group:

Single employee	----- \$1.25
Married employee with family	----- 2.75

## Medical Services Association

Many B.C. persons, in addition to hospital insurance under Blue Cross, also have medical expense protection under the Medical Services Association, generally known as MSA. The new B.C. compulsory plan does not include any services given by the MSA.

The MSA scheme:

Provides medical and surgical care, limited to employed groups. Eligible groups are 10 employees or 75 per cent of a staff, whichever is greater.

Monthly rate based on even division of men and women employees:

Single employee	----- \$1.72
Married employee and family	----- 4.66

This rate increases if proportion of women employees is greater. Initial registration fee of \$1.50 is charged.

## Plan Aggravates Hospital Problem

Compulsory hospitalization insurance would ease the burden of financing hospital bills for the bulk of the people of B.C., but there still won't be enough hospital beds to receive them. The hospitals are crowded now and couldn't take more patients even if the patients could afford it.

Dr. R. A. Seymour, medical head of General Hospital, said his institution "just won't be able to take care of an increased demand." He said present patients are accepted on an "emergency merit" system, with more serious patients getting immediate attention and others being put on a waiting list.

He said, however, the plan would be a boon to the hospital's finances — "that is if everyone is covered, including social assistance cases."

W. G. Welsford, executive director of Blue Cross hospitalization plan, said his group has found a shortage of beds in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria. The Blue Cross does not send patients to private hospitals.

Major insurance firms in Vancouver report they handle little hospitalization insurance, and the government compulsory plan will not conflict with their business.

One insurance firm manager said he estimated a hospitalization scheme such as outlined by the government would cost between \$45 and \$50 if handled by a private company.

Percy Ward, chief inspector of hospitals for the provincial government, said: "British Columbia has more hospital beds per 1000 of population than any other province."

"I feel sure that the minister (Health Minister Pearson), will work out some feasible plan so there will be hospital space for any who require it."

## Maximum Family Payment Of \$33 Yearly Scheduled

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A compulsory contributory hospitalization plan to cover every resident of British Columbia will be introduced in the legislature immediately, Premier Byron I. Johnson announced today.

Details of the plan, which will call for a maximum family payment of \$33 a year, are not contained in the premier's press announcement but it is understood they will approximate the Blue Cross plan.

Exemptions will be allowed only for persons already covered by comparable hospitalization insurance.

Cost of the project will be covered by a \$2 million stabilization fund to be drawn from revenue surplus, plus the provincial and municipal grants to hospitals of 70 cents per patient day.

### FROM TAX FIELD

In addition the Provincial government will take over the amusement tax field when the Dominion withdraws and receipts from this source will be earmarked for the hospitalization scheme.

"The stabilization fund, therefore will be built up from four different sources," the premier stated.

"First, the appropriation of \$2,000,000 from the revenue surplus account; second, the 70 cents per patient per diem; thirdly, the contributions from payroll deductions, etc.; and fourth, the revenue secured from the amusement tax should the Dominion withdraw from this field."

### FROM PAYROLL

It is understood here that employers will be instructed to deduct the required payments by individuals from their payrolls, and that collectors will be used to pick up payments from persons engaged in their own businesses.

The government will contract with the hospitals to supply ward and diagnostic service on a complete essential basis.

"It likewise will continue to provide hospital services for all recognized social indigent patients."

### ENTIRE FAMILY

"This takes in such pensioners as old age pensioners, mothers pensioners and those in receipt of social allowances."

The \$33 payment will provide hospitalization insurance for an entire family including all children up to the age of 16 years. After that they will apply as single persons.

"The only persons exempted from the government's hospital insurance scheme will be those who already have coverage with other organizations or companies, whose benefits are equal to the government scheme."

"The scheme to be instituted will bring hospitalization within the financial reach of everyone and it is hoped that as the plan is put into practical operation, other improvements may be made from time to time as the funds warrant."

## Hart Marks Birthday

VICTORIA (CP) — Former Premier John Hart, a B.C. cabinet minister longer than anyone in the province's history, celebrated his 69th birthday today.

The Irish-born minister moved to Victoria in 1898 and was first elected to the legislature in 1916. He served as finance minister from 1917 to 1924, and was again named finance minister in 1933. He held the finance portfolio until 1946. He was named premier in 1941 and left the premiership last Dec. 29.

## Exemptions Growing

VICTORIA — Exemptions in the Provincial government's proposed sales tax will be far more extensive than at first anticipated, it was learned here today.

Opposition to the measure is developing in the coalition caucus and it is how likely that many articles apart from "food for human consumption" will not be taxed.

"Among the items likely to be exempt are children's clothing and a more general list of foods."

## REPORT House And 15

From The VICTORIA the government 15 other subjects.

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### MEMBER GIVES

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The CCF, he as always advocated t principle—"The prin things together th alone."

## REPORT FROM VICTORIA

# House Hears of Works And 15 Other Subjects

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
VICTORIA—The Legislature now knows all about the government's public works program and a little about 15 other subjects.

It knows, too, that Herbert Gargrave (CCF MacKenzie) was out of order in his contention that the budget debate was out of order.

At Tuesday's two-hour sitting the house learned from Public Works Minister E. C. Carson what highways will be constructed and paved in 1948; from Joseph Hardcastle Corsbie (CCF Peace River), a country member's views of numerous varied issues, and from Speaker R. H. Carson, the fact that a government error was not fatal.

Mr. Speaker expressed his opinion in a written presentation to the house.

### OUT OF ORDER

He ruled that Mr. Gargrave's argument that the budget debate was out of order because the estimates provide for 11 cabinet ministers when the constitution provides for only 10, was ill founded.

The estimates, Mr. Carson said, are submitted to the legislature for consideration in committee of supply and can be amended at that time.

Mr. Corsbie, who will forsake 34 years of bachelorhood at the altar next week, was obviously in a talking mood.

The member for Peace River is a bookkeeper but his constituents in the main are farmers and as a faithful servant of the people he represents he dealt largely with farming problems.

He believed that British Columbia was ill advised in accepting the financial terms of the Dominion-provincial agreement without getting the social security provisions outlined in the Greenbook proposals.

International tariff agreements, he declared would seriously affect B.C.'s fruit crop; the Dominion government's coarse grain policy was bad for the farmers and the people generally, and the board of railway commissioners had done this province a grievous wrong in allowing a straight 21 per cent increase in freight rates.

### MEMBER GIVES UP

At this point, Arthur J. R. Ash (Coalition Saanich) who was slated to deliver his maiden speech following the member for Peace River, looked at the clock and put his notes back in the drawer.

The Peace River member has been on his feet for over an hour and it was obvious the house was getting a little restive.

With all of the fervor of a new convert to the cause, he launched into a lengthy explanation of the CCF abhorrence of the Labor-Progressive Party.

The CCF, he asserted, have always advocated the same basic principle—"The principle of doing things together that we can't do alone."

"That's the Communist policy" interjected Alan McDonnell (Coalition Vancouver Centre).

### THAT'S DIFFERENT

"That may be," replied Mr. Corsbie, "but they do it in a different way."

The CCF member was staunchly opposed to the greatly increased liquor sales in British Columbia.

In the coming year, he charged, 17½ per cent of the provincial income will be derived from the sales of alcoholic beverages and this accounts for a comparatively small percentage of the money spent in B.C. liquor stores.

## REPORT FROM VICTORIA

# House Honors John Hart On Sixty-ninth Birthday

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
VICTORIA—Former Premier John Hart beamed graciously as, for a brief moment Wednesday, he once again became the central figure in the legislature.

In front of him on his desk lay a bouquet of red roses,

acknowledging his 69th birthday, and in turn Premier Byron L. Johnson and Opposition Leader Harold Winch wished him well.

Then he, in turn, rose to his feet, and in the longest address he has made in the House as a private member he told "those of you who have the responsibility of government and those who in the future will take over that responsibility, the people will expect from you vision, courage and confidence."

### COSTS QUERIED

Apart from the opening tribute to the former leader of the government, the day's proceedings included some pertinent queries on operating costs in the hospitals of the province and some flattering comments on the products of the farm lands of Grand Forks and Saanich districts.

Arthur J. R. Ash, whose previous political experience was acquired in Ottawa, confined his subject matter in his maiden speech largely to the constituency of Saanich which in the February by-election placed him in the legislature.

Stressing the agricultural merits of his riding, Mr. Ash declared that the production could be greatly increased through irrigation.

He asked that a project to provide additional water for the land be undertaken with the property, the Provincial government and Ottawa sharing the cost, and, as a preliminary step urged that a committee be set up to study the problem.

The government's plan to pro-

vide hospital insurance is most praiseworthy, continued the Saanich member, but he warned that full health insurance could not be undertaken on a basis that would amount to confiscation of a doctor's skill.

### SUBSIDIZE STUDENTS

A more equitable plan, he contended, would be to subsidize medical students in return for a period of service under a health insurance plan.

He plugged for government support in improving the roads in his constituency; a constructive immigration program for the province, and for government action to provide the people of the province "with opportunities for employment, social security and a higher standard of living."

E. E. Winch (CCF, Burnaby), perennial champion of the sick, both physical and mental, discovered discrepancies in the operating costs of hospitals throughout the province.

It was understandable, he admitted, that there should be a difference in patient diem costs at Williams Lake and in Vancouver but he was not prepared to accept the variations existing between St. Paul's Hospital and the General.

He criticized conditions at Oakalla prison farm, charging that the 29 cents per prisoner per day that is paid for the food is insufficient to provide healthful meals.

As usual, much of his address was devoted to an examination of conditions in provincial institutions generally and to a plea for a cradle-to-grave social security plan, but he found time to deny the assertion of Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald made in a radio address Monday that the Labor-Progressive Party is infiltrating the CCF.

### ACTION URGED

He deplored the government's failure to take action in the bankrupt health societies, declaring that criminal action should be taken against some of the officers and that subscribers should be reimbursed.

The administration, he said, deserved every credit for building two homes for aged patients at Essondale but he argued that two more are needed.

Seed growing at Grand Forks and the Victory Highway, projected Southern Trans-Provincial highway link that would pass through the State of Washington, occupied the attention of Tom Love (Coalition, Grand Forks-Greenwood).

## Winch Urges Shift in Jail Management

VICTORIA (CP)—E. E. Winch (CCF-Burnaby), Wednesday in the legislature called on the government to remove jail-administration from the attorney-general's department and place it under the department of education.

He maintained problems of correction, particularly in juvenile delinquency, related primarily to education.

"We have failed to give our youth an opportunity to make something out of their lives and gain a proper social concept."

Mr. Winch noted that of those admitted to Oakalla last year, 14 per cent were under 21 years of age and 40 per cent under 30.



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**1948**

# Sales Tax of 3 Pct. Hinted

## Legislature Opens With Promise Of Aid for Municipalities

By LESLIE FOX

Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 2.—Aid for B.C. municipalities was promised today at the opening of the third session of British Columbia's 21st Legislature.

The pledge was among seven items of legislation foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne delivered by Lt.-Gov. Charles A. Banks at the colorful opening ceremony.

The speech did not say how the cities will be assisted.

While the speech refrained from mentioning any new taxation, observers here were quick to interpret the carefully-chosen words of the text as indicating that the proposed sales tax will be submitted to the House.

### SOCIAL SECURITY

It was noted that the government, in the Throne Speech, lumped together the problems of municipalities with the rising cost of social security and other important public services.

It went on to state that the government is aware of the situation and "proposes to place before you measures designed to alleviate the situation."

Reports current around the legislative buildings are that a three percent sales tax is being considered on all but essential food stuffs.

### WOULD YIELD \$12,000,000

It is calculated that a 3 percent levy would produce about \$12,000,000 in new revenue for the government.

Out of this \$4,000,000 would be allocated to relieving municipalities of school costs, and the other \$8,000,000 either put into general revenue to pay or higher social service costs, or definitely earmarked as a social security levy.

The Throne Speech also avoided a definite commitment on the rumored hospital insurance plan and limited comment on the hospital finance problem to the fact that it is being studied and the government hopes to find a solution.

### OTHER LEGISLATION

Other legislation promised by the Throne Speech:

- 1—Revision of Bill 39, the Labor Code.
- 2—Benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act to be increased.
- 3—Important amendments to the Forest Act to widen the scope of the sustained program.
- 4—A further public works program and completion of major undertakings now under way.
- 5—Establishment of a new system of clinical treatment for mental patients to save them from committal to mental institutions. With this will be a new method of admitting patients to the institutions.
- 6—Legislation covering agricultural matters, which was not defined.
- 7—Revision of the mining laws.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

The Throne Speech also disclosed that the government is pondering the problem of hospital finances and said "proposals are being studied with a view of finding a solution to this problem."

There has been speculation here about a hospital insurance scheme, but it was not mentioned in the speech.

It was announced that a new biological laboratory will be established to aid development of the fishing industry.

It is also planned to enlarge the technical staff of the B.C. Science and Industrial Research Council to improve research into industrial problems.

### FIFTIETH YEAR

His Honor referred to the fact that today's ceremony marked the 50th year since British Columbia's Legislature Buildings were opened.

Much has been accomplished since that date and I am confident that the passage of another 50 years will witness development far surpassing anything experienced in the history of the Province.

A tribute to ex-Premier John Hart was paid by his Honor.

His unselfish devotion to the public service during a period of 22 years is unequalled in the history of B.C., he said.

He congratulated Arthur J. R. Ash and Walter Hogg, the two new members elected in February 23 by elections in Saanich and Cariboo.

Hon. W. T. Straith was welcomed as the new Minister of Education.

# B.C. Digging Into Wartime Surplus

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 2.—In the fiscal year ending March 31, 1947, the Provincial government had a current revenue surplus of \$10,502,650, the largest in its history, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb disclosed to the Legislature this afternoon.

But, he disclosed, \$4,652,490 was spent out of surplus account during the year.

While he showed a net balance of \$27,844,350 unspent at last March 31 out of the accumulated surpluses of the war years, the finance minister explained that all of this sum has been earmarked for expenditures except for \$4,305,000.

Mr. Anscomb's statement showed that provincial revenues reached \$56,817,942, the largest in history, and exceeded the estimates by \$14,000,000.

### INFLATION FELT

Current expenditures totalled \$46,315,293, which was \$1,700,000 higher than the estimates.

In addition to the regular expenses the \$4,652,490 spent out of revenue surplus brought total expenditure to \$50,967,783. The extra expenses included \$2,074,522 on roads, \$238,863 for cost of living bonus to old age pensioners, \$1,000,000 put into sinking funds, \$109,930 on mining roads and trails and a \$75,000 emergency grant to UBC.

The essential point of the accounts presented by Mr. Anscomb today is that they cover only the period up to last March 31. Since then the inflationary boom has hit the treasury.

On all fronts revenues increased during the year. Liquor profits were the largest single item of revenue, with a total of \$14,759,257 derived from the government sales. Auto licenses produced \$4,457,794, an increase of \$1,200,000. Motorists paid another \$5,682,093 to the treasury from gasoline taxes, an increase of \$1,300,000. The horse races tax produced \$525,101, an increase of \$50,000.

### ASSETS INCREASED

From various timber royalties and other land department revenues the treasury collected \$6,266,835, an increase of nearly \$1,000,000. The game branch collected \$605,786, an increase of \$160,000.

On the expenditure side social service through the provincial secretary's department jumped \$1,600,000 to \$12,865,802. Education costs soared by \$3,700,000 to \$9,029,385.

The provincial balance sheet disclosed an increase in assets of \$17,061,777 to a total of \$332,109,651; liabilities increased by \$9,880,297 to \$257,059,092 this gave an increase in the surplus of assets of liabilities from \$67,878,078 to \$75,050,558.

Reports filed in the Legislature this afternoon by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer disclosed that sales by the Liquor Control Board for six months ending last September 30, totalled the all-time high of \$26,257,720. Profits were \$7,531,030.

Total sales were \$3,600,000 greater than in the corresponding six months of 1946, and the profit was \$1,200,000 greater.

On the basis of the six months' report, sales of well over \$54,000,000 for the full year are forecast.

### RECORD

In filing the six months' report, Wismer also tabled the Liquor Board's full report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1947, which showed total sales in the 12 months of \$47,981,515, also an all time record. Profits for the year were \$14,634,291.

than in the previous year. Increase of \$9,218,059, and the profits were \$3,600,000 greater.

The 1946-47 sales showed an

On the basis of the report, British Columbians spent approximately \$47.90 per capita on liquor, including every man, woman and child.

The biggest jump was in sales of spirits which went up by \$7,000,000 to a total of \$27,189,985, because the supply situation had started to ease.

Sales of beer, ale and other malt liquors amounted to \$19,366,674, an increase of \$1,800,000.

### GOVT PROFITS

British Empire wines brought in \$990,004, an increase of \$222,000.

Besides the \$14,634,291 collected by the provincial government on liquor sales, the Federal government took in \$8,552,501 by way of duty, excise and sales taxes.

So that out of the \$47,981,515 paid by the public for its liquor, the two governments profited to the extent of roughly half, or \$23,186,792.

Vancouver's drinking bill for the year was \$21,774,014, or about 40 percent of the provincial total, and out of it the government made a profit of \$6,648,432.

Sales at the individual stores in Vancouver were: Beatty Street, \$2,425,241; Carrall Street, \$2,367,945; Davie, \$1,689,707; Hastings East, \$1,571,117; Hornby, \$3,022,329; Pender, \$2,637,143; sales to beer patrons, \$4,653,487; mail order business, \$407,045.

The two Victoria stores sold \$3,908,890 worth of liquor.

The report shows there are now 373 beer parlors in the province, of which 63 are in Vancouver; 43 veterans' clubs, and 79 other clubs licensed.

## BIG BUSINESS

# Profit on Liquor at Top Peak

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 2.—The liquor business is still booming in British Columbia.



# Health Insurance Hinted in House

Legislature Hears Liberal Woman MLA Urge Action at Once

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 3.—The Legislature this afternoon got a broad hint a government hospital insurance scheme is in the offing.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, MLA for Victoria, moving the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, called upon the government either to put the Health Insurance Act of 1936 into operation or bring down a similar scheme of hospital and medical aid on a contributory basis.

By tradition the mover of the address in reply speaks with the ear of the government. Mrs. Hodges' remarks were interpreted as meaning that such a scheme may be brought down this session.

She said that recent suspensions of six health and accident associations, showing that thousands of people had signed up into insolvent health schemes, disclosed clearly the public demand for such protection.

Members have received complaints since the suspensions took place, she said, and the people are demanding government action.

Mrs. Hodges also called on the government to submit early in the session its proposals for dealing with the municipal financial crisis.

She urged the government to bring down legislation controlling undesirable comic and pulp magazines, and she declared it should not only ban the sale of such literature coming from the United States but also anything of the nature published in Canada.

The Victoria member renewed her plea for laws giving dower rights for women, so that when wives are deserted by their husbands they will have at least a joint interest in their home and

the mercy of their husbands' belongings instead of being at

She asked for an increase in Workmen's Compensation allowances for widows, pointing out that there are discrepancies under present regulations so that while the widow of a workman who is killed gets only \$40 a month, a mother draws \$42.50 under mothers' allowances.

Nor, she said, do widows drawing compensation get hospital and other benefits which go to those being assisted under the other government social service schemes.

# Bridge Being Paid for Now

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 3.—Tolls on the Pattullo Bridge across the Fraser River at New Westminster are now producing nearly \$500,000 a year, and are slowly overcoming the deficit toward paying for the \$4,000,000 bridge.

Public Accounts statements filed in the Legislature show that the deficit on the bridge account was reduced from \$784,496 to \$641,592 between March, 1946, and March, 1947.

Revenue from tolls for fiscal year 1946-47 was \$497,947, an increase of \$111,000 from the previous year. Expenses of staff and operating the bridge were \$75,735, leaving \$421,212 which went towards paying the interest and sinking fund on the bridge bonds.

# Sinking Fund Bill Entered

VICTORIA, March 3.—The first bill introduced in the Legislature Tuesday, the traditional bill which asserts the priority of the people's business, dealt with the City of Vancouver.

The bill, an enabling act for Vancouver, allows the city to put its own debentures into the sinking fund to cover any shortages that have occurred because of failure to levy for them. The debentures may not be sold, but the city can levy for their repayment.

At the same time, the bill provides that proceeds from tax sale properties must be put into the sinking fund.

The bill also validates an agreement between Vancouver City and Wartime Housing Ltd., for construction of 600 houses in the Vancouver area and gives the city power to enter agreements for more homes.

# Overlook Something, Mr. Johnson?

The speech from the Throne delivered by Lieutenant Governor Banks at the opening of the legislative session was disappointing in one important respect. There was no mention of a provincial immigration policy. People interested in the expansion of this province hope that it was an oversight. The government should have something up its sleeve to match what Alberta and Ontario are doing.

Federal Agriculture Minister Gardiner has called for a program to build Canada's population to 25,000,000 by 1963. That's about twice the present estimated population of 12,600,000. But Mr. Gardiner's colleagues in the cabinet are evidently still somewhat nervous about French-Canadian opposition to encouraging the growth of the English-speaking provinces. Mr. Gardiner wants us to set an immigration pace of 500,000 a year, but we have nothing like that in sight at

present. Therefore it behooves British Columbia to be doing something on its own account.

Ontario's Minister of Planning, Hon. Dana Porter, predicts an increase of 1,000,000 in Ontario's population in ten years. Hon. A. J. Hooke, Alberta's Minister of Economic Affairs, at present busy in London opening "Alberta House," says he expects his province to absorb 400,000 in ten years.

What does British Columbia's government expect to have in ten years? Of course, we know that British Columbia's climate and other advantages will attract newcomers, no matter who brings them in. But this is not planning.

British Columbia needs a Ministry of Immigration, or Planning—the name doesn't matter. The Legislature should be asked to set it up now.

# Mace Takes Tumble as House Opens

VICTORIA, March 3.—(CP)—No one could say if it was a good or bad omen, but the mace, symbol of Royal authority, fell from its table to the floor at the opening of the third session of British Columbia's twenty-first Legislature, Tuesday.

The new Speaker, R. H. Carson, bumped into a little table which was set on his dais to hold the mace, because of crowded opening day conditions in the chamber. The three-foot golden rod, surmounted by a crown, rolled from its cushioned resting place, bumped down the three dais steps and landed on the floor.

The Speaker sat down. The cabinet, opposition members and spectators gasped, and the sergeant-at-arms quickly scooped up the rod and put it back.

Old-timers said it probably was the first time in history the mace ever took a tumble.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1948

# Who Guards Our Morals?

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 4.—Attorney General Gordon Wismer said in the legislature Wednesday that the question of whether the Dominion or the provincial government has the power to curb sale of salacious literature has not been settled.

Mr. Wismer made the statement when Mrs. Nancy Hodges, MLA for Victoria, calling for

government control of bad comics and sex and murder pulp magazines, said power to regulate them lies with the province.

The Attorney General declared his department is now discussing the issue with the Justice Department at Ottawa.

Mrs. Hodges called on the government to pass legislation at the present session to ban the sale of such publications.

# Boost Royal Forest

Stevens

VICTORIA, March 3.—The MLA for Point Grey Wednesday

He said it would be much better to stand over in the year while the logging industry stands. The way it works the big companies, experts, had been the bill and manifestations which changes.

But the small have time to learn affected.

# HIGHER ROYAL

The Point Grey was seconding the Throne Speech, the government is an increase in timber in view of operators are ge

He said the have underestimating timber resource sliding scale of the retail price of

Mr. Stevenson price of lumber reasonable bound he claimed, to cated all-steel b from the east of to build a lumber stone's throw of

# OPPOSES MILK

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Mr. Stevenson vincial support who have gone business with under the Vet Hundreds are have not enou birds to the egg Either the fed or some other them.

# HITS COMMU

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## Boost in Timber Royalties Hinted

Stevenson Raps Gov't for Premature Forest Legislation, Urges Higher Levy

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 4.—Leigh F. Stevenson, Coalition MLA for Point Grey, told the government in the Legislature Wednesday it had been too hasty in forcing through its forest management legislation last year.

He said it would have been much better to let the new law stand over in draft form for a year while the people in the logging industry studied it.

The way it worked out, he said, the big companies with staffs of experts, had been able to analyze the bill and make some representations which resulted in changes.

But the small operators did not have time to learn how they were affected.

### HIGHER ROYALTIES

The Point Grey member who was seconding the reply to the Throne Speech, dropped a hint the government may be considering an increase in royalties on timber in view of the high prices operators are getting.

He said the government may have underestimated the value of timber resources suggested a sliding scale of royalties, based on the retail price of lumber.

Mr. Stevenson declared the price of lumber has gone beyond reasonable bounds. It is cheaper, he claimed, to erect a prefabricated all-steel building imported from the east or the south than to build a lumber house within a stone's throw of a mill yard.

### OPPOSES MILK BOOST

He advised the government not to agree to an increase in the price of milk now under investigation, until a more efficient distribution system has been tried out.

The plan of cash payments for milk has not worked out well, he said, because milk men have to go back several times to collect their money.

He suggested deliveries should not start until after seven in the morning, so milkmen could contact their customers on delivery.

### TEMPORARY HIKE

He declared there seems no alternative to another increase in the price of gasoline, but suggested it be for a temporary period only until the oil companies can enlarge their refining capacities and cut their marketing costs.

Along with this, he said an attempt should be made to put the liquid fuel business on a more competitive basis.

Mr. Stevenson pleaded for provincial support for war veterans who have gone into the poultry business with limited capital under the Veterans' Land Act. Hundreds are now finding they have not enough to feed their birds to the egg producing stage. Either the federal government or some other agency must help them.

### HITS COMMUNISTS

The Point Grey member, a former Air Vice-Marshal in the RCAF, took a sharp crack at Communists and left no doubt to what country he was referring when he said:

"It might assist in our thinking at this time if we reflect

upon conditions in Europe in 1942 and 1943 when we shared our scarce and precious war materials with a country hard pressed and almost beaten—a country which now shouts defiance at those who gave her the very shirts off their backs, a country which now defeats almost universal efforts to bring the world back into a fit condition in which to live."

## Speeches Often Read In B.C. House

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 4.—B.C.'s legislators and experienced parliamentary observers smiled with amusement when they read of the hot protest made by James Sinclair, MP for North Vancouver, and George Cruickshanks, MP for Fraser Valley, against reading of speeches in Commons.

In the B.C. Legislature the practice has been winked at for several years.

By strict parliamentary custom a member is permitted to have notes but not to read a speech verbatim.

A few years ago in the B.C. House a new member, usually a bit nervous, was granted a certain amount of latitude the first time he spoke, and Mr. Speaker looked the other way if he happened to read a written speech word for word.

After that he was supposed to avoid reading text.

But in these days of microphone amplifiers for the members, and a lectern on the desk many of the B.C. members read their speeches and no one calls them to task.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1948

## Budget Due To Be Submitted March 17

VICTORIA, March 5.—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb will submit the provincial budget to the legislature March 17, according to present plans.

## Spending Surplus Blunder, Says Winch

'Wrong to Use on Public Works Instead of Holding for Emergency'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 5.—B.C.'s government committed a "major financial blunder" when it spent its wartime surpluses for public works, and thus now finds itself caught short by rising costs of social and other government services.

This was the charge levelled in the Legislature Thursday by CCF Opposition Leader Harold Winch when he spoke in the opening debate.

For two hours Mr. Winch flayed the treasury benches.

After painting rosy pictures of finances for years, right up to the time of ex-Premier John Hart's retirement, the administration is now talking about "the most difficult times in history," the opposition leader asserted.

He said road building costs should have been funded and the treasury surplus saved for emergency. He charged the government with "indecision, inactivity and stumbling uncertainty but a reliance on the self-hypnotic suggestion of invulnerability."

Touching on nearly a score of current topics, Mr. Winch called for a hospitalization scheme along the lines of the Saskatchewan plan, an auto insurance scheme on the Saskatchewan line, and a complete revamping of the financing of education.

Mr. Winch claimed that a hospitalization scheme could be operated by the government for a charge of \$10 per year on each adult over 18; he urged the government not to turn over its mooted hospitalization scheme to the Blue Cross, as has been rumored, but to run it as a complete public service.

"I conclude that to give full surgical benefits, medical and pharmaceutical aid is a bit difficult, but we can start on hospitalization and be ready to tie in with a national health insurance scheme if our Liberal friends in Ottawa ever get around to it," he declared.

For education, Mr. Winch insisted the government should bear the entire cost and take over as well the present debts for schools; then levy a flat education tax on lands which are assessed uniformly throughout the province. To raise the extra money that would be necessary it should go after such big companies as Consolidated Mining and Smelting which earned \$23,323,000 net in 1946; MacMillan

lumber interests which netted \$7,128,129 last year and Canadian Western Lumber Company which cleared \$9,000,000, all of them operating on the country's resources.

Winch declared that, while Consolidated made a \$23,000,000 profit, the treasury collected only \$718,000 in taxes from the operations, and MacMillan's paid only \$102,577 by way of royalties and stumpage.

"There's something for the government to think about when it needs money," he said.

Mr. Winch demanded wiping out of all racial discrimination in provincial laws, calling the banning of Japanese from lumber camps—an order since suspended—"one of the most despicable policies in the history of the British Commonwealth."

## WHERE B.C. STANDS

### Highlights Of Johnson Program

Provincial government must have increased revenues—a hint of new taxes.

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Government's big wartime revenue surpluses now all spent, or allocated.

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Municipalities to get financial help, but it will be "final." They must put in Goldenberg plan, which includes business tax.

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Hospital plan proposed to "bring hospitalization within financial reach of the people." No details given.

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Electric light rates on Vancouver Island to be reduced April 1 by B.C. Power Commission.

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Tenders called for \$4,500,000 Whatshan Power development scheme for Okanagan and Thompson River region.

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B.C. to prepare detailed case demanding Ottawa bring down social security plans of Green Book.

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Health and welfare service costs have more than doubled in three years.

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B.C. is penalized because of pensioners and welfare cases coming here from other provinces.

## PGE Dicker Reopens Soon

VICTORIA, March 5.—(CP)—Negotiations for the extension of the government-owned Pacific Great Eastern Railway will be resumed in the spring, Premier Byron Johnson told the Legislature today.

He said a proposal for a joint undertaking in connection with the northern extension will be placed before the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways, and the Dominion Government.

John Hart, former Premier, will continue as president of the board of directors of the PGE, and will continue the negotiations he started during his tenure of office.



FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1948

# Johnson Hints New B.C. Taxes; Hospital Municipal Aid

## Blunt Warning Province Must Increase Revenues

By LESLIE FOX  
Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 5.—British Columbians had their first official intimation today they will probably have to pay new provincial taxes this year.

Premier Byron Johnson, making his first speech to the Legislature this afternoon since he assumed office, bluntly warned that the government must increase its revenues to meet the spiralling inflation of costs.

Although a three percent sales tax has been rumored here for several weeks the Premier did not specifically mention what form the new revenues will take.

"The province," he said, "has been caught between rising costs, due to expansion of public services, particularly social services and education, and the spiral of inflation that has depreciated the purchasing power of the dollar. Burdens on all governing bodies as well as business enterprises can only be met by increased revenues on the one hand and restraint in expenditure on the other."

Premier Johnson spent a good deal of time explaining the sharp reversal of the provincial financial picture since the war years.

### Expenses Soaring

In the current fiscal year, he said, expenses have soared to \$65,644,000, about \$7,000,000 more than the Finance Minister estimated last year, and \$19,344,000 more than they were in the 1946-47 year. And another big increase is certain for the next fiscal year in the new budget now being prepared. It is expected to total \$75 million.

After years of millions of dollars surpluses the treasury will finish the present year on March 31 with a balance for the 12 months of but \$356,000.

At the same time, the Premier declared, the huge treasury sur-

pluses built up since the early 1940's has been spent or allocated so that there is about \$300,000 left—"little or nothing to meet the abnormal conditions now confronting the province."

These surpluses have totalled \$42,291,374 and the Premier detailed how the money was spent, much of it on public works, some on special grants towards hospitals and school construction, cost of living bonus for old age pensioners and other items.

Now the province is back to the point where it has no backlog of ready cash and must levy for the full costs of government.

### Aid 'For Last Time'

With this in mind, the Premier announced for the benefit of municipal leaders that while the government will give them some financial help this year, it is the last they can expect and they must carry out their share of the Goldenberg report, which includes the levy of a municipal business tax.

The Premier made the first official disclosure that a hospitalization scheme will be brought down this year. He gave no details, but said that it will be "designed to bring hospitalization within the financial reach of the people."

The principle he laid down was that revenue sources of hospitals

must be pooled to provide adequate service for the money available. At the same time, the administration of hospitals will have to be checked to see that full service is being given for the money expended.

He said the hospital proposal will be so designed that it could fit into a federal health scheme whenever this is inaugurated. And he still has hopes that Ottawa will pay something toward hospital construction.

The Premier served notice that he is going to battle the federal government for a social security program along the lines of the Green Book—better old age pensions, contributory superannuation and health insurance.

### Part of Agreement

This, he said, is an essential part of the agreement which the province signed with Ottawa last year when it surrendered its income and corporation tax rights in exchange for a yearly

grant of some \$23,000,000. He said assurances were then given by Prime Minister King that as soon as sufficient number of provinces had signed tax agreements, the social security plan would be dealt with.

Following up his visit to Ottawa on the subject in Febru-

ary, he said that in the last fiscal year Ottawa collected \$139,958,000 in income taxes from B.C. but is returning by way of grants only \$23,000,000 or 16 percent, so that the province has a full right to expect the social security proposals, even if only on a partial basis.

### From Other Provinces

The facts are, he maintained, that B.C. is being burdened with social service cases from other provinces because of the better climate on the coast.

Under the tax deal, he said, B.C. made financial concessions to the "less fortunate provinces"—the prairies—but now is called on to pay a greater social service load because their people are coming out here.

Between October last year and the end of this year the number of old age pensioners in B.C. will have increased from 17,768 to 25,000, he announced, and because of a new ruling any pensioner who has lived here a year and a half before applying for pension must be considered a B.C. pensioner. One-fifth of the new pensioners since last August have not been British Columbians. Only the Green Book plan for old age pensioners can eliminate this injustice to B.C., he asserted.

The Premier said old age pension costs to the province have risen from \$1,900,000 two years ago to \$5,000,000 in the coming year; social allowance costs have jumped from \$1,700,000 to \$3,400,000, and mothers' pension costs upped from \$480,000 to \$500,000.

Taking all health and welfare costs into account, Mr. Johnson said they have risen from \$9,300,000 in 1945-46, to \$19,346,000 this year, an increase of more than 100 percent.

He spent considerable time on the municipal problem, detailing what has been done in recent years through the Goldenberg and Cameron reports.

The government has carried out the entire findings of the Goldenberg report, he said, except for the one point of expenditure on trunk roads within municipal areas, which it still has under consideration.

But not one municipality has carried out the proposals Commissioner Goldenberg said they should do.

"It therefore cannot be determined what the real improvement in provincial-municipal affairs would be until all the findings have been implemented.

He declared that in the last fiscal year Ottawa collected \$139,958,000 in income taxes from B.C. but is returning by way of grants only \$23,000,000 or 16 percent, so that the province has a full right to expect the social security proposals, even if only on a partial basis.

"There is one thing that is certain. A basis must be found whereby municipalities can operate without constantly appealing to the province for financial aid, just as there must be some settlement between the Dominion and the provinces so that our economy may be sound.

"The government feels that the municipalities should fulfill their end of the undertaking as outlined in the Goldenberg report.

"In addition the government is prepared to submit to the Legislature measures for granting

still further assistance. That aid, I feel sure, will meet the desires of the municipalities. In giving them this assurance, however, let me say that the aid will be considered final. No other plea could possibly be given serious consideration unless the municipalities themselves have taken action to assume those responsibilities outlined in the Goldenberg report."

### SCHOOLS MUST ECONOMIZE

The Premier coupled with this a plea to school districts to cut down on their expenditure especially for new schools. Until construction costs the building of new structures must be limited to emergent necessities, he said.

Mr. Johnson forecast resumption of negotiations with the national railways for extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway as soon as W. M. Neal, president of the CPR, returns to his office from a holiday trip.

Amendments in Bill 39, the labor code, will retain the principles of the original bill and mainly be designed to remove some cumbersome machinery, the Premier declared. The government, he said, believes that the secret strike ballot clause is a good one.

The Premier concluded with a declaration that despite the financial difficulties he had outlined the problems are not insurmountable. With the population of the province now at a new high of 1,040,000 people, total payrolls at \$402,161,810 in 1946 the province can look forward to a period of unprecedented development.

FRIDAY, MAR

## Winch A Gov't Bo Firm Fin

By Sun Staff

VICTORIA, M. leader Harold Winch in the Legislature the government pro reports on oil which the recent crease was based.

Claiming he has "iron curtain" of him any informat ports, Mr. Winch public must be told fore it could decide increase was justified a further increase lowed to end the ".

He declared the Pidgeon, general Imperial Oil Company is losing operations, does because he said to the MacDonald sion in 1938 and t er flatly refused.

This, said Winch the company u realization system costs of its pro the commission v tenance.

Mr. Winch said from Dr. W. A. C and Petroleum E that the company system in deter —except on refin is imported. No its B.C. operation ness in other part.

Quoting the V Exchange manual that Imperial Oil paid regular divi to \$13,482,539 a 1934, with sever the investing pu the company is when the com quoted at \$15 a 999 odd shares issued," he said.

## Lower Rates for Island

By Sun Staff

VICTORIA, M

light rates for couver Island, B.C. Power Com reduced April 1 Johnson announ lature this after

He said the cover the Alber naimo-Duncan r parts of the Isla the John Hart Campbell River

The Nanaimo will start gettin Campbell River Premier said.

Mr. Johnson's commission has reductions rang 50 percent in 11 districts it suppl

Since last ye 8000 new subs areas and now s sumers.



## Winch Asks Gov't Bare Oil Firm Finances

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, March 5.—CCF leader Harold Winch demanded in the Legislature Thursday that the government produce financial reports on oil companies on which the recent gas price increase was based.

Claiming he had run into an "iron curtain" of refusal to give him any information on the reports, Mr. Winch insisted the public must be told the facts before it could decide whether the increase was justified or whether a further increase should be allowed to end the "sitdown strike."

He declared the claim of R. M. Pidgeon, general manager for Imperial Oil Company, that his company is losing money on B.C. operations, does not hold water because he said the same thing to the MacDonald royal commission in 1938 and the commissioner flatly refused to accept it.

This, said Winch, is because the company used the sales realization system for deciding costs of its products, and this the commission would not countenance.

Mr. Winch said he had learned from Dr. W. A. Carrothers, Coal and Petroleum Board chairman, that the company still uses this system in determining its costs—except on refined gasoline that is imported. Nor, he said, does it segregate the accounting of its B.C. operations from its business in other parts of the country.

Quoting the Vancouver Stock Exchange manual, Winch claimed that Imperial Oil of Canada has paid regular dividends amounting to \$13,482,539 a year ever since 1934, with several extras. "And the investing public can't think the company is losing money when the company's stock is quoted at \$15 a share for 29,999,999 odd shares that have been issued," he said.

## Lower Power Rates for Island Areas

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, March 5.—Electric light rates for people on Vancouver Island, supplied by the B.C. Power Commission, will be reduced April 1, Premier Byron Johnson announced in the Legislature this afternoon.

He said the new rates will cover the Alberni area, the Nanaimo-Duncan region and other parts of the Island supplied from the John Hart development at Campbell River.

The Nanaimo-Duncan region will start getting its power from Campbell River on March 7, the Premier said.

Mr. Johnson said the power commission has now made rate reductions ranging from 30 to 50 percent in 11 of the 18 power districts it supplies.

Since last year, it has added 3000 new subscribers in rural areas and now serves 27,000 consumers.

## We Pay \$7, Get \$1 Back

Members of the B.C. Legislature probably sat up with a jerk when Premier Johnson told them yesterday that last year Ottawa raked in \$140 millions from corporation and income taxes in this province and gave back only \$22 millions.

That's six dollars for Ottawa and one dollar for Victoria. Victoria gets its one dollar for promising to stay out of this particular tax field. It isn't enough. But British Columbia can't get any more for five years because it signed an agreement.

The deal was the best ex-Premier John Hart could make at the time. We don't think he would have any part of it today. Not with costs climbing and demands growing. Premier Johnson said that his government is being driven to new taxation to balance its 1948-49 budget. He most certainly cannot be blamed for that.

He is, however, striving to obtain the social security program with which Ottawa baited the tax-rent hook. Provincial expenses for social security have more than doubled in two years, but Ottawa still hasn't made good on its offer of assistance.

Pressure to force the Dominion into the picture is growing rapidly under Mr. Johnson's leadership. In addition to his provincial allies, both the Canadian Congress of Labor and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada are demanding action by the federal cabinet.

That will take time. Right now, Premier Johnson indicated in his policy speech, new sources of revenue must be tapped. What sort of a tax it will be—and how much—will be a secret until Finance Minister Anscomb brings down his budget.

For the year ending March 31, the Provincial Government is spending more than \$65 millions. That's \$20 millions more than last year. Costs will be higher still in the year starting April 1.

These astonishing figures are not so alarming as they appear. Population is up 200,000 since 1940 and still rising. Naturally, more services are needed. Extra services are also insisted upon by the people themselves. These have got to be paid for at today's prices.

The Premier said, for example, that he is yielding to the cry for more assistance to municipalities. This is a break from Mr. Hart's policy. Last year Mr. Hart told the municipalities they could expect nothing until they obeyed the Goldenberg Report's recommendations, including a business tax levy. Mr. Johnson says he will give the municipalities something now, but thereafter they will have to "help themselves."

His news that there will be a provincial scheme of hospitalization insurance promises to remove some of the economic terror of sickness. Further comment must await submission of details.

Other nuggets of encouragement in the Premier's speech include announcement of the pulp mill to be built at Alberni, fed by Campbell River power, and the new \$4,500,000 Okanagan power project. Industrial expansion continues.

That assurance is more important than the news that the province is running out of spare cash. Like so many individuals, the government has used up its wartime savings in the form of budget surpluses. It piled up a kitty of \$42 millions after 1940 because shortages and patriotism dictated a standstill on construction. Since then most of the money has been spent on ear-marked-for public works, roads, pension bontuses, new schools and new hospitals.

From now on the government will have to go back to budgeting each year for its current needs. There's nothing very unusual about that.

## B.C. Hospital Plan Still Indefinite

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, March 6.—Premier Byron Johnson's policy speech to the Legislature Friday left members still in doubt as to what sort of a hospitalization scheme the provincial government proposes to bring down.

The Premier said what he would really like to see is a "packaged scheme" of both the Blue Cross hospital plan and the Medical Services Association scheme for medical aid that could be offered to all the people in the province instead of to selected groups, as they now are.

That would be the finest thing we could do," the Premier declared.

But, in forecasting the government's action, he confined his remarks to stating that there will be "in a very short time, a scheme that will give the people some control over their hospital bills."

The Premier spent a good deal of time telling about the financial difficulties a working man faces when up against a serious illness and said that so far as he personally is concerned, "there is going to be a hospital plan before long, because I have no desire for public office without such a thing in operation."

## Boards Ask That Poll Tax Be Abolished

VICTORIA, March 6.—Junior Board of Traders got around the banquet table here Friday night with leaders or both the government and the opposition party in the legislature.

They had a talkfest on the details of the legislative brief they had submitted to the government earlier in the day.

It calls for elimination of the poll tax, opposition to the sales tax, inauguration of a selective immigration policy, construction of a medical faculty at UBC, revision of the labor code and accords Premier Byron Johnson full support in his fight for a Dominion social security program.

Premier Johnson brought with him Works Minister E. C. Carson and Municipal Minister R. C. MacDonald.

The opposition was represented by Leader Harold Winch, chief whip Herbert Gargrave, J. H. Corrie of Peace River and John MacInnes of Fort George.



SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1948

# Gov't May Drop Gas Price Control

## Premier Johnson Hints B.C. May Let Competition Adjust Cost

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 6.—Premier Byron Johnson conceded in the Legislature Friday that the government is in a quandary what to do about the price of gasoline.

His remarks set observers to wondering whether it will propose the policy of fixing gas prices be wiped out entirely and companies put back on an open competition basis.

The House spent more than 20 minutes on the gas problem; most of it an explanation from the Premier why the recent three cents a gallon increase was necessary, with interruptions from Opposition Leader Harold Winch to argue details.

At times they were both on their feet.

The Premier appealed to the oil companies not to make further cuts in gas deliveries for the next week while the government is pondering the issue.

He made the following significant statements:

"If we want gasoline we've got to pay for it if we expect to get it under the conditions it is now for sale. It is a sellers' market.

"I don't know how you can get a formula that will protect the public and keep oil company profits to reasonable levels, but we are going to try and work out a plan."

The Premier clashed with Mr. Winch when he was quoting the large increases in crude oil prices in the last week, and the effect they've had on costs of gasoline.

The Opposition Leader immediately asserted that crude oil advances were not the only criterion for gas prices. The retail price of fuel oil for stoves, not under government control, has doubled, he said, and the companies themselves can decide how much fuel oil they take out of the crude.

Mr. Johnson waved him aside by declaring, "we're not talking about the price of stove oil, but about gasoline."

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1948

# More Revenue From Timber

The Johnson-Anscomb Coalition Government, scanning the horizon for new revenue to meet mounting costs of public service, should consider earnestly the possibility of getting more tax money out of the province's timber resources.

If it does so, it may find it possible to avoid the need of putting an extra sales tax on the people of British Columbia.

Two members of the Legislature, Opposition Leader Harold Winch and Leigh F. Stevenson, Coalition MLA for Point Grey, already have indicated the way. Both, apparently, have been impressed by the profits of big companies whose figures are public knowledge.

Publicity has been given to the \$7,128,000 profit of the H. R. MacMillan companies, to the \$3,556,000 profit of Canadian Western Lumber Co. and the \$2,565,000 net earnings of B.C. Forest Products. These three companies alone, operating on provincial forest resources, between them cleared more than \$12,000,000 last year.

They are among the few public companies in the forest industry whose figures are available to the people. But their figures indicate that many, many millions in profits are taken out of the woods of British Columbia annually.

Mr. Stevenson, seconding the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, suggested that the government may have underestimated the value of timber resources. His further suggestion that timber royalties ought to be increased was interpreted in some quarters as a hint that

the government may be considering doing just that.

Mr. Winch added a thought when he said that the MacMillan companies, netting a profit of \$7,128,000 last year, paid only \$102,577 by way of royalties and stumpage on the timber it used.

Mr. Winch might have added another interesting fact that the MacMillan companies paid to the dominion treasury something like \$7,500,000 in excess profits and corporation taxes in 1947, before arriving at its net income.

B.C. Forest Products, with its \$2,565,000 net profit, paid in addition \$1,980,000 to the dominion in excess profits and corporation taxes.

It appears that for every million the lumber companies take from B.C. forests in net income, the Dominion Government takes a more or less comparable amount in taxes.

No wonder the dominion is able to enjoy a take of \$140,000,000 yearly in income tax from British Columbia—of which, by the way, this province currently gets back \$22,000,000 as compensation for staying out of the income tax field.

To the minds of the ordinary citizen it would be more just for British Columbia to ask its timber industry to pay a little more, rather than pass the load on to the mass of people in the form of a sales tax, which hits indiscriminately at rich and poor.

A sales tax, incidentally, would apply on lumber for building, as well as on other commodities, thus adding more to the already high retail price of that particular commodity.

# Gov't Its O

## Two M Municip

VICTORIA, Monday

A. R. MacDougal (Point Grey) de Byron Johnson w he said in the H whatever aid t gives the municip is final.

Alex Hope (C demanded the go own house in or ing to the mur way.

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Dealing with Mr. MacDougal establishment o ulty at UBC an infirmary.

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"Every schoo have an auditor ium, especially community hall he said.

"When you t palities puttin order, I think t ernment had b house in order

## Greater Victoria Could Feed Itself

Perhaps the provincial Department of Agriculture will get busy now on its part in the plan for a Metropolitan Water Board in the Greater Victoria area.

The municipalities served by the present system owned by Victoria alone have agreed to set up a board patterned after the Greater Vancouver Board formed more than 20 years ago. In fact, they have done it on the advice of Dr. E. A. Cleveland, the board's chief commissioner.

Ratepayers of Victoria, Saanich and Oak Bay will vote on the plan as soon as possible, but legislation providing for it is being sought

by a joint committee at this session of the House. Such co-operation should set an example for the Department of Agriculture to follow Dr. Cleveland's suggestion for capitalizing on the farming possibilities of Saanich.

The new metropolitan service is intended to improve the water supply of the whole district. Dr. Cleveland thought this should lead to the creation of hundreds of small farms in the Saanich peninsula. It could be turned into an ideal garden spot, with an assured market in Victoria for milk and vegetables. Lack of water has held it back so far, but the water is now on its way.

## Gov't Rapped by Its Own Members

### Two MLA's Think Treatment of Municipalities All Wrong

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 9.—The B.C. government was roundly attacked by two of its own supporters in the Legislature Monday for its handling of the municipal financial problem.

A. R. MacDougall (Cons.-Cln., Point Grey) declared Premier Byron Johnson was "cruel" when he said in the House Friday that whatever aid the government gives the municipalities this year is final.

Alex Hope (Cons.-Cln., Delta) demanded the government put its own house in order before talking to the municipalities this way.

It was a minor uprising in the government ranks and reflected the keen feeling here on the land tax question and the retail sales tax that has been suggested to solve the financial difficulties.

Mr. MacDougall charged the government with being too "commissioned-minded" when it instituted the Cameron school tax plan, the one that is causing all the trouble now.

"This," he charged, "was a negation of responsible government."

He declared it was the government's own fault that school boards have embarked on large spending for new schools, because the government had adopted the Cameron Report "holus bolus," which included the government paying half the cost of new schools.

Dealing with his own riding, Mr. MacDougall urged immediate establishment of a medical faculty at UBC and a new Marpole infirmary.

He dealt finally with the gasoline price problem and urged the government to consider lifting all controls on gasoline prices and letting the companies go into free competition.

Mr. Hope, coming into the debate at the end of the day, dealt harshly with the government on the municipal issue.

While, he said, the government is urging school boards to cut down on their expensive school buildings, the government itself sets the standards for the buildings.

"Every school doesn't have to have an auditorium and gymnasium, especially when there's a community hall in the district," he said.

"When you talk about municipalities putting themselves in order, I think the provincial government had better put its own house in order first."

Mr. Hope demanded that the government forget about special commissions and appoint a committee of the Municipal Department, the Education Department and the Union of B.C. Municipalities to redraft both the School Act and the Municipal Act and settle the problem.

## Winch to Get Gas Quiz Statistics

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 9.—Harold Winch, CCF leader, withdrew in the Legislature Monday a motion calling for the government to produce all the documents and figures dealing with the increase in the price of gasoline recently.

He said he had been assured by the Premier he would get all the documents.

## B.C. Hospital Sweep Urged

VICTORIA, March 9.—(CP)—Sweepstakes to raise money for hospitals throughout the province were urged in the Legislature Monday by E. F. Rowland (CCF, Omineca).

Reminding the House of its unanimous resolution in 1938 favoring sweepstakes as a means of financing hospitals, Mr. Rowland said he would like to know what representations had been made to the federal government, and what answers, if any, were received.

There was no reply from treasury benches.

Mr. Rowland declared that one of the two hospitals in his district had been on the verge of closing down last summer because it had insufficient funds to offer fair wages to nurses.

For some weeks it had had to carry on with the matron as its only trained nurse.

Mr. Rowland charged that public works funds are not being spent fairly or wisely.

## Provincial Rent Controls Sought

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 9.—The B.C. Legislature will be asked to give the provincial government control over rental rates following the withdrawal of federal control over commercial rents.

Harold Winch, Opposition leader, announced this today in filing a notice of motion on the House order paper.

He states commercial tenants expect to have protection from extortionate rentals and notes that Finance Minister Abbott declared last week "the province can take care of the commercial field now."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1948

## FREEZES IN NORTH

### B.C. Whisky 'Kennedy's Popsicle'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 10.—Here it is at last—the real proof.

There's so much water in B.C.'s whisky that up in the north country where men are men and the mercury drops to 85 below, the stuff freezes and breaks the bottle.

Or at least, that's what W. D. Smith, Coalition MLA. for Atlin, told the Legislature Tuesday.

Pity the poor trapper, he said, who battles the snow drifts all day long and then discovers his warming "nip" frozen solid.

Except, he said, for the fellow who got round to it immediately, and after wiping off the broken glass enjoyed a "Kennedy popsicle."

Yes, said Mr. Smith, put some anti-freeze into the stuff for us fellows up in the cold north land.

He mentioned, in passing, that this whisky freezing happens up in the region near the famous Snag airport where the thermometer dropped to a world's record low last winter. The House roared.

## Forget New Alaska Road Corsbie Urges

VICTORIA, March 10.—Forget about any new roads to Alaska and concentrate on the one you've got.

This was the advice tendered to the B.C. Legislature Tuesday by J. H. Corsbie, CCF, Peace River.

He said the costs of building another north road along the coast would be enormous.

Meanwhile, the Alaska Highway from Dawson Creek has now been thrown open to public traffic with no restrictions. Very soon—when the Hart Highway is completed—it will be linked with the B.C. road system, as well as Alberta, and there is plenty of room for development there before money is spent on anything else.

Mr. Corsbie also advocated public ownership of the distribution of milk in the larger areas of the province as a solution for the current argument on milk prices. (Some producers are seeking a two cents a quart increase and hearings have been held by the Milk Board.)



## Where to Get Revenue

Provincial revenues from B.C. forest resources have climbed since the war, a sure sign that the forest industry is prosperous. But they should be much higher. The total revenue for the fiscal year 1946-47 (last year for which figures are available) was \$4,831,849.

In these columns we recently pointed out that three of the largest public companies engaged in the forest industry last year made between them more than \$12,000,000 net after federal taxes. The total direct revenues of British Columbia from the companies which make such profits are obviously modest. The total "profit" the province makes from the forests, after allowing for the expenses incurred in servicing the forests, is even more modest.

Government expenditure on forests in 1946-47, including salaries of the forests department, ran about \$2,250,000. That leaves a "profit" to the government of around \$2,581,000.

The government, up to now, has never run its forests department with the idea of extracting large amounts of revenue for general purposes. But if new sources of revenue

are required, if the financial plight of the government and the municipalities which are its children is so calamitous that the serious step of a general sales tax is contemplated, then the possibility of getting more revenue from the forests should be considered.

The province's net take of \$2,581,000 from the forests must not only be compared with the millions which the logging companies take as net profits, but with the additional millions which the dominion government extracts from those companies each year.

Compare, for example, the provincial government's net take in 1946-47 from the forests with what the dominion took last year from one company alone—\$7,500,000 from the H. R. MacMillan interests.

If companies can pay such taxes and still show a large net profit, it would seem fair for the province to increase its "stumpage" tax for the benefit of the public whose resources produce the income. And a stumpage increase, being a primary production tax, would in effect come about 50-50 from the companies and the federal government, two parties currently well able to afford such contributions.

## 'Mercy Flights' Too Costly, MLA States

Only 'Well-to-Do' Can Pay Charges Laid Down by Air Transport Board

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 10. — The high cost of "mercy flights" engaged the legislature Tuesday.

It was one of the human interest points in an afternoon of speeches by back benchers from the north country ridings of Atlin and Peace River. Prince Rupert and Salmon Arm.

W. D. Smith (Cln.—Atlin), speaking in favor of a government hospitalization scheme, said places like Telegraph Creek and Atlin are about the worst in the province to get sick in from a cost standpoint.

### DOING GOOD WORK

A high cost chartered airplane is the only way to get to doctor and hospital service for most of the people of his riding, he declared.

W. H. Brett (CCF—Prince Rupert), said the pilots and crews carrying out mercy flights along the wild reaches of the northern coast do a magnificent job—so do the local agents in arranging the flights on the spur of the moment.

But the charges, laid down by the Air Transport Board, are so heavy that only well-to-do people can afford them.

He told how a girl was recently flown from Massett in the Queen Charlottes to Prince Rupert, only 70 miles, but the flight undoubtedly saved her life.

The charge for it, which he did not state, was out of all proportion to the time and distance involved, he said.

Mr. Smith put in a strong plea for construction of B.C.'s 30-mile share of a 60-mile road that will connect Atlin with the Alaska Highway at Jake's Corner.

### 'PROVINCIALIZE' BREWERIES

The member said that mining in the North is making a comeback; demanded more efficient

game administration and put in a plug for a new Alaska Highway on the Coast route.

Mr. Brett, from the CCF side, called upon the government to widen the operations of the B.C. Power Commission to take over the lucrative city electric operations.

He also wanted it to provincialize the brewing and distilling industry as a means of getting extra money for social services.

He urged the government to take more money out of the forest industry—a suggestion that had already come from Coalitionist Leigh F. Stevenson, Point Grey, and pressed for a coast-guard service on B.C. coastline. J. H. Corsbie, CCF, Peace River, claimed Canada could save a lot of U.S. dollars by increasing its own production on such things as coal and gasoline

## Winch to Get Gas Quiz Statistics

VICTORIA, March 10.—Harold Winch, CCF leader, withdrew in the Legislature Monday a motion calling for the government to produce all the documents and figures dealing with the increase in the price of gasoline recently. He said he had been assured by the Premier he would get all the documents.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1948

## Voluntary Hospital Insurance Urged

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 11.—A non-compulsory hospital insurance plan for B.C. along the lines of the Blue Cross, but provided by the government, was proposed in the Legislature Wednesday by Charles W. Morrow (Cln., North Okanagan).

Mr. Morrow said he thought hospitalization could be offered at rates of \$1 a month for single persons and \$1.50 for married, such as is done in private hospital schemes now.

The proposal of Mr. Morrow, who is acting government whip, was seen here as a straw in the wind on the hospitalization scheme the government has promised to submit to the House.

Mr. Morrow said he would not force people to take hospital insurance, but the government should make it available for all.

He declared that if an overall compulsory scheme is adopted—guaranteeing money for hospital costs and buildings, local hospital boards would do the same thing school boards have done under the Cameron Plan—embark on expensive building programs, be-

cause they had got a large part of the money promised them from the government.

## Anscomb 'Low' On Estimates

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 11.—C. W. Morrow, Coalition, North Okanagan, urged Finance Minister Anscomb, in the Legislature Wednesday, to be "more realistic" in his estimates of revenue in the budget.

He pointed out that in the 1946-47 budget, liquor profits were estimated in advance at \$8,500,000, but actual receipts were \$14,500,000.

He suggested that, with liquor sales still at a high peak, he should figure on a return of about \$18,000,000 in the new budget.

In other revenues, a similar policy has been followed. If the government budgetted more closely on its estimated revenue it would give the House a better picture of what to expect, he said.

## Night Session for Legislature Tuesday

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 11.—The B.C. legislature, which started the annual session much later than usual this year, is planning to speed things up.

Plans today call for the House to have a night session next Tuesday to wind up the Throne Speech and clear decks for Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's budget speech, Wednesday.

It is a long time since the legislature held a night sitting so soon in the session.

## New Motoring Law 'Will Prove Itself'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 11.—Attorney-General Gordon Wismer said Wednesday that troubles arising out of the new financial responsibility law for motorists will all die down as people get used to the workings of the law.

He said there had been similar experience in Manitoba, and several parts of the United States, when the same type of law went into operation, but people soon became accustomed to it. He pointed out that, while

carrying a "pink slip" is the surest protection for a motorist, there are other methods provided in the act for proving financial responsibility in case of an accident.

## 'UNJUSTIFIED' CRIES WINCH

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 11.—CCF leader Harold Winch declared today the latest increase in the price of gasoline is unjustified until the full financial facts, as disclosed in submission of oil companies to the petroleum nature of a confidential government of chartered accountants on these, are made public.

Mr. Winch announced he will endeavor to force disclosure of these reports in the legislature.

He declared he has been supplied with these reports himself by the premier, but they are at present in the control board, and the report government report.

## MLA's Back Gov't On Gasoline Price

### Legislature Rejects CCF Motion To Adjourn for Debate on Boost

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 12.—Premier Byron Johnson told the B.C. Legislature Thursday afternoon the government "takes full responsibility" for allowing a further increase in the price of gasoline.

The House supported the government on the gasoline issue by rejecting 27-13 a CCF motion to adjourn regular business to discuss the question as "a matter of urgent public importance."

Two Coalition MLA's, W. A. C. Bennett of South Okanagan and Dr. J. J. Gillis of Yale, voted against the government, and with the solid CCF ranks and Thomas Uphill (Labor, Fernie) in demanding the gas debate.

The issue arose after Premier Johnson read a statement that the government felt it essential to allow the price increase to ensure an adequate supply of gasoline and sell it at previous prices, as fixed by the government.

Harold Winch, CCF Opposition leader, declared he had "definite and conclusive reasons" for challenging the latest increase.

He said he had received from the government, in confidence, reports of the companies' finances. He had also received reports from the chartered accountants who investigated them.

"Until these are made public there will be a justifiable suspicion in the public mind as to why the increase was allowed," he declared.

There were two house divisions on the issue.

First came when Speaker R. H. Carson ruled Mr. Winch's move for an adjournment was lost, but Mr. Winch insisted that since more than nine members had stood with him he was entitled to go ahead.

On the first division, Mr. Bennett voted with the Opposition against the speaker's ruling.

On the second division, which decided whether the House should discuss the gas question, Dr. Gillis also swung over. But the motion was lost.

## Nurses Training To Start at 18

VICTORIA, March 12.—The age at which girls can enter recognized nursing schools in B.C. will be reduced from 19 to 18 years under an amendment to the Nurses Act to be put before the legislature by Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson.

Purpose of the bill is to eliminate the "waiting period" between the time a girl leaves the ordinary schools until she takes up the nursing profession.

## First Assent

VICTORIA, March 12.—(CP)—First bill to receive third reading in the Legislature this session was an act to validate the 1947 election of three commissioners for the village of Osoyoos, a routine measure to facilitate administration of that settlement.

## New Forestry Plans Hit by Logging MLA

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 12.—British Columbia's new forestry management scheme, designed to put the lumbering industry on a sustained yield basis, is not working out properly.

This opinion was given in the Legislature Thursday by Herbert J. Welch (Cln., Comox), who is in the logging business himself.

He delivered a sharp attack on the forestry scheme and admitted that, in doing so, he was changing his mind from last year, when he supported the original bill.

He listed the following objections to the way the scheme will work:

- 1—The forest branch will become highly bureaucratic because its decisions will settle who gets the forest crops.
- 2—Timber tied up in management licenses might well be better used for other purposes under good forestry practice.
- 3—There is no reason why the Legislature should tie up "in perpetuity" forest resources for any specific interests.

As an alternative, Mr. Welch proposed that every person who logs land should be responsible for reforesting the area he cuts.

He also suggested the reforestation charge be paid the same way as scaling fees and he estimated it might work out at 25 cents per 1000 board feet.

## WHITE CANES FOR BLIND ONLY

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 12.—British Columbia is to have a law restricting the use of white canes to blind persons.

Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson gave notice of the bill today. He said there have been abuses of the custom of carrying white canes, and other provinces have found it necessary to have a law restricting their use.

## Early B.C. Story 'Ignored' MLA Says

VICTORIA, March 12.—(CP)—The fact that early British Columbia history is practically ignored in the school curriculum of the province was deplored in the Legislature, Thursday, by H. J. Welch (CLN, Comox.)

## Motorists 'Unmoral,' Says CCF'er

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 12.—"Motorists are the most unmoral group we have in the province," according to Arthur J. Turner (CCF, Vancouver East) who urged in the Legislature Thursday, application of Saskatchewan's government-operated compulsory insurance law in British Columbia.

He quoted Police Chief Walter Mulligan of Vancouver as saying that "chronic repeaters in bad driving" are responsible for a lot of the losses in auto crashes.

He said, also, more stringent penalties for lesser driving offenses would have a better effect in cutting down accidents than any insurance plan.

Mr. Turner said the new B.C. law does not protect the pedestrian or other individuals as the Saskatchewan law does.

He asserted 91 percent of those injured in car accidents do not get compensation under private insurance because it is usually a matter of going to court to collect.

The Vancouver member estimated that the new financial responsibility law will give private insurance companies an extra \$4,000,000 worth of business without much effort.

He attacked the "unsatisfied judgment fund" of the law as fraudulent because a person has to get a court order before drawing upon it.

He said insurance is rightfully a public business, not a private one, because it produces no wealth and doesn't add to the country's economy. It is, he said, a parasitical business, just a glorified system of bookkeeping on which profits are guaranteed.

Mr. Wismer challenged him: "Would you make fire and life insurance a public matter?"

"Well, life insurance is a different matter," Mr. Turner said. "But I'd make fire insurance a public matter."

## Coastguards Demanded by CCF Member

VICTORIA, March 12.—(CP)—Arthur J. Turner (CCF—Vancouver East), said Thursday in the Legislature there is an urgent need for a coastguard service, and asked the provincial government to make representation to Ottawa.

He said coastal steamships with passenger accommodations up to 300 are not compelled to carry wireless operators. Inadequate communication could prove disastrous in times of emergency.

The Saskatchewan automobile insurance plan was submitted by Turner as superior to B.C.'s new plan.

He said B.C. insurance companies "are enjoying a harvest of \$4,000,000 new business."

The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act providing for a government-supervised strike vote is not satisfactory to labor in general and that objectionable feature should be removed, he said.

The combination of an Attorney-General, versed in the cold logic of the law, also attempting to deal with human relations as Labor Minister, drew objection from Turner.



# B.C. Urged to Get More U.K. Settlers

Missing Opportunities, Mrs. Rolston Declares in Legislature

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 12.—Mrs. T. J. Rolston (Cln., Point Grey), called on the B.C. Government Thursday for an immediate start on a program of selective immigration from the United Kingdom.

Speaking in the Throne Speech debate, Mrs. Rolston told how, on a visit to London last year, she saw hundreds of young people lining up at Ontario House to come to Canada.

Australia has an assisted immigration policy.

Other provinces of Canada are seeking immigrants, she said, adding "we don't want to lag behind."

The point Grey member read to the House a resolution calling for such a policy from the people of her own district.

She also gave support to a provincial hospitalization scheme, for help to arthritis sufferers and establishment of a medical school at UBC.

She roundly condemned proposals for a provincial sales tax, claiming it would hit the low income groups and the housewives who are struggling to balance family budgets.

"You can't sugar-coat this pill. The public will know it for what it's worth—the most retrograde step that could possibly be devised," she declared.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1948

# Six Planes For Forestry Patrol Work

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 13.—British Columbia's aerial forest patrols will be increased this year, it was learned here today. The forest branch will have six aircraft on call for fire spotting and for transporting crews to sudden outbreaks.

Contract for supplying the forestry aircraft has been let to Central B.C. Airways of Vancouver and Prince George, forestry officials announced. This company, which gave the service in 1947, was the only bidder on tenders called by the department.

Two of the aircraft will be stationed in the Prince George areas, two at Kamloops, one at Castlegar and one at Cranbrook.

# Gas Price Boost Saves Oil Firms

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 13.—The new price of gasoline will enable some of B.C.'s oil companies to avoid deficits this year and allow others to make substantial profits.

This was indicated to the B.C. Legislature Friday when Premier Byron Johnson tabled a mass of financial statistics covering the oil companies' submissions to the Coal and Petroleum Control Board and the findings of the boards' auditors in their investigations of the companies.

Gas prices are five cents a gallon higher than last year. Tabling of the reports had been demanded by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

After receiving the returns this morning, Mr. Winch said he proposes to call for further debate on the gas issue.

According to the report of George A. Touche and Co., chartered accountants who probed the companies' claims, the Imperial Oil Co. stood to lose \$1,476,001 over the full year if no increase in price was granted.

On the basis of a four and one-half cent increase—the amount given to the oil companies under the new price boost—Imperial should realize a profit of \$575,635 or 7.3 percent on its employed capital, which income taxes will reduce to 4.75 percent.

Standard Oil of B.C. could have shown a slight profit of \$20,820 at the old prices and with the new rates stand to

make \$1,039,901 for the year or 18.81 percent on employed capital, which income taxes would reduce to 12.23 percent.

Shell Oil Company faced a loss of \$221,224 on the old price, according to the accountants' estimate, but at the new rate should have a profit of \$667,129, or 17.3 percent on employed capital, which income taxes will reduce to 11.25 percent.

These are the three major companies which have refineries in B.C.

Others covered in the investigation were Home Oil, McColl-Fontenac, United Oil, and British American Oil Company.

The accountants' reports on these companies' 1947 operations showed a profit of \$122,894 or 5.71 percent on employed capital for Home Oil; a loss of \$93,947 for McColl-Fontenac; a profit of \$48,169 or 27.07 percent on employed capital for United Oil and a profit of \$513,890 or 7.84 percent for British American.

# Land Grants Extended

VICTORIA, March 13.—(CP)—

Veterans will be given another year to take up homesteads in British Columbia under an amendment to the Pre-Emptors Free Grant Act introduced in the legislature Friday by Lands Minister T. Kenny. Deadline has been extended to June 13, 1949.

# B.C. Told to Press For Grain Cargoes

North Shore MLA Asks Gov't Act To Protect Lucrative Coast Trade

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 13.—Provincial government action to press for a greater movement of grain through Port of Vancouver was urged in the Legislature Friday by Capt. John H. Cates (Cln., North Vancouver).

Capt. Cates declared B.C. ports, which have handled as high as 100,000,000 bushels of grain a year, will ship only 35,000,000 to 38,000,000 during 1947-1948 because of federal controls.

"Although the actions of the Canadian Wheat Board come under federal jurisdiction, I feel it is up to us in B.C. to make ourselves heard and see that we get a fair share of the grain being exported from Canada in ocean-going vessels," he said.

He estimated that every deep-sea ship loading in Vancouver is worth \$20,000 in business to the port. On that basis, he said, 700 ships now calling each year at coast ports were worth a total of \$14,000,000 in business.

# AIDS LUMBER EXPORT

Capt. Cates, who is himself in the towing business, declared the grain trade is a natural adjunct of lumber exporting, B.C.'s main export trade.

A ship with 2000 tons of grain in her lower holds can take almost as much lumber as she could if taking no grain at all. Such loading gives her better stability, and naturally means that lumber can be shipped more cheaply.

Capt. Cates disputed a point raised by Arthur Turner (CCF, Vancouver East) who claimed Thursday that coastal shipping does not have adequate wireless protection.

# TURNER CHALLENGE

Mr. Turner challenged him to state that ship-to-shore communication is completely satisfactory on the coast.

"I do so, and if the honorable member would like to come down to my dock in North Vancouver, I'll give him a demonstration," Capt. Cates replied.

Taking up matters affecting his own riding, he urged the government to give North Vancouver a grant in lieu of taxes on 50 acres of Pacific Great Eastern Railway property in the district; and to press the Federal Government to pay North Vancouver City taxes on the unused waterfront under Harbor Board control.

# ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

He urged the government to go ahead with the plan for a new high-level road through West Vancouver, extend it to Squamish and open up Garibaldi Park.

Widening of Marine Drive in West Vancouver and completion of the road link to the new Cutter Island bridge were other projects he urged, as well as extension of the Deep Cove road along the North Arm of Burrard Inlet to Indian River.

He declared the new road to Mount Seymour Park is progressing fairly well, but warned the government to build it right up to the ski grounds or the public will not be satisfied.

# Sales Tax Plan Faces 'Rough Ride'

By LESLIE FOX  
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 13.—An all-time record provincial budget of more than \$75,000,000 will be unfolded in the Legislature next Wednesday by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

He will propose a three percent retail sales tax in order to balance it.

This prediction came from reliable sources today as the House neared the end of its opening debate.

The three per cent. sales tax, which is expected to produce \$13,000,000 or \$14,000,000 a year, will be applied on all sales but those of essential foods.

# ONLY WAY OUT

It is to pay for mounting costs of education and social services. According to present plans one per cent. of the levy, or something over \$4,000,000 will be given the municipalities to help them handle the cost of schools. The balance will go into the general treasury of the province to finance social service charges.

It is expected the sales tax plan will be given a rough ride in the Legislature. Several members who have spoken so far have expressed opposition to the idea, but government supporters have been told by the Cabinet that it is the only way to balance the budget and maintain service at the present standards.

# UP \$17 MILLIONS

The new budget will represent an increase of some \$17,000,000 from that of the present fiscal year which ends March 31.

Interest in the budget speech is greater than it has been for years because of the financial problem brought about by soaring costs.

Mrs. Anscomb, in announcing the new tax, is expected to give the details as to how the portion allotted for municipalities will be distributed. He will also analyze the reasons for the mounting expense of government.

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# Boost in Timber Royalties Planned

## Proposed Increase to Aid Forest Protection and Development

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 13.—The provincial government is going to collect more money from the timber industry and plough considerably more back in to develop and protect it.

This was disclosed in the Legislature Friday when Forest Minister E. T. Kenney introduced amendments to the Forest Act which will:

1—Increase timber royalties as much as 50 percent in some of the top grades.

2—Raise the government statutory contribution to the forest protection fund from \$250,000 to \$650,000 annually.

3—Set up a \$2,500,000 forest development fund which will be used to finance the construction of logging roads, so small operators can log their holdings more efficiently.

### FARM WOOD LOTS

While the act makes no major changes in the principle of the much-debated forestry management plan set up last year, it does provide for a new system of farm wood lots.

Under this scheme a farmer will be able to hold up to 640 acres, or an area sufficient to provide a yearly timber crop up to 10,000 cubic feet of timber per year, whichever is less in area.

He will get this free from ordinary land taxes, but will have to pay stumpage and royalties as he cuts the timber, and must do his logging under forest branch supervision so it will be done in accordance with a proper management plan.

The increase in timber royalties applies all over the province. Mr. Kenney, in a press interview, declined to disclose what extra revenue will be brought in by the increase. He said it will be announced in the budget.

But on the basis of revenues for the last year it will probably net more than \$1,000,000.

### ROYALTIES UP

In the big coast forest district royalties on No. 1 grades of fir, cedar, spruce, white pine, cypress and cottonwood go up from \$2 to \$3 per thousand board feet; grade two from \$1.50 to \$2; grade three from 75 cents to \$1. Hemlock royalty goes up from \$1.50 to \$2 on grade one, \$1 to \$1.50 on grade two, and 75 cents to \$1 on grade three.

In Prince Rupert district the increase is from \$1.65 to \$2.50 in grade one of the main species, \$1.25 to \$1.75 on grade two, and 75 cents to \$1 on grade three; on hemlock \$1.25 to \$2; 90 cents to \$1.25 and 75 cents to \$1.

In the interior of the province royalties on white pine jump from \$1.50 to \$2, on yellow spruce from \$1.05 to \$1.50, and from 75 cents to \$1 on other timber.

Pulpwood royalties go up from 40 to 55 cents per cord, and there are changes in charges on incidental woods.

### LOGGING LOANS

Mr. Kenney explained the new forest development fund will be a revolving scheme, with \$2,500,000 earmarked to begin it.

The government, he said, will loan money from the fund to logging operators to build roads through their limits which they cannot finance themselves.

They will then pay it back to the fund as they cut their timber at a fixed charge per 1000 feet cut.

Thus the money will be kept in constant turnover to keep the construction of logging roads going.

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1948

# The Expanding Budget

British Columbia will know within the next 48 hours the details of the 1948 provincial budget which is expected to reach the unprecedented sum of \$75 millions.

That is a lot of money by anyone's standards. We are living in lavish times and there is no question but that the Johnson-Anscomb Coalition is assuming that the public wants no penurious view taken regarding the almost universal demand for more and more social services. In these departments there will be spent today as much as was the entire cost of government not so many years ago. The administration is determined to support the cause of better hospital accommodation, so that the expenditure in the business of distributing more comforts and services to the people will increase rather than fall during the coming months.

To achieve all this and at the same time to build roads and bridges and carry on the vast business of government, new sources of revenue must be tapped. It may be taken for granted that the government will have a sales tax, three percent on transactions other than food purchases.

In Washington State these taxes bring in \$25 millions annually for each million of population, so that the estimate currently considered by the British Columbia government of \$12 to \$15 millions for the first year seems on the modest side. In any event it is

likely the municipalities would get \$5 millions or even more as their third share of this revenue. Vancouver's share would probably exceed \$1.6 millions which, with new business taxes here, would provide about \$3 millions in extra revenues over previous years.

Mr. Hart's Ottawa taxation deal may turn out better than expected in the coming budget calculations. The minimum under that Ottawa agreement was set at \$18 millions. But our population is up and the national income at \$12 billions is much higher, so it would be no surprise if we get \$24 millions from this source—a small share, really, when one considers B.C.'s vast contributions to federal revenues.

Provincial surpluses attained during war years when revenues were high and road-building at a standstill have been about swallowed up in higher costs of the last two years. Giving ourselves a high standard of living as involved in a \$75-million budget, we must balance out-go and income, hence the sales tax. The timber industry, making unusual profits, will be expected to contribute more.

Altogether it is a god-times budget and one that will provide precedents difficult to overcome if business encounters a serious slump. In the meantime, however, we look for the best and go ahead, hoping in the near future to get substantial new help from Ottawa via the Green Book route.

# Two New MLA's Take Seats Tuesday

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 15.—Arthur J. R. Ash and Walter Hogg, the new Coalition members of the Legislature from Saanich and Cariboo, respectively, will probably take their seats in the House Tuesday afternoon.

Although they were elected in by-elections on February 23, the official procedure takes time for the return of writs and these have now just come in to the Provincial Secretary's Department.



## MLA Urges Unions Get Rid of Reds

No Labor Relations Board Aid for Communist-Led Organizations

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 16.—What would amount to a purge of Communists from labor unions in British Columbia through official action of the Labor Relations Board was proposed in the Legislature Monday.

The idea came from Don C. Brown (Cons. Cln., Vancouver Burrard) in course of a slashing attack on the whole Communist theory and the current actions of the Soviet government.

Many people, he said, contend that unions who have proven Communists in charge of their affairs should be given little or no recognition by the Labor Relations Board and should not be permitted to use its facilities.

Mr. Brown charged that the United States in the last year has banned Communists from Canada crossing their border. "We have permitted Communists from Seattle, Portland and San Francisco to come up here and hold their meetings for the purposes of discussing with Communists here ways and means of killing democracy."

The federal government should long ago have acted to bar Reds from the country as it has now done.

He asserted the Communists are spending huge sums in B.C. each year on Red literature aimed only at destroying the free way of life.

He warmly applauded action that has been taken by "labor unions of repute" to pluck Communism from its ranks, and by the Canadian Legion.

In connection with the bill he criticized opposition leader Harold Winch and "two other members of the opposition" for flagrantly defying the law of the province when they went on the picket line in the Nanaimo laundry strike last year.

## Steel Industry Seen for B.C.

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 16.—B.C.'s industry has a great chance now to go into basic iron and steel production, according to Alan J. McDonell (Cln., Vancouver Centre).

Mr. McDonell told the Legislature Monday soaring costs of coke and coal in the United States, the huge jump in price of scrap steel needed for blast furnace production, and the supply of cheaper electric power in B.C. make a steel mill using the electric furnace process perfectly feasible here.

Using native ores and B.C. power, it could produce steel to compete with that turned out by America's great open hearth and blast furnace mills.

## Legalized Sale Of Drugs to Addicts Urged

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 16.—Legalized sale of drugs to chronic drug addicts in British Columbia was proposed in the Legislature Monday by Ernest E. Winch the veteran CCF member for Burnaby.

This was part of an entirely new plan for handling the problem of crime induced by drug addiction advanced by Mr. Winch in an hour-long address to the house on the subject.

He declared a large majority of 400 B.C. doctors whom he circularized on his proposal have expressed themselves in favor.

### TWO-FOLD PLAN

It is twofold. First, would be establishment of a hospital purely for drug addicts, where the main stress would be on cures and rehabilitation.

Then he would set up legalized medical clinics to treat certified chronic addicts and give them the minimum amount of drugs they need to carry on normal work.

Then they would not have to resort to the underworld for drugs at exorbitant prices — a practice that so often leads to holdups and other crime.

Mr. Winch insisted the drug problem, even that of drug criminals, cannot be solved just by throwing them in jail as is now done. Basically, it must be solved by medicine and education.

### MONEY WELL SPENT

The money for his program, the member declared, would be well spent, for it is already conceded drug addiction is costing the public millions. He estimated 10 percent of the prisoners committed to Oakalla in the last nine years were addicts.

He told of success gained by treatment at the U.S. Narcotic Farm, Lexington, Ky., where large numbers are cured and do not again get into the toils of the law.

## BUDGET WILL SET RECORD

VICTORIA, March 16.—(CP) — Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's second budget speech, to be delivered tomorrow, is expected to show an all-time high of \$75,000,000, increased from the \$58,000,000 figure last session.

This record amount is expected to be met through imposition of a three percent retail sales tax on everything but essential foods, expected to net between \$13,000,000 and \$14,000,000 annually.

## MLA Would 'Earmark' New Sales Taxes

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 16.—If B.C. has to impose a sales tax—a levy that rumor says the budget will announce tomorrow in the Legislature—it should be specifically earmarked to finance education and social services.

This opinion was expressed Monday in the House by Don C. Brown (CLN, Vancouver-Burrard).

Mr. Brown said he is convinced that the sales tax is an "equitable and realistically contributory way" of getting extra revenue the government needs.

The only alternative he suggested was a tax on unearned increment.

He insisted, however, that, in the final analysis, Ottawa must pay the greater share of social services.

Mr. Brown put in a plea for provincial government aid in building community centres and government aid on main highways leading in and out of Vancouver.

He proposed the treasury give some financial aid to Alcoholics Anonymous for the new building they are planning at the corner of Robson and Homer Streets in Vancouver, allocating the money out of liquor profits.

## Winch Denies 'Coalition' With LPP

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 16.—Alan McDonell (CLN, Vancouver Centre) clashed sharply in the Legislature Monday night with Opposition leader Harold Winch, whom he charged with forming a coalition with the LPP Party.

He alleged Mr. Winch, speaking in Vancouver at the time of the Nanaimo Laundry strike at a meeting called and dominated by Communists, had invited everyone to join him in fighting to wipe out capitalism, including the Communists. Soon afterwards, the Communists accepted and withdrew their candidate in Saanich.

"Don't be silly," sang out E. E. Winch (CCF, Burnaby) as Harold jumped to his feet, declared he had never invited the Communists, never had any understanding with them and there would never be a coalition between them.

When Mr. McDonell tried to repeat his assertion the Speaker called him to order and insisted he must accept Winch's statement.

He later quoted Winch as having said that "we must fight with every means in our power to bring about a national socialistic state." Again Mr. Winch declared, "I never made any such statement in my life."

## Age Lowered For Students Of Nursing

VICTORIA, March 16.—(CP)—Minimum entrance age for students in nursing schools is lowered from 19 years to 18 in an amendment to the Registered Nurses Act introduced by Provincial Secretary George Pearson in the Legislature Monday.

The bill makes no change in educational requirements, which will continue to be high school graduation with university entrance or its equivalent.

The bill was one of four introduced by Mr. Pearson.

Two others, amending the Industrial School for Boys Act and the Industrial School for Girls Act, provide authority for the superintendent of child welfare to recommend removal of inmates to any common jail or mental hospital.

An amendment to the Medical Act will allow the council of any College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C. to apply funds to the assistance of members and former members and their dependents.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb introduced a bill to amend a section of the Trust Companies Act relating to reserve funds.

## Weir Expected in House Wednesday

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 16.—Dr. George M. Weir, former Minister of Education, who has been seriously ill for some six months, is expected to resume his seat in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday. Dr. Weir is Coalition MLA for Vancouver Burrard.

In the reshuffle at the end of last year, W. T. Straith, K.C. of Victoria, was named Minister of Education.

Also on the Legislature's sick list is James L. Webster (Cln., Rossland-Trail), chief government Whip.

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## 'Perpetuity' Is a Long Time

The Truck Loggers' Association and others who dislike the government forest policy are not going to be contented with the bill brought into the Legislature Friday by Forests Minister Kenney "to improve the Forest Act."

It does little or nothing to remove any of the grievances which the truck loggers aired angrily at their convention last December. They were agitating then against the policy of perpetual forest management licenses, which, they said, menaces the province's No 1 industry with perpetual monopoly of big timber barons. What they got then from forestry officials was a vague intimation of amendments at this session which would reduce the discontent. The truck loggers were skeptical and their skepticism seems to have been well-founded.

Mr. Kenney's amendments consist chiefly in financial changes. Royalties on timber are to be hiked as much as 50 percent; the forest protection fund is to be increased, and the government is to take steps to finance construction of logging roads. So far as the forest management principle is concerned, the government proposes to create a system of farm wood lots.

These changes are all to the good, so far

as they go. The public, facing the prospect of having to give the government more revenue, probably feels, however, that the hike in timber royalties is disappointingly small and the Truck Loggers will not be appeased by the concession to farmers.

The very day that Mr. Kenney introduced his amendments two logging companies operating in the Coast Forest District, claiming to represent the 114 companies in the Truck Loggers' Association, urged that all applications for forest management licenses be held in abeyance pending further discussions between the industry and the government.

The same thought was expressed in the Legislature by H. J. Welch, the member for Comox, and other members have expressed their misgivings about the legislation they approved a year ago. Mr. Welch is alarmed that the hundred firms which have already filed applications for licenses will gobble up everything. He suggests that after suitable grants have been made for the Canadian Western Lumber Company's proposed pulp plant at Duncan Bay—to which the government seems to have committed itself—action on others should be postponed for further study of the act's operation. This is the least the government can do.

## Oil Firms Move to End Control Alleged

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 16.—Herbert Gargrave (CCF, Mackenzie) charged in the Legislature Monday night that "90 percent of the trouble about the price of gasoline is caused by an attempt by the oil companies to break our control legislation over petroleum products."

"They won't be satisfied until they have broken it—and they'll likely get away with it the way this government is babying them," he said.

He demanded the government set a ceiling price for gas and force the oil companies to compete with each other below that level.

Mr. Gargrave alleged that, on the basis of the government's own reports tabled in the Legislature last Friday, the 4½-cent gasoline increase given the oil companies "subsidizes the inefficiency of the Imperial Oil Company, that great monopoly in oil business."

This, he said, was clearly shown in the fact that the latest increase, according to the accountant's report, gave Shell Oil Company, which has recently opened a new cracking plant in the province, a return of 11.25 percent on capital employed; Standard, also with a modern plant, 12.23 percent; Imperial, which has an old and outdated refinery, can make but 4.75 percent.

If only a 3.2 cent increase was

allowed them Standard would still make 8.87 percent and Shell 7.04 percent, and Imperial would break even.

Premier Byron Johnson immediately interrupted Mr. Gargrave and insisted that it isn't the refining costs in B.C. that cause the trouble, but the cost of bringing refined gas into the province from California.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1948

## Municipalities Not Satisfied With Sales Tax

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—The sales tax announced by Finance Minister Anscomb today is "completely unsatisfactory" to British Columbia municipalities.

Mayor Percy George, vice-president of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, reiterated this stand today in comment on the budget speech.

He intimated the government was taking advantage of a sales tax proposal put forward by the municipalities to fill its own coffers.

Mayor W. M. Mott of New Westminster, president of the UBCM, is in Victoria today to discuss the tax with other executive members of the union, and a protest against the tax is expected.

## Closer Tieup Urged With U.S. Economy

VICTORIA, March 17.—A closer economic tieup between Canada and the United States was urged in the Legislature this afternoon by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, in discussing Canada's austerity program, which, he said, is designed to increase Canadian production, greater use of Canadian dollars, and the saving of U.S. dollars.

"One cannot escape the reflection that much of the 'austerity' could have been prevented had trading been based more closely on the real value of our dollar rather than on a dollar pegged artificially," he said.

"One thing the austerity program will do is to hurt American and Canadian business, and, in my view, an over valued Canadian dollar prevents the influx of American dollars for investment.

"This should compel the thought that the solution rests on integrating the economic strength of both countries to their constant benefit."

## Pact Balked By Duplessis, Drew-Wismer

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—Attorney-General Gordon Wismer wound up the Throne Speech debate in the Legislature Tuesday with a two-hour speech, in which he:

Charged Premiers Drew and Duplessis of Ontario and Quebec with "playing politics" against the national well-being by refusing to sign taxation agreements with Ottawa.

Challenged the CCF to admit it cannot put Socialism into effect in the province.

Warmly defended the new auto Financial Responsibility law and sharply criticized the Saskatchewan compulsory insurance law.

Made a sharp attack on Communists and warned of "Trojan Horse" dangers in Canada.

Mr. Wismer said he is convinced neither Drew nor Duplessis have any intention of making agreements with the King government at Ottawa because they don't like it and want to see it driven out of power.

Of Socialism, he said the BNA Act does not permit socialist provincial economies since financial and banking powers are vested in Ottawa.

On the new auto law, Mr. Wismer asserted there is no comparison between private auto insurance and the Saskatchewan scheme, which he attacked at length. There, the government forces the people to take what is in essence a compensation plan only, and any autoist who wants to be adequately protected against damages in an accident must take a private policy as well.

## Production In B.C. Sets New Records

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—In dollar values British Columbia's production in 1947 hit new highs all along the line, according to figures submitted by Finance Minister Anscomb in his budget speech to the Legislature this afternoon.

Production of the four basic industries he placed at \$506,000,000, an increase of \$98,315,000 over the 1946 figure, or nearly 25 percent.

He estimated the industrial payroll at \$440,000,000, an increase of \$37,000,000, or 9 percent.

On the basis of Dominion statistics he gave the value of overall production at \$680,000,000, an increase of \$119,000,000.

Sales of life insurance jumped about 13 percent to \$104,000,000. The index of wholesale sales soared 43 points to 314 and that of retail sales by 29 points to 250.

Electric power consumption jumped more than 10 percent to 3,011,763 kilowatt hours. Freight loading on railways was up nearly 20 percent to 9,700,000 tons.

"The business situation at the close of 1947 by all standard indicators was one of considerable strength," Mr. Anscomb said in his general summary of these conditions.



# Soaring Costs Bring Record Budget

Continued from Page One

Mr. Anscomb drew special attention to the fact that in his budget last year he had warned that some other source of revenue must be found if costs of schools and social services continued to mount the way people want them.

He placed the blame for the huge budget—and its new taxation — on inflation which has caused price indices to leap up 23 percent in the last 12 months.

He warned: "It is possible we have not reached the limit."

Nor, he said, was the government, in face of repeated demands for new and costly services, able to do wholesale pruning.

"It is very easy for some to clamor for drastic cuts in expenditure," he said. "Which one of our services shall we cut off altogether and which other shall we prune drastically? Is it the provision of law and order, the development and protection of our vital assets; the care of those needy or ailing; education, or public works? It is no longer a matter of thousands of dollars but rather of millions."

## B.C. May Yet Go 'In Red'

Mr. Anscomb warned that even the huge budget he presented might become unbalanced if the inflationary spiral continues, because the cost side of the ledger has been based on present prices.

Besides collecting \$12,000,000 in extra money from the sales tax, the government hopes to reap \$900,000 more from the timber industry out of the new royalties announced last week.

All the ordinary sources of revenue are expected to keep going up: a further \$1,900,000 from liquor profits; \$1,400,000 from motor vehicles; \$675,000 from the gas tax, and even the Dominion taxation agreement will give B.C.

\$1,350,000 more than in the last year because of the higher population and production.

But these high returns still leave the treasury short by \$12,000,000 without the new sales tax.

On the expenditure side, he emphasized that costs of health, welfare, social security, institutional and other social services will cost \$20,324,000 next year, or as much as the entire province was operated with 20 years ago.

Health and welfare departments alone will cost \$13,679,691, an increase of \$1,461,000, and charges for the provincial secretary's department go up \$727,578 to \$7,880,892.

## Larger Hospital Grants

Allocations in the lands and forests branch include an extra \$400,000 for the forest protection fund, plus \$327,480 for general forest branch work; \$107,600 more for provincial park development, \$80,000 for the South Okanagan irrigation project, an extra \$133,760 for the surveys branch, and other minor increases.

The mines department will have an additional \$50,000 for grants on mining trails and roads.

Larger grants for hospitals were forecast as well as for operation of mental hospitals and homes for the aged, but Mr. Anscomb gave no details.

In the public works department the current allotments call for \$11,945,392, an increase of \$1,100,000. Because of higher costs this will only enable the department to keep up its present work.

He noted that barely six years ago the works estimates were but \$2,405,436.

When he turned to expenditures on capital account, Mr. Anscomb disclosed that "bonus" payments paid to contractors last year because of rising expenses had cost the government more than \$2,000,000.

This was the bonus granted after a hearing by Mr. Justice Sidney Smith.

## \$28 Million for Works

The \$28,600,000 budgeted for capital expenditures this coming year are segregated as follows: \$9,900,000 on new roads, highways and bridges, of which \$5,000,000 will come out of surplus revenues (voted last year) and the remainder from new borrowing; \$2,750,000 as a special allocation for steel and concrete bridges; \$1,000,000 for purchase of heavy road construction and maintenance machinery; \$1,750,000 for new buildings at the university (part of program already under way); \$1,300,000 for new government buildings generally; \$800,000 on rolling stock and equipment for the PGE Railway, and \$1,100,000 by the B.C. Power Commission.

The government already has authority to borrow most of this

money, but will submit two new loan bills to the House: one to increase borrowing powers for PGE purposes by \$5,000,000 and the other to borrow \$2,500,000 to set up a new forest development fund, previously announced.

## \$1,700,000 FOR CITY FROM TAX

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—Vancouver city stands to get about \$1,700,000 this year out of British Columbia's new sales tax, according to unofficial calculations here.

And if the tax produces more than the \$4,000,000 estimated by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, the Vancouver amount will go up proportionately.

New Westminster will probably get about \$140,000 and other municipalities and villages in ratio of population.

# How Inflation Hits B.C. in Pocketbook

## Sales Tax Helps Revenues Keep Pace With Soaring Expenditures

VICTORIA, March 17.—Here, in brief, is what inflation and increased social services have done to the cost of government in B.C., as shown the Legislature by Finance Minister Anscomb.

The figures cover current expenditures of departments and do not take into account outlays for capital works projects.

	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Revenues .....	\$56,817,944	\$66,000,000	\$77,616,309
Expenditures .....	46,315,293	65,673,991	77,449,869

The figures for 1946-47 are actual, and for the other two years are close estimates. It should be noted that the 1948-49 budget contains \$12,000,000 the government expects to receive from its new three percent sales tax.

# Sales Tax Self Help For Social Security

## Finance Minister Anscomb Explains It as a Contributive Levy

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—The "Anscomb Sales Tax" is to be regarded as a means by which people of B.C. who need social services can contribute towards paying for them.

This formula was laid down by the finance minister in his budget speech today.

"It is well to remember," he said, "that the reason for the imposition of this tax is the requirement by a certain part of our population for social security and social services."

"The tax will act as a contributory device to afford this section of our population continued benefits from our highly developed social service program."

### FUNDS NEEDED

"I think it cannot be emphasized too strongly that such an extensive social program as that proposed cannot be instituted without funds to meet its ever-increasing costs."

Mr. Anscomb gave the House a long explanation of the reasons for the new 3 percent levy on retail sales and said his department has been thinking about such a tax for the last two years.

The proceeds of 1 percent, estimated at \$4,000,000, will go to the municipalities, and they can spend it as they see fit.

The other 2 percent, Mr. Anscomb said, will be earmarked for social services, health and welfare and old age pensions.

### TAX DEFENDED

Defending the tax as a sound one, the finance minister said: "Over the period of the last 15 years there has been a rather considerable revision in the thinking with regard to this tax, and it is now accepted as being a logical source of funds, particularly where the increased costs of social service make greater revenue necessary."

"At the present time there are 24 states in the United States imposing a retail sales tax in one form or another, while two provinces in Canada, Saskatchewan and Quebec, are firmly in the field."

"The present government of Saskatchewan was elected on a political platform pledged to abolish it. It has never done so and the provincial treasurer

there quite recently stated he had no intention of doing so.

"Probably the most commonly voiced objection to the sales tax has been the fact that it is in some measure regressive; that in contrast to the income tax, it bears more heavily on the lower income groups of our society."

"It would be foolish to deny that in its all-inclusive state this is to some considerable measure true. What must be remembered, however, is that the progressive feature of our tax system is to a considerable measure taken care of by the Dominion income tax, which is steeply graduated."

"What the sales tax is applied upon is the residual portion of the income after such tax. It is my intention to recommend that liberal exemptions be granted from the tax for food for human consumption. While this will seriously impair our revenue from the tax, it meets, in a large measure, the objection that the lower income group bears a disproportionate share of the burden."

### MUNICIPAL AID

Answering argument of municipal leaders that they should get at least half of the proceeds from the tax Mr. Anscomb estimated about \$9,000,000 of it would be actually paid on sales in municipal areas and many of these sales would be for equipment and other goods used elsewhere in the province.

So that by getting \$4,000,000 out of the tax the municipalities would receive close to 50 percent of what is paid within their boundaries.

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### 3 PERCENT SALES TAX FILLS BILL

## B.C. to Spend \$100 Million In Next Year, Says Anscomb

By LESLIE FOX  
Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—A three percent tax on retail sales in B.C. will be levied by the B.C. government.

Only foods for human consumption will be exempt.

This was announced by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb when he submitted his 1948-49 budget to the Legislature this afternoon.

The current expenditure for the coming year is placed at \$77,449,869, an increase of \$11,800,000 over expenses of the fiscal year that is just finishing; and \$31,134,575 more than in the year of 1946-47.

The government will also spend \$28,600,000 on capital projects for roads, bridges, buildings, power development and other items—a total outlay for the year of \$106,049,869.

The sales tax will produce \$12,000,000 annual revenue for the government and \$4,000,000 of this, or one-third of whatever it produces, will be turned over to municipal councils.

The balance will be allocated to paying for social security, social services, health and welfare.

Rural school taxpayers are to get \$1,100,000 of relief.

Votes for roads and other works maintenance will be jumped by \$1,100,000.

### 'Only Alternative'

Mr. Anscomb has finally made official the reports that have been current for weeks that British Columbians would be

reduced the net debt by more than \$10,000,000 in the last year; how he is now setting aside all the necessary funds for future debt repayment; and declared he will resist more capital spending "on any project that is not basically essential," even though B.C. can now borrow at its lowest rate in history.

The plain fact, Mr. Anscomb intimated, is that if people insist on having more social services and better education they've got to pay for them through higher taxes.

"Were it not for my faith in this country and my sincere hope that stability will be restored in the not too distant future, then I would view with the utmost alarm the volume of our proposed spendings.

called upon to pay the sales tax so that the government can balance its "fattest" budget on record caused by inflated costs.

The finance minister conceded the government had been up against a hard decision in deciding to levy a sales tax, but he called it the "only alternative."

All along the line government expenses will soar.

Mr. Anscomb made a typical "hard businessman's budget speech."

He proudly told how he had

### Self Reliance Needed

"If I appear critical of undue paternalism in government administration, it is mainly because I have a deeper faith in measures designed to rehabilitate the individual and promote self reliance."

"It is only a well-trained, adaptable and self reliant population that will garner and enjoy the abundance that British Columbia so freely offers."

"Whenever anyone truly deserves aid or protection, let us by all means be generously helpful, but let us not allow that generosity to create undue, constant and unwarranted, reliance on government assistance."

By far the high point of Mr. Anscomb's budget speech was his commitment of the government to the new sales tax.

He gave very few details how it will work. He did not mention whether B.C. will have tokens as

in Washington State, or collect it by other means.

Nor did he list the exemptions on food that will be granted, although he said they will be "liberal." These will be disclosed when the actual bill is submitted to the House.

"It was neither easy nor pleasant to arrive at this decision," he said, "but it was inescapable because of economic forces beyond our control."

"One thing certain was that we had reached a point when neither compromise nor a deficit budget could be tolerated."

To becloud the real issue and facts would have been an unforgivable disservice to the people of this province; to have done so would only postpone until the next year the evil to be faced in double measure."

Additional budget reports on  
Pages 3, 6, 7 and 11.

## B.C. to Seek New Parley on Taxes

### Another Dominion-Provincial Conference Held Urgent

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb announced in the Legislature this afternoon that he and Premier Byron Johnson will press for another Dominion-Provincial Conference as soon as the Legislature adjourns.

He said they will continue pressing for such a meeting until B.C. gets its just and right return for the income tax revenues that were handed over to the federal government.

B.C. claims that until the social security proposals made at the original conference are brought into effect it will not consider the taxation agreement fair.

#### 'WHEN PROVINCES SIGN'

"I do not think," he said, "there can be any argument used against a further conference on the definition of 'when a sufficient number of provinces have signed up.'"

Mr. Anscomb announced that in the coming year B.C. will get \$22,705,771 from Ottawa under the tax agreement, an increase of \$1,413,051 over last year, because of the higher national production and B.C.'s larger population.

He also advised corporations that the five percent corporation tax now levied by British Columbia (but collected by the Dominion) is likely to continue, because there are no indications that either Ontario or Quebec intend to enter the taxation agreement.

#### HOW IT WORKS

(The way this corporation tax works is this: When the Dominion signed up the tax agreements it dropped the corporation tax by ten percent in all provinces so that those who did not want to sign could go back into the field.

But the provinces which did sign had to levy five percent of this so that their own corporations paid more toward upkeep of the provincial governments. Only when all provinces sign up will this be wiped out.

In Ontario now the corporations pay a seven percent provincial tax by comparison.)

Mr. Anscomb stated that if B.C. had not signed the tax agreement, and had gone back into the income and corporation tax field, it would now collect a "very considerable sum" which he did not estimate.

This is because of the enormous industrial expansion and population increase that has taken place in B.C.

#### FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

He continued: "We signed the agreement in good faith, knowing full well that a goodly proportion of our people's income would be used to aid other areas not so favored as British Columbia, but we signed in the belief that the surrender value of our tax rights would be used

#### AT A GLANCE

### Budget Program For 1948

Three percent tax on all retail sales in B.C. except human foods.

Tax calculated to produce \$12,000,000, of which municipalities will get one-third.

Rural taxpayers to be assisted by \$1,100,000 on school costs.

Larger hospital grants planned; and heavy increases for mental institutions.

Total current budget to be \$77,449,869, an increase of \$11,800,000.

Capital expenditure of \$28,600,000 will make total provincial outlays for year \$106,049,869.

Net debt decrease \$10,242,377 in one year.



## Improving Legislation

What was said in the British Columbia Legislature this week by Allan J. McDonnell, Coalition MLA for Vancouver Centre, about the need for eliminating "blunders" in legislation, has considerable sense. In the past, he said, some bills have been faulty because not enough advance study was given to the "implications" of the legislation.

Citizens can think of two very important pieces of legislation which were passed at the 1947 session and certainly have faults. One is "Bill 39," the revised Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act which the government itself speedily found to be defective in some important respects. The other is the Forest Act of 1947, which is still creating a storm.

Some people will say that it ill-becomes a member of the Legislature to complain about faulty legislation. After all, members are elected to go to Victoria to write good legislation.

Provincial legislators, however, have not as much time to devote to churning over new laws as have members of Parliament at Ottawa. They meet for six to eight weeks and spend at least half their time listening to formal debates. Legislation usually gluts the Order Paper in the dying weeks and the most

important legislation always comes in at the last moment. There is little time for thorough combing of sections and subsections for their implications and possible effects.

It is a fact, too, that the provincial law officers whose job it is to draft the legislation are often rushed to distraction in the short time at their disposal. Sometimes they don't do the best job possible in making purposes clear.

Mr. McDonnell suggests that "an internal board" of deputy ministers of the various departments be set up to study the bills before they are dealt with by the cabinet. This would be a help, perhaps, but it should not be forgotten that it is the responsibility of the MLA's to study the legislation and approve it. They should not become rubber stamps either for the cabinet or a board of bureaucrats.

The MLA's should resign themselves to longer sessions of the Legislature and adopt the practice of sending government legislation to standing committees for thorough study. In this way representations could be heard from interested parties and from legal experts.

The business of a million people deserves some consideration and sacrifice.

## \$12 Million for New B.C. Roadwork

VICTORIA, March 17.—British Columbia's road construction and highway improvement program, launched in 1946, is to be continued despite the huge increase in the provincial budget.

Finance Minister Anscomb made this clear in his budget speech.

And only when the principal highways are all hard-surfaced can some easement of costs be expected, he said.

In the coming year, the Works Department will spend \$12,650,000 on new construction.

Part of this is for projects already under way, such as the Hope-Princeton and Hart Highways.

Included is a special allocation of \$2,750,000 for construction of new steel and concrete bridges.

Another separate vote on capital account is \$1,000,000 for purchase of heavy road construction machinery and maintenance equipment.

In addition, the public works department has a regular appropriation of \$11,945,382, an increase of \$1,100,000 from the present year.

This includes an allocation of approximately \$2,500,000 devoted strictly to the hard-surfacing of highways, being the revenue from three cents of the 10-cent a gallon tax on gasoline; and also the normal yearly votes for the maintenance of roads.

Anscomb recalled that only three years ago the cost of current road maintenance was \$4,280,000; now it has jumped to \$9,370,000.

He disclosed that this coming year motorists will pay the government a total of \$13,945,000, of which \$5,500,000 will come from motor license fees, \$8,120,000 from the gasoline tax, and \$325,000 under Motor Carrier Act fees.

Even this, he said, does not take care, within \$915,123, of the current costs of highway maintenance, amounting to \$11,090,000, and the debt charges against roads, which are \$1,770,123.

## Wisner Blasts Buck Message On Czech Coup

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—Attorney General Gordon Wisner lashed out sharply at Communist elements in Canada when he addressed the Legislature Tuesday closing the throne speech debate.

He described as an exhibition of effrontery like a slap in the face to Canadians the message sent by Tim Buck, National LLP leader, and Nigel Morgan, provincial leader, to Communist Premier Gottwald of Czechoslovakia congratulating him on his coup.

Both Buck and Morgan were in the house to hear the Attorney General's fighting remarks. They were sitting as spectators in the speakers' gallery.

Mr. Wisner warned that there is a "Trojan horse" in Canada just as there is in the United States, Britain, and there was in the European countries that have been taken into the Soviet orbit.

"It is such a similar pattern as we had during the rise of Nazism," he declared.

He declared on authority of articles by Don Cameron of Windsor, Ontario (published exclusively in The Vancouver Sun), that Canada has one Communist definitely signed up with Russia for every 480 of population, an even greater proportion than in the United States, and more than there were proportionately in Russia at the time of the Red Revolution in 1917.

## Anscomb Tilts at Municipalities

### Denies Gov't Niggardly; Raps Big Civic School Programs

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb flatly denied in the Legislature this afternoon that the government has been niggardly in its financial treatment of the municipalities.

In a special table of figures he showed that in the coming fiscal year of 1948-49, the government's contribution to municipalities will amount to \$17,988,000 by comparison with only \$2,965,449 seven years ago.

In the last two years the government had voted \$1,807,000 extra aid under the Goldenberg scheme and \$2,521,000 under the Cameron school tax plan, he asserted.

In the coming year, the cities will get direct grants alone of \$15,400,000, including \$4,000,000 from the sales tax, \$6,800,000 on current education costs, \$3,000,000 towards school buildings and \$1,600,000 from motor license fees.

They get an additional \$2,588,000 assistance in an indirect way through assumption of a large government share of costs of indigents and other services, policies which were started last year.

The Finance Minister soundly "spanked" school boards for launching into big building programs just because the government has promised to pay half.

The result of this is that the boards now have applications before the government for \$40,000,000 worth of new schools, of which the government would have to pay \$20,000,000.

The formula to be used in distributing the \$4,000,000 revenue from the sales tax will be as follows, Mr. Anscomb said:

The school population will be added to the estimated total population of a district and the percentage of this to the population and school figure for all will be the amount each receives.

## Games Help Cure Mental Patients

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 17.—Amazing results obtained at Essondale Mental Hospital by physical recreation pursuits were described to the social welfare committee of the Legislature this morning by W. R. Brown, director of recreation.

"Since we started this program some patients say they have never been happier in their lives and say they don't ever want to leave the hospital," he said.

Archery has been wonderful in quieting the nerves of patients taking the insulin treatment, he said.

They are extremely nervous and jittery after taking injections, but soon after getting on the archery range they steady right down.

## NO TOKENS FOR NEW TAX; RETAILER SIMPLY TAKES NEXT HIGHEST CENT

## Sales Levy Boosts Cafe Meals, Liquor, Smokes

**By Sun Staff Reporter**  
**VICTORIA, March 17.**—At least British Columbians won't have to worry about carrying a pocket full of tokens around to pay the provincial government's new three-percent sales tax. It was learned from reliable sources today that British Columbia does not intend to follow the Washington State scheme of tokens in collecting the sales tax. The view taken by tax experts is that the tax on meals does not hit the poor man; because people who eat in restaurants can afford to pay. And so on. Every time you buy something in a store you'll be paying something toward the cost of education and social services. And you'll know you're doing it, because you will see the tax added to the normal sale price.

The retailer who sells an article taxed, so that kiddies buying candy bars and pop won't have to pay. The Finance Minister has promised liberal exemptions from the tax on food for human consumption. This exemption will not apply, however, to meals in restaurants, it is understood. There'll be a few cents added to every restaurant check. Nothing under 15 cents will be collected by the tax.

Full details of the new tax will not be disclosed until Finance Minister Anscomb brings down the formal bill setting out the levy, but so far as could be learned unofficially today here is how it will work: The tax will be collected by levying it's much too cumbersome in the view of the tax experts here. Full details of the new tax will not be disclosed until Finance Minister Anscomb brings down the formal bill setting out the levy, but so far as could be learned unofficially today here is how it will work: The tax will be collected by levying it's much too cumbersome in the view of the tax experts here. Full details of the new tax will not be disclosed until Finance Minister Anscomb brings down the formal bill setting out the levy, but so far as could be learned unofficially today here is how it will work: The tax will be collected by levying it's much too cumbersome in the view of the tax experts here.

## SOARING EXPENDITURES SHOWN

## \$31 Million Jump in Costs in Three Years

By Sun Staff Reporter

**VICTORIA, March 17.**—Growth of B.C. government expenditures from \$46 millions in 1946-47 to \$77 millions in 1948-49, as a result of increased costs and services, is shown in the following table:

	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Debt Charges .....	\$ 6,454,000	\$ 5,494,000	\$ 5,739,000
Sinking Funds and Debt Redemption...	3,414,000	5,505,000	5,681,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 9,868,000</b>	<b>\$10,999,000</b>	<b>\$11,420,000</b>
<b>Percent of total expenditures .....</b>	<b>21.31</b>	<b>16.75</b>	<b>14.75</b>
<b>Social Services:</b>			
Public Welfare, including Provincial Institutions, Maintenance to Hospitals, Mothers' Allowances, Old Age Pensions, Public Health, Labor, etc.	\$11,478,000	\$16,452,000	\$20,324,000
Education .....	9,011,000	11,203,000	12,655,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$20,489,000</b>	<b>\$27,655,000</b>	<b>\$32,979,000</b>
<b>Percent of total expenditures .....</b>	<b>44.24</b>	<b>42.11</b>	<b>42.58</b>
<b>Productive Services:</b>			
Agriculture .....	\$ 502,000	\$ 613,000	\$ 705,000
Public Domain: Forests, Mines and Lands, Water Development, etc.	3,360,000	5,293,000	6,411,000
Highways, Bridges, etc. ....	3,295,000	5,548,000	10,267,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 7,157,000</b>	<b>\$15,454,000</b>	<b>\$17,383,000</b>
<b>Percent of total expenditures .....</b>	<b>15.45</b>	<b>23.53</b>	<b>22.44</b>
<b>General Services:</b>			
Administration of Justice .....	\$ 2,127,000	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 3,164,000
Legislation .....	283,000	444,000	257,000
General Government .....	5,113,000	7,026,000	6,622,000
Other expenses, including aids to municipalities under Motor Vehicle Act and Retail Sales Tax Act....	1,278,000	1,796,000	5,625,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 8,801,000</b>	<b>\$11,566,000</b>	<b>\$15,668,000</b>
<b>Percent of total expenditures .....</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>17.61</b>	<b>20.23</b>
<b>Grand Total .....</b>	<b>\$46,315,000</b>	<b>\$65,674,000</b>	<b>\$77,450,000</b>

## Debt Cut Bright Spot in B.C.'s Financial Picture

By Sun Staff Reporter

**VICTORIA, March 17.**—The one bright spot in Finance Minister Anscomb's "inflation budget" to the Legislature today was his announcement that the net debt of the province was reduced by \$10,242,377 between December 31, 1946, and December 31, 1947.

It now stands at \$122,406,186.

Mr. Anscomb boasted to the House how he is now making full payments to the sinking funds and paying off debts as they come due.

He declared "at no time during the past 30 years was the province in as strong a position as today with respect to its public debt."

"It's full carrying charges now require less than 15 percent of our total revenue instead of the 30 percent and more payable a few years ago."

Since November, 1941, he declared, the province's gross debt has increased only \$775,376 (mainly because of heavy borrowings for the self-liquidating power commission) and the net debt has been reduced by \$22,957,301.

The annual interest charges now are \$5,696,676, a reduction of \$1,189,603.

These figures reflected how the wartime boom and contraction of dollar values have enabled the province to cut down on its fixed charges and debt burden.

Because of the higher population, the per capita debt load is reduced to \$116.58 from a high figure of \$177.74 in 1941.

Per capita interest charges are down from \$8.42 to \$5.43.

The finance minister put the damper on people who say the government could easily borrow more money for various services it needs.

He warned that in the next few years it may have to make large capital expenditures and borrow for the purpose.

But, he said: "Some people seem to think that all we have to do is borrow and the Lord will take care of the rest of the problem. I assure you that is not how things work out."







## Gov't Wins Test Over Sales Tax

2 Coalitionists Bolt Ranks, Vote With CCF in Opposing New Levy

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 19. — The provincial government's three percent sales tax plan survived its first test in the Legislature Thursday, but two Coalition members refused to go along with the cabinet in its plan for financing rising education and social service costs.

As forecast in yesterday's Vancouver Sun, Mrs. Tillie J. Rolston, Point Grey, and W. A. C. Bennett, South Okanagan, bolted party ranks when Opposition Leader Harold Winch moved to condemn the government for its sales tax scheme.

By 32-13 the house rejected Mr. Winch's motion after Premier Byron Johnson said he regarded it as a resolution of want of confidence.

The entire CCF group of 10 members voted against the government, supported by Labor member Thomas Uphill of Fernie, and the two Coalitionists.

### TWO MLAs MISSING

Only two members were missing—Dr. George M. Weir, Burrard, and J. L. Webster, Rossland-Trail, who are on the sick list.

In a 35-minute debate on Mr. Winch's motion condemning the tax, six members spoke against the levy.

The vote came after Mr. Winch had opened the budget debate.

The government side made no attempt to answer the opposition critics, relying on the arguments advanced Wednesday by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb that the tax is the "only alternative" to balance the inflation-soared provincial budget.

Mr. Winch declared: "The CCF is unalterably opposed to the sales tax."

### WORKERS HIT

He said it places the main burden of paying government services on the working people because at least one-half of their income is spent on consumer goods which will be taxed, while the rich man does not spend that proportion of his income on taxable goods.

"It will have an inflationary effect on our economy. It is the worst kind of tax, and most unjust," he declared.

The basic principle of any tax should be that it should be just, he contended, and should not hit one group more than another.

"What it amounts to is an upside down income tax based not on ability to pay, but inability of the small man to resist. It is class legislation of the most vicious sort."

He declared the best tax experts hold that a sales tax is "the child of panic and unpreparedness" and insisted it was just another attempt to shift the cost of government from the wealthy to the poor.

### "CHILD OF PANIC"

He told the government to take more revenue from the "productive enterprises of the province" if it needs the money.

W. H. Brett (CCF-Prince Rupert), who seconded his leader's condemnation resolution, read wires from the Retail Merchants' Association protesting the new tax.

As an alternative the Retail Merchants suggest the province wait till the Federal Government reduces its present eight percent sales tax, and then take part of that for provincial purposes.

Premier Johnson rose briefly to state he would regard Mr. Winch's motion as a want of confidence move and that there would be plenty of time later in the session to discuss the sales tax.

### GOVT MLA'S MUZZLED

"I'm certainly disappointed the premier takes that stand," declared Herbert Gargrave (CCF, Mackenzie), "because it doesn't give the government's supporters chance to express their real feeling on the issue."

He called it a "rotten and unjust tax" because it hits the low income families that even the federal government does not charge on the income tax.

"It's just another way of gouging a few cents more out of the workers," he declared. "Certainly a business man's tax."

J. H. Crosby (CCF, Peace River) declared the farmers of his riding are solidly against the new levy because their feed and machinery will cost more. He warned that a lot of people in his district will buy their machinery, cars and other things in Alberta where there is no such tax.

### MAIL ORDER DODGE

What's more, he added, people all over the province will buy on mail order from supply houses in other provinces in order to escape the levy.

Arthur J. Turner (CCF-Vancouver East) said the sales tax proposal showed clearly the government's "bankruptcy of ideas" about getting new revenue. One avenue he suggested was to take over the brewing and distilling business if the government needs money for social services.

## B.C. Urged to Take Over Health Groups

CCF Would Have Gov't Pay Off Claims And Carry On Operations of Societies

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 19.—Harold Winch, CCF opposition leader, opening the budget debate in the Legislature Thursday, urged:

1—The government bring in a bill of rights guaranteeing freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, protection from false arrest and the voting franchise for minorities.

2—The government to take over the health and accident associations that have recently been suspended, pay the overdue claims of members and carry on their schemes.

3—An amendment to the Liquor Act so that members can buy drinks for other persons in private clubs and so that members of veterans' clubs can buy bottled beer to take out.

4—Close scrutiny of the rising administrative costs of the government which, he said, have risen 76 percent since 1945.

### "CRIMINAL ACTION"

On the health and accident suspensions, he said Attorney-General Wismer should consider "criminal action" in some cases.

He declared that from the six associations which have been investigated in the last year there is a total of \$132,000 outstanding in unpaid claims and \$96,442 of threatened loss in prepaid premiums.

This hits 28,904 members of the associations and possibly 90,000 to 100,000 altogether when considering their dependents.

Mr. Winch spent two hours and 15 minutes in launching the budget debate, but spent most of his time on other subjects than the budget.

Outside of the sales tax issue, his main attack on the financial policy of the government was that it should have floated loans for the \$15,000,000 it appropriated from revenue surpluses last year for road purposes.

"I told you that myself yesterday," interjected Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

"Yes, but you're the one who brought the bill in last year," Winch retorted.

"Certainly, and you voted for it along with every other member of the House," said Mr. Anscomb.

### REDS AND CCF

Mr. Winch spent a good deal of time on the so-called Communist tie up with the CCF.

"I want to make this perfectly clear," he said.

"There is no member on the government side or anywhere in this House who dislikes the Communists any more than I do, or objects to totalitarianism any more than I do, or hates their dirty tactics in Canada any more."

"We in Canada intend to solve our own problems in our own way and certainly so far as we are concerned, intend to do it by democratic methods."

He added: "A surrender to totalitarianism, whether from the right or the left, is unthinkable. It would be a denial of the deep-rooted faith of our people in the democratic tradition."

## Gov't Urged to Fight Erosion

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 19. — The Union of B.C. Municipalities made a bid to the Municipal Committee of the Legislature Thursday for provincial assistance in combating erosion along the Fraser River, from the Coast inland to Hope.

The union's secretary, R. R. F. Sewell, and Reeve R. M. Grauer of Richmond, reported land is being washed away with loss of property.

Reeve Grauer said Richmond may have to spend \$24,000 in prevention work this year.

The committee will receive a survey on the contention that the three per cent tax on pole lines is bringing 1 revenue than previous methods of taxation on the lines, although the new percentage tax was a recommendation of the Goldenberg Commission.

The municipalities asked for a public company to carry municipal fire insurance only.

## Gov't Boosts Some Grants

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 19.—The

Provincial Government grant to the Boy Scouts' Association will be raised from \$1000 to \$2500 this year, it was shown in the estimates tabled in the Legislature. The Girl Guides will get a \$750 grant for the first time.

The allotment for the B.C. Branch of Canadian National Institute for the Blind will be raised from \$30,000 to \$33,300. A special grant of \$25,000 for the Institute has also been revoked.

Victorian Order of Nurses will get an increase from \$6000 to \$8000 in their allowance.

Other grants for charitable associations, unchanged, are Canadian Red Cross Society B.C. division, \$1600; Fairbridge Farm School, \$12,500; Junior Red Cross, \$400; Salvation Army Rescue Home, \$2000; Vancouver YWCA, \$800; Victoria YWCA, \$400.



## Making Good Use of Wood Refuse

# OPINION MIXED ON FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICY

By Roy W. Brown

When H. R. MacMillan recently announced he would erect a pulp mill on Vancouver Island, probably at Nanaimo, which would operate on the waste products of his logging and sawmilling activities in adjacent areas, it seemed to me the wisest development possible in the timber industry of this province.

Questions relating to timber have a tendency to become over-complicated, what with official inquiries and investigations by commissions and otherwise, and it is not easy to keep our eye on the main issues.

That, to my way of thinking, is to bring about a system whereby the life of the existing forest will be extended. The secret of accomplishing this is to compel—perhaps induce would be a better word—the timber operators to use up the immensely valuable source of forest refuse as they go along.

The MacMillan announcement was preceded by publication of the proposals of the Canadian Western Lumber Co. to erect a plant at Duncan Bay, near Campbell River. This company intends to go into the newsprint industry as well as the manufacture of wood-pulp. The C.W. Co. would have an output of 225 tons of pulp daily—about the same as MacMillan's—and in addition another 250 tons of newsprint. MacMillan's would operate entirely on waste accumulating from logging operations and sawmills under the same ownership. The C.W. Co. has no Vancouver Island sawmills, but

would rely heavily on waste from Comox Logging Company operations in the adjoining district.

The latter local supply might not be sufficient for a mill with an output up to 500 tons daily, so the Canadian Western applied for second-growth timber on adjacent islands in the Gulf of Georgia to assure themselves of an adequate supply in years to come. The application touched off opposition and the whole system of "management licenses" is now again under review. This is the system recommended by Chief Justice Sloan in his report of a year ago. On it, the legislature based its 1947 enactment.

### Kenney's Views

Hon. E. T. Kenney, forest minister, has a big plan of development predicated on the production of pulp from waste. He feels quite certain there is an opportunity for a big pulp mill at Prince George, another at Arrow Lakes in Kootenay and two or three more on Vancouver Island. There are several sawmills at Prince George but not enough to provide waste sufficient for a pulp plant and the proposal there is to provide under "management license" an alternative or supplementary supply of timber for the pulp operation.

Much of the interior timber is of a low class, stunted in growth as compared with coastal timber where the trees grow six

times as rapidly as they do on the tableland of the Interior. Broadly the pulp-mill proposition is based on the idea of using waste products of present mills, supplemented by sufficient standing timber to ensure a continuous supply. The same viewpoint is held in Ontario where the government has a tentative plan to provide 11 areas where sufficient third-class timber is available to ensure a supply that will induce investment in pulp-making concerns.

### The Other Side

Last Thursday I visited the legislative session at Victoria, listened to H. J. Welch, member for Comox, who is concerned because there have been 100 applications in all for "management licenses" under last year's legislation. He thinks the whole timber economy of B.C. will be overwhelmed if these are granted. It was all a mistake and we had better rectify it, he argued.

Mr. Welch would grant the Canadian Western proposal, because the government is obligated to it, but quite soon after that he would call off the whole plan until a new one could be worked out.

The Minister of Forests has since declared in a broadcast that there are ample supplies left for truck-loggers and other smaller concerns. In any event, he intends to give the "management license" plan a fair trial, before throwing it overboard.

The physical picture in this coastal area is something like this: Including Vancouver Island there is an annual output of logs of three billion feet. It is a recognized fact that for every million feet of timber logged off an area, another 25 percent is lost as refuse or small logs not worth booming. Twenty-five percent of three billion feet would be the equivalent of 750 million feet. To be conservative, let us pull this figure down to 500 million. That alone would be sufficient to turn out several thousand tons a day of pulp and newsprint. There would be lots left over if MacMillan's and Canadian Western and Powell River and Ocean Falls were all running full blast on REFUSE alone.

### Government Policy

It is generally conceded that within 30 years we shall reach the end of that primeval forest, the original five-foot butt trees of the coastal area. We can postpone the threatened end of that original forest only if we make adequate use of the offal from the forest floor and an intelligent use of the areas of second growth available now for products that are different from house flooring and doors and bridge frames. Thus, the policy of the government should be to induce the pulp and newsprint makers to lay off the first-class timber and instead to make good use of what we have been recklessly wasting for many years in these parts.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1948

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## Sales Tax 'Brick Round Gov't Neck'

Bennett Makes Slashing Attack Against Anscomb Budget Measure

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 20.—A slashing attack on British Columbia's proposed three percent sales tax was delivered in the Legislature Friday by W. A. C. Bennett, Conservative, Coalition member for South Okanagan.

He called on the government to take the unprecedented step of withdrawing the budget for reconsideration by experts.

Mr. Bennett was making what is probably his last major speech in the Legislature. He is the Conservative party nominee for the Yale federal by-election, to be held some time this summer. But he showed no mercy in flailing the provincial Conservative chieftain, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, whose budget contained the sales tax plan.

He declared the government does not have to levy a sales tax to balance the budget.

By putting on a capital gains tax, cutting down administrative expenses, and returning to former Premier John Hart's policy of setting aside only essential sinking funds the government could have overcome the gap between expenditure and revenues.

### LITTLE 'HEART' LEFT

"Yes," he said, "this is the budget of a capable accountant, but is a budget of private business and not for the public."

"Nobody needed any business acumen to propose a sales tax like this."

"Yes, since John Hart left the government there's little heart left in it."

At one stage in his speech Mr. Bennett had a personal clash with Mr. Anscomb.

The finance minister was on the point of leaving the House for a moment, and leaned over to whisper briefly to Premier Johnson.

"I wish the finance minister would be quiet," shouted Mr. Bennett. "I didn't interrupt him when he was speaking the other day."

Mr. Anscomb straightened up sharply and shot back: "Why I haven't disturbed you for an hour and half."

### WISMER CLASH

When Mr. Bennett declared the sales tax will drive all business to the mail order houses of the prairies, where there is no tax, and said the whole thing is ill-considered, he ran into an interjection from Attorney-General Wismer.

"Perhaps if you wait until the bill comes down you'll find you are setting up a straw man. Wait till you see the terms of the bill," said Mr. Wismer.

"It may be a straw man," retorted Mr. Bennett. "But don't forget bricks are made with straw and this thing will be a brick around this government's neck."

He said Alberta had once had a sales tax but discarded it. Saskatchewan has now, but all political parties are pledged to get rid of it, leaving only Quebec with the levy.

"Don't tell me British Columbia is going to model its policy on Quebec."

He attacked the payment of \$27,500 in salaries to the new Labor Relations Board as an instance of the steadily expanding administrative costs of the government.

### SCHOOL COSTS HIT

"It'll only be a part-time board, anyway, when the new act gets functioning. But the members get \$5000 each," he charged. Huge outlays for a health insurance commission that never produced anything was another case.

"There certainly isn't the economy in this government that there used to be when the coalition was first formed."

He said people will send to Calgary to buy cars or anything that is expensive to save the tax; and charged that farmers, who are supposed to get some relief in school taxes this year will find themselves paying the government more through the sales levy.

"This is certainly a classic case of people asking for bread and getting a stone," he said.

Elsewhere in his address Mr. Bennett sharply criticized the government's handling of the education cost problem in both rural and urban districts.

He warned the government not to be too proud of its recent by-election victories. It should realize that the chief reason for the return of Coalitionists is because of a countrywide swing against the leftism of the CCF.

"I'm not saying the CCF can defeat this government. I say they never can, but sometimes the people defeat a government if they are fed up."

## Hydro Power Urged For Cannery Towns

Alberni MLA Says Cheaper Power Needed in West Coast Plants

VICTORIA, March 20.—Hydro-power development by the B. C. Power Commission for such West Coast Vancouver Island points as Zeballos, Tofino, Ucluelet and Bamfield was urged in the Legislature Friday by James Mowat, (CLN), Alberni.

Mr. Mowat said fish processing plants along the coast need cheaper power, particularly since they are installing a new type of "ribbon" ice-making machines which need low-cost electric current.

Speaking in the budget debate, Mr. Mowat voiced high praise for what the power commission has done for the Albernis, the first area linked to the big Campbell River hydro, and for the new \$7,000,000 pulp mill it made possible.

### ROAD "IMPASSABLE"

The Alberni member urged that contractors building the highway at Cameron Lake be speeded up because they are not keeping the road passable at present.

For several weeks traffic has been dragged through the new section by bulldozers.

He urged construction of a Sproat Lake to Tofino road, stressing particularly what a great tourist attraction the famous Long Beach would be, if people could get to it by road.

### HIGHWAY "TERMINUS"

"Tofino residents still have a sign posted which says 'western end of the Trans-Canada Highway,' and they'll keep it there to remind the governments that the job is not yet completed," he said.

He advocated a cost of living bonus for mothers' pensioners and increase in old-age pensions to \$50 a month, at 60 for women, and 65 for men.

Mr. Mowat announced that formation of the larger school district in the Alberni area has been benefited the community. He paid tribute to the work of the school board coping with a problem of greatly increased school attendance and lack of classroom space.

## End Death Penalty, Winch Motion Asks

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 20.—British Columbia's Legislature will be asked to pass a motion urging the abolition of capital punishment. Notice of the resolution was given today by E. E. Winch (CCF, Burnaby).

## 10-Cent Tax on Coal, Coke Dropped

After 48 Years Gov't Finds Out Levy on Tonnage Output Illegal

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 20.—A 48-year-old tax of 10 cents per ton on all coal and coke produced in British Columbia is to be dropped. After all these years it has been found to be against the legal powers of the province.

Elimination of the tax was disclosed in estimates filed in the Legislature which cuts out an item of \$120,000 normally collected on coal and coke production.

It is expected the government will try to find some other way of collecting money from the coal companies to make up for the levy, but as yet there has been no announcement from the government.

A recent court ruling in Alberta that provinces have no power to collect an output tax resulted in the government decision to drop the old levy.

The original coal and coke tax went into effect in 1900 and was then five cents a ton. In 1908 it was jumped to 10 cents a ton and has remained at that figure ever since. So, whenever a household bought a ton of coal or coke, 10 cents went into the provincial coffers.



## Trying the Same Trick Twice

The Legislature is once again being importuned by the Retail Merchants' Association to interfere in the field of instalment buying. Last year the association failed to get legislative endorsement of its campaign to give the government power to assume the wartime credit controls abandoned by the federal authorities. Now it wants the government to prohibit the advertising by merchants of credit terms. If the cat can't be skinned by one method, the RMA is willing to try another.

The government and Legislature should rebuff this new attempt at regulating free enterprise in merchandising as it did the first attempt. It is, in the last analysis, an attempt to secure class legislation.

The small consumer, whose income does not permit him to lay out large amounts of cash is the man who has the best right to be heard in this matter. If he can't use his credit he is likely to do without and that does good neither to himself, the merchant who has to sell the goods or the man who makes them. The wartime restrictions on credit—one-third down and six months to pay, on most items—were for the definite purpose of curbing purchasing power and conserving scarce commodities. Merchants and consumers alike reject those methods in peacetime when the economy, rather than contracting, is actually expanding.

It is peculiar indeed, in this country of

free enterprise, to find a group of merchants seeking to curb enterprise.

In effect, this is what the new proposal to curb advertising of credit terms would do. The small consumer can, of course, shop around until he finds a merchant whose credit terms suit his circumstances, whether these be a dollar down and a dollar a week, or one-third down and the balance in three months. But it is a convenience to the customer to know instantly by glancing at an advertisement—either in a newspaper or in a shop window—where he can get just the deal he wants.

If a particular merchant is enterprising enough to advertise this information he should not be denied the right. Those who would deny it to him are those who would, if they could, deny both to him and to the buying public, the privilege of easy credit terms upon which merchandising has been expanding continuously in North America for many, many years. It is just a case of trying to sneak in through the back door the restrictions they failed to get in through the front door.

If it is lawful for a merchant to offer certain credit terms to customers once they get inside his store, it would be stupid to make it unlawful for him to tell them about it in a newspaper ad.

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1948

## Vote for Minorities Debated in Victoria

### Special Committee on Elections Gets 50 Amendments to Act

VICTORIA, March 22.—The contentious question of voting rights for Mennonites, Japanese and other minorities in British Columbia is slated to come up before a special committee of the Legislature on the Elections Act, which opened sessions here this morning.

Fifty specific amendments to the act, drafted by a special committee of departmental elections experts, were submitted as the hearing opened.

These, it was explained by George M. Phillips, registrar-general of voters, are mainly to smooth out the mechanical operations of the new act passed last session. Most of them are of a minor nature and are proposed as a result of experiences in Saanich and Cariboo by-elections in February, the first in which the new act operated.

Mr. Phillips said the issue of votes for Mennonites was not covered by the committee's report, but was left open for the house members. It will be dealt with later.

A pledge that votes for Mennonites will be considered this session was given by the government several months ago following discovery that hundreds of them in the Fraser Valley, who had voted at previous elections, were disfranchised by the new act.

Harold Winch, CCF leader, told The Sun he intends to raise the entire issue of votes for minorities, including Japanese, who are Canadian citizens.

The only groups now specifically barred, on racial or religious grounds, are the Japanese, Doukhobors, Mennonites and Hutterites, except where they have served in the armed forces.

## GARGRAVE TALKS TOUGH TO INDOLENT VOTERS

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 22.—How far should officialdom go in making sure that everybody entitled to vote is properly registered to cast a ballot?

Some philosophic thoughts on this knotty question were expressed in special elections committee of the Legislature today.

Herbert Gargrave (CCF, Mackenzie), said: "A person has four years between elections to get on the voters' list. If he can't take the trouble to do so, he darn well isn't entitled to have a franchise."

C. W. Morrow (Cln., South Okanagan), who proposed that voters be entitled to take an affidavit on election day, said: "Human nature being what it is, most people don't think about elections between times, but only on polling day. We should make it as easy as possible for them."

## Sales Tax Act May Strike at Mail Ordering

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 22.—There was a lull on the "sales tax front" at the Legislative Buildings this morning but the battle will continue as the budget debate resumes in the House this afternoon.

After the sharp attack delivered Friday by W. A. C. Bennett, South Okanagan, against the government's budget balancing proposals, the MLAs are anxious to find out just what is going to be exempt from the three percent tax.

This will be disclosed when the text of the sales tax bill is introduced by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, which may not be for two or three days yet.

One of the big objections raised by Mr. Bennett was that the tax will drive business to the "mail order houses" of the Prairies, and that people will send to Alberta for all their large purchases.

However, it is expected the government will put in the bill a similar clause to that contained in the Quebec Sales Tax Act which requires that a person purchasing goods from outside the province must report the purchase to the tax comptroller and pay the levy on the purchase price.

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MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1948

## What Will Be Exempt?

The government will have to be careful about applying its sales tax against the agricultural industry in this province. Average costs of purchased feed to the livestock man will advance about \$2 per ton if a three percent tax is imposed. Nearly a million dollars will be taken out of the cattle and poultry industries, unless they are exempted from the levy.

Several incidental problems arise. It is not against the general law of Canada, of course, for purchases made in one province to be used in another. In the case of cattle and poultry feeds there would seem to be no way of preventing British Columbia users from clubbing together and buying grain in Alberta in carload lots and shipping it into B.C. consigned directly to themselves.

Then there are the cases of some dairymen with large land holdings who produce their own grain. They would be placed in a better competitive position against the

farmer who buys his grain, unless the grower-farmer were required to "sell" the feed to himself so that the government might collect the sales tax.

It should be remembered, too, that the Dominion now pays a freight subsidy on feed imported into this province. A tax of about \$2 a ton would cancel out part of the subsidy which Ottawa intended as an encouragement for a hard-pressed industry. In the case of feed for dairy cattle, the tax might be the breaking point that would force a boost in the price of milk to the consumer.

The question for Premier Johnson and Finance Minister Anscomb to decide is whether exemptions should not be made in favor of farmers when the new tax schedules are worked out. The government has said that it does not propose to put a sales tax on foods, but any sales taxes paid by producers would probably be passed on to consumers in the long run.

## Deeper Gouge for Drinkers

There is going to be a sales tax on water in this province—that is to say, on the water which the Liquor Control Board sells as whisky. Sixty percent of the contents of every bottle is water but Finance Minister Anscomb is completely without shame. He's going to charge 3 percent more for the stuff.

Not content with a profit of about \$17 millions in the fiscal year 1948-49, he's reaching out for another \$1.7 millions. It should be pointed out here that the profit itself is really a tax. It isn't the risk-taking reward of a competitive enterprise, but a levy exacted by a government monopoly. No matter what you call it—profit or tax—it is simply revenue for the public treasury.

And it runs at the net rate of 30 percent on every dollar taken in by the Liquor Board. If any respectable merchandiser

tried to get away with such a cut, the anti-profiteering politicians would have him ticketed for a jail sentence.

But just because it's a government agency, and because drinkers are supposed to be under such a conviction of sin that they won't make a noise, the Liquor Board thinks it can get away with any kind of shake-down.

People who don't drink might consider the figures before they protest too loudly about a 3 percent sales tax. Contrast the \$12 millions which the government expects to raise by a sales tax on everybody with the \$18 millions which it plans to extract from the Liquor Board's customers. Surely, if anyone has grounds for protest, it would be the latter. Without the liquor levy, the sales tax would have to be about 8 percent.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948

## \$12,500,000 Loan Bill

VICTORIA, March 23.—Loan bills giving the provincial government an extra \$12,500,000 in borrowing power were among eight items of government legislation introduced in the Legislature Monday.

Put forward by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb they authorize:

- 1—Borrowing of another \$5,000,000 for capital works on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.
- 2—Borrowing of \$4,000,000 for road projects and \$1,000,000 for buying heavy road construction and maintenance machinery.
- 3—Borrowing of \$2,500,000 to set up the new forest development fund out of which logging operators will be financed, on a revolving basis, in the building of roads into their logging limits.

A minor amendment to the Coal Act enables the government to charge a higher royalty than 25 cents a ton on coal from new mines that are brought into operation if the government itself has done some of the prospecting and development work.

## Cheap Power In B.C. Urged

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 23.—A speed-up in B.C.'s rural electrification program was called for in the Legislature Monday by Randolph Harding (CCF, Kaslo-Slocan).

"We pay too much and use too little in B.C.," the member said.

He said average consumption for domestic purposes in B.C. is less than half that of similar size communities in Ontario, and the unit cost about twice as high. Just over 35 per cent of B.C. farmers have electricity for lighting.

Mr. Harding proposed a power commission policy of low-interest, long-term financing to assist farmers with installation of electrical fixtures once the power lines arrived in their districts.

## 3 Views Aired On Sales Tax

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 23.—The legislature heard three points of view on the proposed new three percent retail sales tax during the budget debate Monday, one for, one against and one lukewarm.

Said Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald: "All public services have and are mounting beyond reason. Extra taxation is not very palatable or welcome at any time, but if people demand these services they must pay for them."

Randolph Harding, CCF, Kaslo-Slocan: "It will work a hardship on the working class people of the province and upon those who are less able to afford it."

Thomas King, Cdn., Columbia: "I don't want to be too severe about it until I'm sure we are not able to get the money elsewhere."

## HOUSE NEWS

### CCF Birthday And Wedding Felicitated

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 23.—The Legislature was informed very officially Monday that Ernest E. Winch CCF, Burnaby, had reached his sixty-ninth birthday and that the "baby of the party," J. H. Corsbie of Peace River, intends shortly to marry Miss Margaret Carr of Victoria.

Party Leader Harold Winch drew these happenings to the attention of the MLA's, asking them all to wish happy returns to the senior Winch, "who I've known for very many years."

Premier Byron Johnson joined in the felicitations, and Mr. Winch senior, with a wistful air, said perhaps "I was born 30 years too soon," but "I hope all the young men here now and in future feel as young as I do at 69."

"Think that over, Harold," he said, beaming on Winch Junior.

Everyone joined in congratulations to the new bridegroom-to-be, who, it is said, will walk to the altar before the session finishes.

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## 'Tax Grants' for Gov't Buildings

Revenue for Cities From Liquor Stores, 'Commercial' Premises

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 23.—The B.C. government this year will give municipalities a grant in lieu of taxes "for government-owned buildings used for commercial purposes" within the organized areas.

Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald announced this in the Legislature, Monday, in course of a budget debate address in which he asserted the government has repeatedly helped municipalities and that they are not nearly so badly off as the public may think.

The plan to give them grants for government buildings follows a recommendation of Commissioner H. Carl Goldenberg. Mr. MacDonald explained after his address that it will apply mainly to liquor stores and warehouses within municipal districts since these are about the only structures the government owns and used for commercial purposes.

(Vancouver, with seven liquor stores and a big liquor warehouse, will benefit substantially.)

### UBCM RAFFED

Mr. MacDonald criticized the Union of B.C. Municipalities for attacking the government's aid program this year before they even knew the details.

"I want to tell you," he said, "they are going to receive a pleasant surprise."

He declared Ald. George Miller of Vancouver said he would be satisfied if the government paid 50 per cent of education costs there. Other UBCM leaders said they would accept a 60-40 basis.

"We figured this out, and it would have cost the government about \$1,500,000," the minister said. "Instead of that, the municipalities will receive at least \$4,000,000."

He rectified how the government had boosted its contribution from motor license revenue from \$570,000 yearly to more than \$1,200,000; how the municipalities got \$4,328,000 benefit by the Cameron and Goldenberg reports; and that this year they will get a total of \$17,988,000 assistance, as compared to \$11,267,000 last year.

### IMPROVE POSITIONS

Mr. MacDonald conceded that municipal councils manage their affairs will and added that rather than going behind they are actually improving their financial positions. Only two out of the 96 are now short in their sinking fund. Vancouver, the big one, has reduced its shortage from \$15½ millions between 1940 and 1946.

Out of six that went into commission in depression days, only two, North Vancouver District and Merritt, are still in that state, he said. Merritt, he added, could go back to responsible government any day and North Vancouver District has made a remarkable recovery, recently refunding its debt at a saving of \$1.5 million in back interest.

Noting that municipal bylaws in the last year call for some \$3,000,000 expenditure on capital works, Mr. MacDonald advised them to go easy and assume only

what is absolutely essential while building costs are so high.

### SCHOOL BOARD CURBS

He also disclosed that "curbing of school board authority is now under consideration, because it is a bad policy to have one elected body spending money without having any authority for raising it in taxation.

Turning to the mines department, which he also administers, Mr. MacDonald said that even with reduced price of metal, which is expected, the prospects for the industry in 1948 are bright and encouraging.

He said there will be an increase in government assistance for building mining trails and roads this coming year, and the grubstaking program for prospectors will continue.

## MLA Urges Butter Better Than Ducks

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 23.—People down in the Interior of B.C. would sooner have butter than ducks.

That is the way Thomas King (Cin., Columbia) summed up his attitude to the Duck Lake reclamation project—subject of heated controversy among sportsmen—when he spoke in the Legislature Monday.

He estimated the land to be reclaimed at Duck Lake will produce enough hay and alfalfa that, when fed to cows, will produce 27 million pounds of butter a year.

As for the ducks whose breeding ground will be dried up, they can come up the Columbia River and nestle around his part of the country, King said.

He also called for a bigger license fee for beer parlor operators, because the sale value of their rights has increased enormously.

## B.C. Won't Have Eleven Ministers

'Extra' Salary Included in Budget Through Clerical Error

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 23.—Premier Byron Johnson said today the government has no intention of increasing size of the provincial cabinet to eleven ministers.

Mr. Johnson made this denial in connection with Monday's flurry in the Legislature when Herbert Gargrave (CCF, MacKenzie) challenged the budget as unconstitutional because the estimates provide for payment of salaries to 11 ministers.

The premier probably will indicate to the House this afternoon that he does not propose to have an 11th cabinet minister.

It appears that the "extra salary" for a cabinet minister crept into the estimates through a clerical error.

### HOW IT CAME ABOUT

The way it reads in the officially printed estimates \$7500 is provided for payment of Hon. Gordon Wismer as Attorney-General and another \$7500 as Minister of Labor.

The shift over in the Labor portfolio from Hon. George S. Pearson to Mr. Wismer last fall is the cause of all the trouble, it is understood.

Mr. Pearson drew his salary as Labor Minister, although holding two other portfolios as well.

When the new estimates for this year were prepared the Labor Minister's salary vote was carried forward as usual. It should have been deleted, and as provincial secretary, not holding the Labor job any more, Mr. Pearson is also allowed his salary.

The Constitutional Act provides that only 10 ministers of the Crown may be paid, no matter how many portfolios they hold.

### DOESN'T MATTER

Meanwhile constitutional experts here are wrangling whether the inclusion of an "unconstitutional salary" in the estimates throws the whole budget out of line or not.

Ex-Premier John Hart gave his opinion in the House.

He said that since the payments from the estimates do not go into effect until April 1 it doesn't matter any way, because the surplus salary item can be deleted while the House is considering estimates.

## Go Over

C. G.

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## Gov't Challenged Over Sales Tax

CCF Dares Coalition to Call General Election on New Levy

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24.—The CCF Party, through Herbert Gargrave, Mackenzie, chief whip, challenged the B.C. Coalition government Tuesday to call a general election over the levy of the proposed three percent sales tax.

Speaking in the budget debate, Mr. Gargrave charged the new provincial budget is "staggering and wasteful" and the new tax so iniquitous that the public should decide whether it goes into effect.

He declared the government had declined to sound out the public on the sales tax idea during the Cariboo and Saanich by-elections and stated:

"I challenge you to go to the people now on this budget and the imposition of a sales tax."

(There was no response from the treasury benches).

Mr. Gargrave charged the government has let expenditure go "hog wild" and he detailed department after department to show how spending has increased during the last few years.

### 'SOAK THE POOR'

He described it as a "soak the poor" budget, and called it "blind budgetting in the name of business."

"These businessmen go fast and loose with the public money when they get in power—not the way they deal with their own business," he said.

"Now we're asked to vote for a sales tax which hits the pensioners and the poor so that they can carry on with this wasteful expenditure."

Mr. Gargrave went through the estimates one by one and declared the whole budget showed lack of supervision.

"The departments have been allowed to spend as high as they want because you're going to gouge the people for an extra \$12,000,000," he said.

Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson called Mr. Gargrave to time at one point for discussing detailed estimates during the main debate—strictly out of order.

"So is the three percent sales tax out of order," retorted Mr. Gargrave.

He declared the finance minister boasted of being a sound money man, but added, "It's not hard to be a sound money man when you soak the working man for another \$12,000,000."

He said the blunder the government made in offering estimates for 11 cabinet ministers' salaries instead of the legal 10 was a clear indication of the little care and attention given to preparing the budget.

### NOT EARMARKED

The government, he argued, has suggested the new sales tax is for social service purposes, but "that's a lot of nonsense because so long as money from it goes into the general revenue and is not earmarked specifically, it can be used for anything."

As he got to the attorney-general's estimates, Hon. Gordon Wismer challenged him.

"Are you prepared to say the figures are wrong?" he asked.

"No, but you've gone hog wild on expenditure," retorted Mr. Gargrave.

"You're talking through your hat," said Mr. Wismer.

"Maybe I am, but I'll sure want lots of explanation when we get into estimates."

Mr. Gargrave submitted a five-point plan to balance the budget without imposing the sales tax:

- (1) Ruthless examination of expenditures.
- (2) Impose a capital gains or unearned increment tax.
- (3) A graduated forest and minerals tax so that more money can be secured from the large corporations making huge profits out of natural resources.
- (4) More government monopolies over revenue-producing industries such as is now being done with the liquor business.
- (5) By passing up commitments of \$2,800,000 to the sinking funds.

## Police Appeal Issue Still Unsettled

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24.—Right of appeal by Vancouver policemen against summary dismissal by the police commission was discussed before Private Bills committee of the Legislature today.

All parties seemed agreed that an appeal should be allowed, but undecided was the issue as to which body the officers should take their case.

The city is seeking a charter amendment to allow appeals to the attorney-general.

Fred Doherty, president of Vancouver police union, suggested the city council sit as an appeal board. He said he understands Attorney-General Wismer prefers this plan because he himself recommends appointment of two members of the police commission.

D. E. McTaggart, K.C., corporation counsel, argued that this would be "turning back the clock 30 years" to the days when the police force was a big political issue in City Council. He noted that as the mayor is chairman of the Police Commission he would be sitting as judge on appeals from his own rulings, if the appeal is put to council.

A. R. MacDougall (Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey) suggested the best course is to put the appeals before a Supreme Court judge.

It was suggested Mr. Doherty might discuss with his union the appeal to a Supreme Court judge and see the committee again next week.

## 2-Cent Tax Boost May Ensure Racing

Levy on Bets Would Be Raised to 9 Percent With Club Getting Two

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24.—If British Columbia's race track punters want to have horse racing this summer they'll probably have to stand for an extra two cents on the dollar deduction from their bets.

This, it was learned from reliable sources, is the position today as the government ponders what to do to meet the complaints of B.C. Turf and Country Club that it cannot operate under the existing financial set-up. The Club has lost \$14,000 in the last two years.

### MLA'S SEE CABINET

The proposal was put before the provincial Cabinet Tuesday by a group of eight Vancouver and Lower Mainland MLA's, following conferences with race track operators.

The cabinet has reserved its decision until Friday.

Here is the proposal now before the government:

The provincial government's seven percent pari-mutuel tax would be raised to nine percent.

Two percent of this would be given to the race track operators as a commission fee for collecting the other seven percent.

The operators are now allowed a seven percent "take" from pari-mutuels, so that the arrangement in effect gives them the equivalent of nine percent. The government's revenue would remain the same.

### FOR ONLY ONE YEAR

The plan would operate for one year only.

In the meantime efforts will be made to have the federal government either include the allowable "take" for the tracks or reduce its five percent tax on mutuels to leave the field clear for a larger cut provincially.

It would mean that the total "cut" from each dollar bet would be 21 cents instead of 19 cents at present.

Out of this the track operators would get the equal of 9 cents, the provincial government 7 cents and the Dominion 5 cents.

### AS SPECIAL GRANT

The extra "cut" proposal was reached after discussions that have been going on here and in Vancouver for nearly two weeks to find a way out that the tracks can operate.

Both B.C. Turf and the Ascot Jockey Club which operates Hastings would get the extra take.

The reason why the scheme involves raising the provincial pari-mutuel tax is that the province has no power by itself to raise the "take" allowed to track operators.

This is fixed by the criminal code.

However the province has the power to make a special grant in the interests of horse racing, and this is what it would amount to.

The MLA's who have put up the plan point out that while it

does increase a provincial tax it is not the same as an ordinary tax increase since it affects only those who want to make wagers, and would be imposed for the sake of keeping the sport going.

There is no law that makes a person wager on horses if they don't want to.

Horse breeders have put up the argument that if the tracks do not operate a large and growing industry will be lost to the province.

And if they do not get some decision soon they are going to start shipping their horses to outside tracks.

Another factor for the higher take per dollar is that at the B.C. tracks, based on experiences all over North America, there probably will be a reduction in betting this year and the tracks are certain to face a loss on the present percentage.

Reduction of purses will not meet the situation because horsemen can go to the prairies or across the line and compete for higher prizes if they are cut here.

## \$1,642,000 to Vancouver as Sales Tax Cut

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24.—Approximate division of the revenues from the new retail tax among municipalities was disclosed here today.

Vancouver City will get about \$1,642,000 if total revenue from one percent of the three percent tax reaches \$4,000,000. If it produces more, the city will get more.

Percentages going to the municipalities were disclosed in a letter sent out by R. R. F. Sewell, UBCM secretary, after conversations with the government.

They are based on school population.

With an estimated \$4,000,000 to divide, the following are proportions which will be received by areas in the lower mainland and island region:

Vancouver, 41.05 percent; New Westminster, 4.02 percent; Nanaimo, 3.94 percent; Victoria, 6.6 percent; Burnaby, 4.9 percent; Delta, 6 percent; Langley, 1.3 percent; Richmond, 2.3 percent; Surrey, 3.4 percent; West Vancouver, 1.3 percent; North Vancouver, 1.6 percent; North Vancouver District, 1.02 percent.



## Extension of PGE 'Must' for Cariboo

### Newest MLA Tells Legislature Electric Power for Farmers Needed Too

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24.—Making his maiden speech in the Legislature Tuesday, Walter Hogg, Coalition MLA for Cariboo, who was elected February 23, declared that extension of Pacific Great Eastern Railway into the Peace River is a "must" for the Cariboo district.

The large sawmill industry built up in the region during the war—there are 60 mills within 20 miles of Quesnel—needs a rail outlet to the Prairie market, and can only compete by a link to Prince George, he said.

Farmers and cattlemen must have cheaper feed and cannot get it when paying freight from Vancouver, he argued.

"The old slogan 'go West young man' no longer holds good. Today we must turn our attention to the northern and central portion of the province where there is the great undeveloped empire on this continent," he said.

Along with the railway, he urged, must go electric power development, not only for industry but for farm amenities to solve the problem of keeping young boys and girls on the farms.

Mr. Hogg called for all out war on coyotes, wolf, bear and cougar to stop their depredations on game and domestic live stock.

He suggested the coyote bounty be raised to \$5.

As an illustration of the damage they do the sheep population of B.C. has dropped from 212,000 to 105,000 in a few years, he said.

He recommended poisoning as the best method to kill wolves, proposing a bounty of \$40 a head and supplies of poison to farmers who lay the bait.

The Cariboo member called for improvement of the side roads in his district and concluded with a plea to the government to settle the vexed school land tax question.

To achieve control over school costs the commission suggests that all school district budgets be approved by the education department before they become effective; that there be more supervision over the budgeting and accounting methods of the boards.

On the matter of an assessment commission the report lays down a five-point formula on which assessors can be instructed in assessing and adjusting the value of properties so that the tax burden can be equalized.

#### TWO MAIN FAILURES

The report concedes that the Cameron school cost scheme has not worked out on two main points:

Mill rates in all school districts have risen considerably beyond the level originally contemplated. Variation in mill rates as between school districts has been considerably greater than was contemplated.

For this reason, it says, the new system of grants is proposed, divided into five different sections:

1—Grant per pupil should be raised by \$2 and the minimum per classroom set at \$500 instead of \$250, at a total cost to the government of \$337,000.

2—Replacement of present administration grant of \$142 a pupil by a new grant of \$550 per school, at a cost to the treasury of \$368,000 a year.

3—Increase of the basic grant for school teachers' salaries by \$992,000.

4—New grant for dormitories for junior and senior high schools, with a \$10 per month grant for each pupil who must board out.

5—Increase from 60 percent to 70 percent in the government's share of school transportation costs.

## Nationality Listing Cut From Acts

VICTORIA, March 24.—(CP)—Amending legislation introduced in the House Tuesday by Labor Minister Gordon Wismer removes from employers responsibility for listing their employees by nationality in registers required by the Male and Female Minimum Wage Acts.

The act as it now stands says the register must show names, nationalities, ages and residential addresses. Under Mr. Wismer's amendment, "occupations" will be substituted for "nationalities."

The minister also introduced an amendment to the semi-monthly Payment of Wages Act to make it applicable to piece-work.

Amendments to the Game Act will include all types of game, instead of specified kinds, in prohibition of pit-lamping and hunting after dark.

## Park Board Fees Opposed

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24.—A bid to pay members of the Park Board an expense allowance was made by Vancouver's Corporation Counsel, D. E. McTaggart, before the private bills committee of the Legislature.

Mr. McTaggart asked for a charter change providing an expense payment of \$500 to the chairman and \$300 to members. He explained it was to cover out-of-pocket expenses in attending meetings and other duties.

The move was opposed by A. H. Cater on behalf of the Board of Trade. He said it was a dangerous precedent to pay expense allowance and other boards would seek similar consideration. Mr. Cater said out-of-pocket expenses could be met through submission of expense vouchers in routine way. No decision was made.

## Business Tax Draws No Fire

### But Lifting of Trade License Ceiling Scored

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24.—Vancouver's formula for imposing the new business tax raised no objection when hearings were held before Private Bills committee of Legislature today.

But there was stiff opposition from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to the lifting of ceilings on trades licenses, as proposed by the city.

D. E. McTaggart, KC, corporation counsel, with Acting Mayor George Miller and Ald. J. D. Cornett, submitted the city's case for charter amendments.

These give council authority to exempt some people from the business tax if they can be required to pay more in trades licenses; to give abatements for one tax against the other; and a definition of what constitutes a fair rental value for assessing the business tax.

A. H. Cater, appearing for the Board of Trade, said his group have no objections.

#### TO ASK CHANGE

A. H. Robertson, B.C. Electric counsel, asked the committee for a hearing next Wednesday on an amendment to be proposed by the company, but he did not give details.

Main battle developed on the city's plan to lift a ceiling of \$500 on trades licenses of manufacturers as well as a \$2 per employee limit.

T. G. Norris, KC, for the CMA, argued the whole principal of the ceilings had been to encourage location of industries in Vancouver so that they would be assured of some stability.

He said lifting of the ceilings amounts to giving the city "a blank cheque" on license rates.

#### SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. McTaggart contended the ceilings give the CMA a special privilege which he did not think justified.

"This thing is tied up directly with the business tax. Why not let it stand over for a year and see how the business tax works out?" he said.

Ald. Miller contended the manufacturers get a preferred rating now.

"Yes," said Mr. Norris, "because the city has always thought it desirable to attract industry."

The committee reserved its decision.

During the hearing, Ald. Miller estimated the city will collect about \$2,200,000 from the business tax, or \$1,200,000 more than it now collects from trade licenses.

## Plan to Fight Arthritis Gets MLA's Praise

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24.—Canada's new program to combat arthritis and rheumatism drew praise in the Legislature, Tuesday, from Dr. Frank W. Green, Cln., Cranbrook.

Dr. Green who, since 1941, has made an annual plea for government aid to deal with arthritis, welcomed the setting up of the new Canadian Rheumatism and Arthritis Society, which is supported by government funds to conduct research and public education on the ailments.

A \$25,000 vote toward arthritis control is contained in the provincial budget this year.

Dr. Green said it is a good start but more must be done.

## Ballots Made More Secret

VICTORIA, March 24.—To guard the secrecy of the ballot in provincial elections, the special elections committee of the Legislature decided yesterday to recommend a slight change in the form of ballot.

It is only a little thing, but Harold Winch, CCF Opposition Leader, said the ballots used in the recent Saanich by-election were so formed that it was possible for a poll clerk to get a glance at whether a person voted for the government candidate or not.

The committee decided to put a black margin at the top of the ballot paper.

## Delinquency in 'Better' Areas

VICTORIA, March 24.—(CP)—Mrs. Tilly Rolston, chairman, told the legislative social welfare and education committee today that her experiences on the Vancouver Park Board had shown that juvenile delinquency rate was highest in areas where well-to-do persons live.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Coalition-Victoria) said she had noticed the same thing when she had attended the juvenile court in Vancouver.

The remarks were made during a description to the committee by Hugh McMillan, president of Boys' Clubs in Vancouver, of the work of that movement.

## Wives Get Gov't Help

VICTORIA, March 24.—(CP)—Good news for deserted wives in British Columbia was contained in an amendment to the Deserted Wives Maintenance Act introduced in the Legislature Tuesday by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

Taking into account the rising cost of living, it empowers magistrates to order payment of maintenance not exceeding \$30 a week, where desertion is proved.

Present maximum under the act is \$20.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1948

## Fight s Gets Praise

Staff Reporter  
March 24. — Can-  
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# Taking Our Medicine

Opposition members of the B.C. Legis-  
lature—and even a couple of Coalitionists—  
are sputtering over the sales tax medicine  
mixed by Finance Minister Anscomb. They  
don't like the taste of it, and they're sure  
no one else will. In that, they are quite right.  
Nobody does.

But the economy of the province is sick.  
The medicine will cure it. Mr. Anscomb has  
vainly challenged his critics to prescribe  
an alternative. All he gets from the CCF  
is the windy quackery about taxing the big  
corporations, which he has no power to do  
and which the CCF knows he can't do.  
Power to tax corporations was rented to the  
Dominion Government under the 1947 tax-  
ation deal.

The trouble is that the rent wasn't set  
high enough. It won't cover rising social  
service expenses and inflated prices of every-  
thing that Victoria buys. Ottawa was pro-  
tected because it takes an income tax off

the top of all inflated profits and inflated  
wages and a sales tax off the top of inflated  
prices.

Ottawa is taking \$140 millions a year  
out of British Columbia in income and cor-  
poration taxes, plus about \$40 millions in  
sales taxes. B.C. gets back only \$23 mil-  
lions as its share. This might have been  
adequate if the recession, freely predicted  
to follow the war, had actually taken place.

It didn't. Now the province is driven to  
other sources of revenue. A provincial sales  
tax appears to be the only available method,  
unless and until a new deal can be obtained  
at Ottawa.

That is the big reason why the Provincial  
Government is demanding the fulfilment of  
the Green Book offers of federal help in  
social welfare costs. There is more real hope  
of getting that than there is of amending  
the tax bargain, which still has four years  
to run.

## MACLEAN REPORT PROPOSAL

# Gov't Control Over School Board Expenditures Urged

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24. — Education Minister W. T.  
Straith tabled in the Legislature Tuesday the report of the  
Maclean commission on education finance.

It made three main recom-  
mendations:

- 1—That government grants to  
help schools should be in-  
creased by some \$1,799,000.
- 2—That the government directly  
should exercise more control  
over school board expenditures.
- 3—That a commission be set up  
to equalize land assessments  
throughout the province to make  
the school tax burden apply  
more evenly.

The report, compiled by a com-  
mission headed by H. Alan Mac-  
lean, deputy attorney general,  
was the result of many weeks  
of inquiry following protests  
that the Cameron school tax plan  
has not worked out.

It was received by the govern-  
ment nearly two months ago. It  
is understood to be a partial  
basis for education assistance  
granted in the new budget. This  
included \$1,100,000 extra grants  
to rural school districts and the  
proposal that organized munici-  
palities get one-third of the new  
sales tax revenue.

A revolutionary proposal of  
the commission is government  
control over local school spend-  
ing.

(For School Boards' reaction  
see page 17.)

The report says: "It is recom-  
mended that a greater degree of  
control be exercised over school  
budgets and expenditures.

"It has been suggested that in  
some instances school boards  
have drawn up budgets which  
are beyond the means of the tax-  
payers of the district, and which,  
or more mature consideration,  
should have been rejected."

"Further, it has been noted  
that some school boards have ex-  
ceeded their budgetary expendi-  
tures, thereby levying an impost  
on the district which was not  
previously passed by the approv-  
ing authorities."

## MLA Urges Gov't to End Racing Tieup

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24. — The  
question of whether British Co-  
lumbia is to have horse racing  
this year reached the floor of the  
Legislature Tuesday.

It was raised by Dr. Frank  
Green (CLN, Cranbrook).

"Do not kill the goose that lays  
the golden e--s," Dr. Green said  
in appealing for some govern-  
ment solution to the financial  
problems of the race track opera-  
tors.

He did not make any specific  
proposals himself.

But he said that since the track  
patrons at Lansdowne pour thou-  
sands of dollars into the govern-  
ment coffers while the operators  
lost \$11,000 over two years, it is  
time for something to be done.

### MILLION INVESTMENT

"I am not going into the  
morals of betting," he said, "but  
the fact is that the B.C. Turf  
has a million dollar investment  
and the horsebreeders have their  
livelihood to make."

Indirectly, Dr. Green's remarks  
were taken as indicating action  
may be taken to increase the  
pari-mutuel "take" for track  
operators.

He said the average take at  
tracks in the United States is  
nine and half percent while in  
B.C. it starts at seven percent  
on the first \$20,000 per race and  
then is graduated down.

Average state tax on pari-  
mutuels is four percent while  
B.C. takes seven percent.

### DELEGATION TO CABINET

"It might be hoped that Ot-  
tawa will cut down its tax," he  
said, "but the attitude they seem  
to take there is 'what we have  
we'll hold'."

A delegation of eight members  
from the Lower Mainland wait-  
ed upon the Cabinet yesterday  
and urged that something be  
done to end the deadlock over  
racing taxes.

## 'Vote for All' Plan Beaten

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 24.—By a  
vote of five to two, the special  
Elections Act Committee of the  
Legislature, late Tuesday after-  
noon, turned down a resolution  
offered by Harold Winch, CCF  
leader, to give the voting franchi-  
se to all persons of Canadian  
citizenship, regardless of race or  
religion.

This would have included  
Japanese-Canadians. The com-  
mittee held a special meeting  
after the House rose to deal with  
the minority vote issue.

The committee's vote did not  
end the matter. There is a  
resolution on the order paper  
on the same question, still to be  
considered.

The committee arranged to  
meet again this morning, to  
discuss the question of votes for  
Menonites in the Fraser Valley,  
who, it is claimed, were dis-  
franchised by the new Elections  
Act of last year.



## Price Control for Farmers 'Unfair'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 25. — Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam, speaking in the budget debate in the Legislature Wednesday, condemned price ceilings and control for farm products as "manifestly unfair and unsound" so long as no other industries are controlled.

"No worker and no manufacturer in Canada has pulled any punches in getting the last cent for the products which the farmer must buy, yet farmers have been compelled to submit to controls, price ceilings and price-fixing."

He declared farmers are the only people in the country who did not let their standards drop when they were pinned down by controlled prices during the war.

### MUST KEEP THEM ON FARM

He declared rural electrification has not been carried half far enough for the farmers and put it bluntly: "Conditions have got to be made better on the farms if we're going to keep the young people there. That's something of serious concern to everyone."

He advised the farmers themselves not to worry about surpluses of goods sending their prices down.

"If anything, we're going to have a world scarcity," he added.

When you see women on the farms with round shoulders from carrying water you can realize why the children say "Let's get out of here."

### OUTLOOK FOR APPLE CROP

Mr. Putnam warned the House that cattlemen are reducing their herds and that only 50 percent as many chickens will be incubated this year as last, indicating a shortage of eggs later in the year.

He said that hopes of the small fruit growers in the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island for marketing their crops this year depend largely upon how the Marshall Plan works out in Europe.

He gave full details how the huge Okanagan apple crop, shut off from the European market, is now being sold all over North America and elsewhere.

"I hope soon to be able to state that the entire 1947 crop has been marketed," he said.

## Legislature Takes Four-Day Recess

VICTORIA, March 25.—B.C.'s Legislature will take a four-day rest for Easter weekend after this afternoon's adjournment.

It will resume Tuesday, with an address by public works minister E. C. Carson on his public works program for the year and the budget debate probably will wind up Wednesday.

April 15 has been discussed as tentative target date for prorogation, but it is hardly likely with the amount of business to be done.

## Government Auto Insurance Urged

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 25.—Socialization of automobile insurance was urged in the Legislature Wednesday by Arthur J. Turner, CCF, Vancouver East.

## Minister Dubious on Education

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 25.—From a rugged individualist who battled his way from nothing up to one of British Columbia's most successful farmers, the Legislature Wednesday heard a few remarks about the value of education.

The speaker was Hon. Frank Putnam, Minister of Agriculture.

"I never had a great deal of education," he said. "What I learned in school didn't do me much good. But I did find out that I had a mind and should know how to use it."

"It seems to me our education system today robs work of its dignity. We can't all have white collar jobs."

"This province wasn't built by men who were afraid to have a few callouses on their hands."

"It was built by men who were willing to work hard and who had pride in achievement."

"The way I see it is our education system should teach young people how to think for themselves, give them some ambition, and then turn them loose on the world."

## Wording of Plea Draws Member's Ire

VICTORIA, March 25.—(CP)—A CCF attack on the wording of literature sent out to schools in support of the Canadian Appeal for Children drew spirited defense from Education Minister W. T. Straith in the Legislature Wednesday.

A. T. Turner (CCF-Vancouver East) quoted at length from a printed circular showing a harrowing picture of hardships in Europe, and declared:

"I submit this isn't good for the moral of our children. There are other ways of spreading appeals through the community without blackening the minds of little children."

His criticism was directed at the Education Department, and it brought Mr. Straith to his feet to tell the House:

"The department does not encourage appeals in schools, but it has no jurisdiction over them. It refers them to local school boards."

"The paper just read was sponsored by the United Nations and the Dominion of Canada, and I have no hesitation in saying that I give it my blessing."

## Winch Finds New Error in Budget

### Anscomb in Jackpot Over Printing Mistake in School Aid Estimates

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 25.—A new attack on the government's record budget and three percent sales tax was made in the Legislature Wednesday when Harold Winch, CCF leader, discovered there was an error in some of the printed copies of the government's estimates.

Mr. Winch raised a point of order at the opening of the House and read from two different copies of the estimates, one of which, in the summary, gave a vote of \$900,000 assistance to rural school districts and the other \$1,100,000, as had been announced in Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's budget speech.

"Just what kind of confusion is going on in the government?" he demanded. "Our members don't know what we're voting for at all."

"Maybe the finance minister needs a refresher course. The debate is certainly out of order until this is cleared up."

(On Monday, the opposition had claimed the budget unconstitutional because it provides for payment of 11 cabinet ministers' salaries, instead of the 10 allowed by the Constitution Act. Mr. Speaker Carson has reserved decision on this point.)

### ERROR CONCEDED

When Mr. Winch raised the new point, Mr. Anscomb and Premier Byron Johnson hurriedly looked at their copies of the estimates and Mr. Anscomb conceded their printed copies differed on the one item.

He offered to recommend adjournment of the House, and holding up the debate, until he got the point cleared up.

But, in the meantime, Mr. Carson called upon the House clerk to produce the estimates copy that had been filed on budget day.

This he did, and Mr. Anscomb testified that this was the official copy, which gives the rural school districts \$1,100,000.

Mr. Winch consented to let the debate go ahead, while Mr. Anscomb promised to investigate.

### TEMPEST IN TEAPOT

At the end of the day's sitting the finance minister told the House it was a fact there had been a printing error in some copies of the estimates.

He added: "That's what always happens to me. When I'm generous (by increasing the originally proposed grant by \$300,000) I always get into trouble."

The House seemed satisfied and put it all down to a "tempest in a teapot."

## Hindu Vote Plea Hits Chinese Snag

VICTORIA, March 25.—(CP)—A charter amendment, sought by Vancouver, to allow Hindus to vote in municipal elections does not go far enough in the opinion of CCF Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

When the request came before the private bills committee in the legislature Wednesday, Mr. Winch asked why Chinese were not included.

Alderman G. C. Miller said his city would handle its own affairs in its own way. D. E. McTaggart, Vancouver city solicitor, commented that it was difficult to prepare a list of Chinese voters, many of whom had similar names.

The committee will report on the Hindu angle later.

## Sales Tax 'Cut' For Towns Set

Method of sharing sales tax revenue among smaller B.C. municipalities was announced in Victoria today.

Distribution follows: Trail, 1.30 percent, \$52,000; Vernon, 1.22 percent, \$48,800; Kelowna, 1.18 percent, \$47,000; Prince Rupert, 1.01 percent, \$40,720; Nelson, 0.77 percent, \$31,120.

Alberni, 0.3150 percent; Courtenay, 0.2606; Cumberland, 0.1249; Duncan, 0.3683; Ladysmith, 0.2466; Nanaimo, 0.8304; Port Alberni, 0.8880; North Cowichan, 0.6550 percent.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1948

# 'Start UBC Medical Faculty,' MLA Urges

## Dr. Laird Stresses Shortage of Hospital Beds Here 'Disgraceful'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 27.—Dr. Reginald R. Laird (Cln., Similkameen), warned the government in the Legislature Thursday it will have to do something about providing more hospital beds before bringing in a hospitalization insurance scheme.

He declared the amount of hospital accommodation in B.C. is disgraceful, compared with the need.

### MEDICAL FACULTY

He said at least 500 beds are needed in Vancouver alone, and urged that, as a partial solution, the University of B.C. should be allowed to go ahead with its medical faculty, which would include a hospital.

He said he is supporting the government's huge budget because he realizes more hospitals and other amenities for the ailing are essential.

"My personal belief is that the future of this province is such we need not retrench, we must go ahead," he said.

Dr. Laird, who spent two years in a prison camp after Dieppe, argued for an immigration program that would give B.C. the 10,000,000 population it can support.

### PROFITEERS

Commander Charles T. Beard (Cln., Esquimalt) called for legislative curbs against firms and people who have become rich as a result of the war.

He said such laws are essential if the "free enterprisers" are going to offset the "rabble rousers" who talk Communism.

Commander Beard charged the government is overspending.

He put a new idea before the House—there should be more cabinet ministers.

"The province has no right to expect so much time and worry to be shouldered by so few," he said.

From John MacInnis (CCF, Fort George), the House heard the first suggestion from the CCF that they might concede a point on the new sales tax.

He suggested it be cut from the proposed three to two percent then shared equally with municipalities.

MacInnis exchanged compliments with Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney at one point, when he protested the plight of the small logging operators under the forest management scheme.

"I must admit the forest minister is a capable administrator, and it may need the wisdom of Solomon to solve this problem," he said.

"Must I take the 700 wives as well?" interjected Mr. Kenney with a smile.

"If you don't maybe some of your colleagues will," replied Mr. MacInnis.

The CCF member, who sat in the House 40 years ago, put in arguments for road and park development in his own riding; claimed auto insurance rates should come down under the new financial responsibility law, and asked for opening up of the north country.

## Forestry Plan Under Attack

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VICTORIA, March 27.—Forest management license plan for sustained yield forestry came under attack before Forestry Committee of Legislature Thursday, when spokesmen for independent logging interests, including the truck loggers, put their case.

W. Clarke Gibson, Vancouver Island West Coast operator, declared all the logging operators are anxious to see sustained yield forestry put into effect in B.C.

"But I am certainly not in accord with the method that has been adopted."

He said the policy of turning large tracts of forest land over to single interests will result in placing choice timber lands in hands of perhaps 10 or more groups.

As an alternative, he suggested the Forest Service itself take over the entire job of forest planning and reforestation and be supplied with the necessary funds for the purpose.

## Film Control For Children

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 27.—The B.C. government will segregate films not suitable for showing to children.

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer introduced the bill in the legislature on Thursday.

It gives the movie censor power to classify any film as "adult entertainment."

While it does not specify penalties for allowing minors to see the films it provides that the censor can insist on films so classified, the words "adult entertainment must be displayed prominently in advertising."

## PRICE OF COSTS GOING UP, TOO

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 27.—When the "beak" passes sentence in the rural ridings of B.C. soon, it will be "fine \$20 and \$3 costs" (not \$2.50 costs as it is now).

A bill introduced in the Legislature by Attorney-General Wismer raises the fees payable to magistrates in organized territory by this amount. Mr. Wismer said it conforms with federal fees.

## MINING ACTS TO BE OVERHAULED

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 27.—Statutes governing the regulations of metalliferous mines and coal mines in British Columbia are to be overhauled by the Legislature at the present session.

Two new bills were introduced in the Legislature Thursday by Mines Minister R. C. MacDonald.

In the main they are designed to bring the mines laws up to date and were subject of conferences during the winter between the government mine operators and miners' unions.

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1948

## MD's Discuss Hospital Plan With Pearson

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 29.—Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson held a conference this morning with medical and hospital leaders to discuss plans for British Columbia's new hospital insurance scheme.

Representatives of both the B.C. Medical Association and the B.C. Hospitals Association made a special trip to Victoria for the holiday conference.

The meeting is understood to foreshadow introduction in the Legislature shortly of the hospital legislation.

Pearson confirmed that the hospital plan was discussed.

It is expected that, following today's conference, the cabinet will put the hospital plan before Coalition caucus sometime this week.



## Abolish the Scaffold

Mr. E. E. Winch, CCF member for Burnaby in the Provincial Legislature, has filed notice of motion by which the province would urge upon the dominion government abolition of capital punishment.

Whether or not the death penalty should remain as part of our penal system is debatable. What seems wholly undebatable is the need to rid this country of the barbarity of hanging. Two years ago a man was decapitated at Oakalla in this ghastly rite. Last October two men were hanged the same morning, a sordid and gruesome business even when efficiently performed.

The scaffold belongs with the rack and thumbscrew. In many enlightened countries the death penalty has been entirely abolished;

in others a more humane form of carrying it out has replaced the gallows.

To deprive a man of life is in itself the limit of human punishment, without making a macabre spectacle of his last moments. If Mr. Winch's motion should gain approval of the Legislature it will serve to bring the whole matter officially before the Ottawa authorities. If they in turn do not see fit to go all the way with Mr. Winch, at least they might be induced to provide in this country a more humane method of execution than that now used.

As matters stand, citizens can be prosecuted in police court for killing a dog or a cat by methods as cruel and sadistic as hanging. Public opinion should make itself felt in revolt against the gallows. Mr. Winch's motion provides a useful occasion for collective protest.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1948

## Details of Year's Highway Program

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 30.—Following are details of the government's new highway building, paving and bridge program of 1948, as given to the Legislature this afternoon by Works Minister E. C. Carson.

**Southern Transportation Highway:** Widening of heavy rock cuts on the Penticton-Kaleden Road; construction between Ingram Bridge and Midway in the Rock Creek area; reconstruction west of Grand Forks; reconstruction to Jaffray east of Cranbrook; new road between two modern steel bridges at Fernie.

**Trans-Canada Highway:** Reconstruction west of Lytton to be continued; several bridges near Boston Bar to be replaced by retaining walls and fills, and between Lytton and Spences Bridge; reconstruction work east of Kamloops to Chase.

**Okanagan Highway:** Reconstruction of six miles south of Vernon on Kelowna Road; improvements between ferry landing and Westbank; construction between Postill and Winfield to be extended to North Okanagan boundary district; reconstruction of Kamloops-Vernon Road to be continued.

**Cariboo Highway:** Fourteen miles of new road to link a point one mile south of Clinton with the new highway at the old 57-mile post north of Clinton; contracted work between Mile 70 and Mile 83 to continue; reconstruction to be completed between Mile 94 and 100; huge cut of 400,000 cubic yards of material to be made at Deep Creek, north of Williams Lake, for approach to new bridge; Australian Ranch revision to be completed.

**Northern Transprovincial Highway:** Reconstruction of highway from Prince Rupert boundary to new Celanese plant at Port Edward; new work near Terrace and Kitwango and continuation of Clucutz revision between Prince George and Vanderhoof.

**Island Highway:** New 18-mile link between Duncan and Ladysmith to be constructed—largest single project ever undertaken on the Island Highway in recent years.

**Kingsway, Burnaby:** Tenders to be called within 10 days for project delayed last year.

**New Paving:** Loughheed Highway, Vancouver city limits to Millardville, 7.5 miles; Hazle to Pitt River, 24 miles; TransCanada

Highway east of Kamloops, 13.5 miles; Nelson-Nelway, 20 miles; Kamloops-Vernon Road, 7 miles; Kootenay-Columbia Highway, Golden south, 6 miles; Okanagan Highway, Armstrong to Enderby, 9 miles; Island Highway, Red Gap to Qualicum, and Union Bay section, 21 miles; Parksville to Cathedral Grove, 20 miles.

Several smaller sections will be covered, in addition, and surface treatment will be given to sections of highway not under construction but ready for paving in 1949.

**New Bridges:** Alberni River Bend No. 35, \$45,000; Atlin, Bear River No. 31, \$50,000; Burnaby, Geishon No. 5, \$15,000; Burnett No. 4, \$21,000; Cariboo, Springfield No. 47, \$140,000; Likely, No. 41, \$35,000; Chilliwack, Vedder, Canada No. 3, \$25,000; Gillivray Creek No. 51, \$15,000; Simas River No. 28, \$45,000; Comox, Coombs No. 203, \$100,000; Courtenay Slough, \$45,000; Diamond Crossing No. 27, \$180,000.

Cranbrook, Yakh slough No. 5, \$70,000; Delta, Canoe Pass No. 10, \$45,000; Dewdney, Slave River, \$200,000; Esquimalt, Furwell Bridge No. 113, \$16,000; Muir Creek No. 115, \$15,000; Sandstone Creek No. 58, \$15,000; Niagara No. 124, \$50,000; Fernie, Coal Creek No. 43, \$10,000.

Prince George, Garven Creek No. 25, \$60,000; Grand Forks, 3 Boundary Creek bridges, \$70,000; Lillooet, Red Bridge No. 340, \$30,000; Nelson-Creston, Kid Creek and Little Kid Creek, \$40,000.

Okanagan, Baxter No. 9, \$25,000; South Okanagan, Mission Creek No. 33, \$27,000; Omineca, Sherridon No. 35, \$25,000; Peace River, Moose River No. 46, \$24,000; Salmon Arm, Skamoose Narrows, \$185,000; Revelstoke, Eagle Bridge, \$35,000; C.P.R. overhead, \$35,000.

Similkameen, Keogan Creek \$15,000; Osoyoos Lake, \$25,000; Skeena Suspension, No. 97, \$120,000; Oopphry Creek No. 83, \$50,000; Yale, Fraser Canyon bridges, generally, \$300,000.

In addition, 80 smaller structures throughout the province will be replaced with permanent culverts and fills.

## \$18 MILLION FOR B.C. ROADS

A total of \$18,600,000 will be spent on B.C. roads this year, Works Minister Carson told the Legislature today. Details of his address appear on Page 7.

## CURB PLANNED

### Politicians Jealous of Party Titles

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 30.—B.C.'s politicians are jealous of their party titles and don't want other aspirants horning in and using them.

For this reason, the special Elections Act committee of the Legislature this morning decided to recommend a new formula for the official use of party titles on nomination papers and ballots.

They will seek to ban the use of such names as Liberal, Conservative, CCF or other formal titles by candidates who are not official choices of the parties.

Thus such names as "Farmer-Liberal," "People's CCF" and "Independent Progressive-Conservative" would disappear from the records.

The five-man committee was unanimous in deciding to draft the amendment for submission to the House.

## Kingsway Widening Bids Called Soon

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 30.—Works Minister E. C. Carson announced in the Legislature this afternoon tenders will be called within the next 10 days for the first unit of the Kingsway widening project between Vancouver and New Westminster.

Plans call for a four-lane traffic highway through with two parking lanes and an overall width from curb to curb of 64 feet.

## Sales Tax Bill Likely This Week

VICTORIA, March 30.—(CP)—Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb indicated today that the bill to provide for the levying of the three percent retail sales tax in British Columbia would be introduced in the Legislature late this week or early next week.

Meanwhile, it was learned the staff which will be required to administer the act will be housed in the new temporary office building being completed now behind the Legislative Buildings.

## Caucus to Hear Health Plan Soon

VICTORIA, March 30.—(CP)—The provincial cabinet is expected to put before a Coalition caucus shortly British Columbia's new hospitalization insurance scheme.

Monday, Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson met with medical and hospital leaders to discuss the scheme.

It is expected the government may work out a plan which will provide benefits similar to those of the Blue Cross to cover all residents of the province.

## \$18 Million for B.C. Roads in '48

Record \$7 Million for Maintenance Work, Carson Tells Legislature

By LESLIE FOX  
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 30. — British Columbia's highway construction program for 1948-49 was outlined to the Legislature this afternoon by Works Minister E. C. Carson.

It includes:

Reconstruction and construction of 124 miles of main highway at a cost of \$5,000,000.

Paving of 465 miles of road at a cost of \$3,100,000.

Construction of 38 major bridges, replacement of 80 small bridges with culverts and fills, and an allocation of \$300,000 for bridges in the Fraser Canyon as part of a \$2,500,000 bridge replacement program.

In addition to this, the works department will spend \$7,000,000 on maintenance—\$1,000,000 more than last year and the largest allocation in B.C.'s history—and another \$1,000,000 on purchase of heavy construction and maintenance machinery.

### \$18 MILLION OUTLAY

This makes a total outlay of \$18,600,000 for capital and maintenance works on highways for the year.

In addition to announcing the new road projects Mr. Carson gave the House a report on the large undertakings that have been launched in the last two years as part of the government's postwar drive to bring the main highways up to modern standards.

The Hope-Princeton road will not be opened this year as the government had wanted, but the work is to be speeded up and should be completed and paved by early in 1949, he said.

Adverse weather and heavy rock work have caused delays, but some additional equipment has been received and crews will be put on double shifts.

### HART ROAD PROGRESS

Progress on the John Hart Highway from Prince George into the Peace River district has been slower.

On the 210-mile highway, following is the present progress report. Between Prince George and Summit Lake, 28.7 miles fully complete; from Summit Lake to Azouzetta Lake, 94 miles, 14 miles finished with gravel surface, five miles fully graded and four miles partially graded and a further 57 miles cleared; from Azouzetta Lake to Commotion Creek, 57 miles, 48 miles have been completed and a further four miles partially graded and the whole section can be completed in three months time after work resumes; East Pine to Progress, 31 miles completed.

Mr. Carson gave no forecast when the highway will be open to travel.

### 294 MILES IN 1947

Summing up the last year's work generally, Mr. Carson said that, in all, 294 miles of new construction and reconstruction were completed, part of this being on previous contracts and part on undertakings launched during the year.

The minister announced a survey and locating party will go into the field as soon as weather permits to map out a route for

the proposed "Victory Highway" through Washington state territory which will link Grand Forks and Rossland and avoid the big Cascade summit.

The scheme, if it is eventually adopted by the national governments, will save B.C. several millions in construction costs, he said.

Mr. Carson said the Bridge program could be speeded up this year as a result of representations he and Premier Johnson have made to Ottawa, under which they will get a better share of steel imports for construction of the spans.

### ENGINEER SHORTAGE

The department, he said, still faces problems of getting enough technical men for its enlarged building program. Several younger experienced engineers have been engaged for the maintenance staff, but on June 30 a number of the senior engineers will retire.

He mentioned particularly A. L. Carruthers, deputy minister, and H. L. Hayne, chief location engineer, for the fine work they have done in laying out the modern highway program.

The minister said Norman W. Macpherson, former commissioner of highways for Alberta, who joined the staff at the beginning of the year as assistant deputy will become the deputy minister.

In the ordinary way, the chief engineer, Harry Anderson, would have stepped up to this post, but does not wish to do so.

### CONTRACTORS LOSE

Mr. Carson referred to the readjustment of several big highway contracts last year in which Mr. Justice Sidney Smith awarded extras of about \$2,000,000 because of increased costs of labor and materials.

Even with these increases, the minister said, some of the contractors whose work extends over a long period, will suffer financial loss on their contracts.

In regard to the increase of \$1,000,000 for maintenance work on the highways, Mr. Carson said that despite the extra funds the department will not be able to do as much work because of the higher costs.

He disclosed the government will not this year make grants for main highways in municipalities of over 15,000 as recommended in the Goldenberg Report. He said the technical staff has been so overburdened with work it has not been able to get down to a basis on which such grants would be paid.

However, he expressed the view that the entire matter of classified highways in municipalities needs to be reviewed.

The minister referred briefly to large-scale building construction that the government now has under way, including \$3,200,000 of university buildings, but he mentioned no new projects.

## Odd Man's Pay Not Unconstitutional

House Upholds Speaker's Ruling On Mythical Eleventh Minister

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 31.—The B.C. Legislature decided Tuesday that even if the government's estimates provide for payment of 11 cabinet ministers, instead of the ten provided for in the constitution, there is nothing wrong about it.

The decision came on a ruling by Mr. Speaker R. H. Carson.

The point was raised last week by CCF's Herbert Gargrave of Mackenzie who insisted the budget debate should be held up until the extra salary was deleted or the government announced it would appoint another minister.

Quoting the necessary precedents, the speaker gave a written ruling that there is nothing unconstitutional about it because the House always has power to reduce estimates in committee.

His ruling was immediately challenged by CCF leader Harold Winch, but on appeal to the House, the speaker was sustained by the coalition majority, with CCF members shouting "No."



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** John Hart, is B.C.'s wish today. At 69, ex-premier has 21-year record for holding cabinet posts. Since retiring from leadership last fall, Mr. Hart sits in Legislature as private member for Victoria.

## Federal Road Aid Sought

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 31.—B.C.'s government will insist on Federal aid for highway building in the province, it was indicated in the Legislature Tuesday by Works Minister E. C. Carson.

"If we're going to get 'on top' of our highway program—to get the type of highways we want—we must have assistance from the Federal authorities," the Minister said during his speech on the budget debate.

He said the Federal government has been drawing huge sums from B.C.'s natural resources through its income and corporation tax collections and, in justice, should plow some of them back into development of the province.

## No Decision On Balloting

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 31.—The Special Elections Act committee of the Legislature yesterday declined to make any decision on whether Mennonites should get the vote in British Columbia.

After a short discussion committee members, by mutual agreement, decided to make no recommendation to the House on the issue, which will come up again when the Elections Bill goes to the floor.

Chief stumbling block on the question was the Doukhobors, who, with Hutterites, are grouped with Mennonites in being denied the vote because they came into Canada on religious agreements that they do not have to serve in the armed forces.

## Doctor Hart, Ex-Premier, 69 Today

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 31.—Dr. John Hart of Victoria celebrated his 69th birthday today.

The only man in B.C.'s recent political history who voluntarily surrendered the premiership, received greetings from hundreds all over the province. The doctor is an honorary title (LLD) from the University of British Columbia.

Nearing the prophet's three score and ten, the white-haired veteran of political wars today appears in better health than he has for some years.

He relinquished the government leadership in December because the strain of public office was telling on his health.

A month's holiday in the south and lifting of the cares of duty has made a great change in him.

He still retains his connection with public life, for he sits as a private member for Victoria in the Legislature, and acts as a senior advisor to the new Johnson-Anscomb administration.

## Bill's Week

March 30.—(CP)—Herbert Anscombe today that the government is for the levying of a 10 per cent retail sales tax in British Columbia would be the Legislature's first or early next.

It was learned the government will be required to act will be housed in temporary office completed now be in Legislative Buildings.

## to Hear Man Soon

March 30.—(CP)—The cabinet is expected to announce a Coalition of British Columbia Hospitalization Insurance

provincial Secretary Carson met with hospital leaders to discuss the plan.

ed the government a plan which will be similar to those in Cross to cover all in the province.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1948

# Compulsory Gov't Hospital Insurance for Everyone in B.C.

## Maximum Family Cost \$33 Yearly

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 31.—Everyone in British Columbia is going to be covered by a compulsory, contributory hospital insurance scheme.

Premier Byron Johnson announced today that the government has now worked out the details and will introduce a bill for the scheme in the Legislature immediately. The hospital plan was forecast in the Premier's policy speech.

Only those now protected by adequate private schemes will be exempt.

Every person earning an income must contribute.

Size of individual assessments was not disclosed by the Premier, but he said the maximum will be \$33 per family per year. This will cover parents and all children up to 16 years.

In return they will get ward and diagnostic services on a "complete necessary basis."

"The scheme," said Premier Johnson, "will bring hospitalization within the financial reach of everyone, and it is hoped that as the plan is put into practical

operation other improvements may be made from time to time as the funds warrant."

Under the exemption clauses, people who are now in the Blue Cross will not have to pay the government contribution, it is understood.

Similarly people in other private schemes that measure up to the government plan in the way of benefits will not have to pay.

## Pay Cheque Deduction

All other persons, whether wage earners or working for themselves will have to contribute and will get their basic hospital costs paid.

To finance the scheme the government will set up a stabilization fund.

This will be made up as follows:

1—An allocation of \$2,000,000 out of the treasury's revenue surplus account.

2—The government's normal contribution to hospitals of 70 cents a day, and the similar 70 cents a day paid by municipal

authorities will be diverted into the account.

3—When the Dominion government withdraws from the amusement tax field, which is expected soon, the province will boost its own amusement tax by this amount and put the proceeds into the fund.

Finally, going into the fund will be the contributions from the people covered by the scheme.

Most of the collections will be done by deductions from pay cheques. These will be taken off by employers and paid over to the government.

## Take Amusement Tax

Others, who are not on pay-rolls, will have to contribute directly to the government.

Along with the hospital legislation the government will bring down this session a bill giving it powers to levy the Dominion's amusement tax as soon as Ottawa withdraws from the field. The levy is 20 percent on the price of admission tickets.

In addition to providing hospital care under the plan for people who are earning money, the government will continue to provide hospital services for all

recognized social indigent patients.

This includes old age pensioners, mothers' pensioners and those receiving social allowances.

Further details of the insurance plan will be disclosed when the bill is submitted to the Legislature, possibly tomorrow.

From the maximum figure given in the Premier's announcement of \$33 yearly contribution per family, it is expected that the levy on single persons will be similar to those in the Blue Cross plan, which is \$15 a year. The family contribution under that plan is \$33 a year.

## Rebuilt Kingsway Will Be B.C.'s Most Modern Highway

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, March 31.—The "new" Kingsway will be the most modern highway the B.C. government has ever built, according to Public Works Minister Carson.

The four-lane traffic road will

have parking lanes at each side over a total width of 64 feet.

When he announced in the Legislature Tuesday that tenders for the first part of the job will be called within 10 days, Mr. Carson admitted there have been serious delays in getting property, moving buildings and

arranging replacement of water mains so the speed highway project can get under way. It should have been started last year.

Now the way is clear and Mr. Carson said the people of Vancouver will be proud of it when it is finished.

## Sales Tax Battled as MLA's In Caucus Ask New Terms

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, March 31.—A stiff battle over the proposed three percent sales tax for B.C. is reported to have developed in the Coalition's secret caucus Tuesday night.

Several members are reported to have put up a fight to have the levy reduced from three to two percent.

At the same time they are insisting that exemptions provided in the original draft of the bill should be widened in order to lighten the burden on low income groups.

The government is obviously having trouble getting solid caucus backing for the new tax. Already two of its members have

spoken and voted against the levy in the Legislature.

It is understood the battle in caucus has delayed introduction of the sales tax measure in the Legislature, as several clauses will have to be redrafted.

Until this is done, the full details of the tax, and the exempted commodities, will not be officially disclosed.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1948

## Ratepayers Besiege Premier on Taxes

### Secretary-Treasurer of Island Group 'Thrown Out' of Office

VICTORIA, April 1.—(CP)—Persistence of a delegation from a Vancouver Island Ratepayers' Association Wednesday finally won its members an audience with Premier Byron Johnson.

But at the start of the interview, George Wyndlow, of Oyster district, secretary-treasurer, was excluded from the premier's office—"thrown out," he himself told reporters.

"He said I have been dictating to him and trying to run his office," Mr. Wyndlow declared angrily.

The delegation came to Victoria to press for removal of school taxation on land and improvements, and to protest imposition of a sales tax when no provision was made for relief of land and improvements from taxation. It charged the government was using the sales tax as an excuse to fatten its own revenues.

#### NAB' PREMIER

The main group got in to see the premier only by button-holing him in the passage as he was entering his office.

While he was talking to reporters, Mr. Johnson appeared in the corridor, heading for his office. Mr. Wyndlow followed him, came out a few minutes later, to inform the rest of the delegation:

"He'll see you for 10 minutes. He threw me out."

The rest of the group filed into Mr. Johnson's office, leaving their secretary-treasurer cooling his heels outside, but after a few minutes Mr. Johnson sent out a message that he would receive Mr. Wyndlow, too.

The \$1,100,000 to be handed back to rural areas would be less than the amount their residents would pay in sales tax, the delegation maintained.

#### STRONG TERMS

Couched in strong terms, the brief, signed only by Mr. Wyndlow, told Mr. Johnson:

"You have, in short, double-crossed everyone, and chiefly your friends, who have tried to obtain from you some show of justice and fair treatment."

Repeated threats in the brief included one that the school tax situation would "not be tolerated any longer than it takes to remove your government from office."

Afterwards, Mr. Wyndlow said the premier had informed the delegation that present measures for school cost relief were to be regarded as temporary, pending arrival at a permanent solution.

## CCF 'Bulwark' Against Reds —E. E. Winch

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, April 1.—Ernest E. Winch, CCF member for Burnaby, declared in the Legislature Wednesday the CCF stands as the "bulwark against Communism" in B.C.

"Remove us and you'll have the avalanche," the 69-year-old father of the Opposition leader said as he told Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald his attempts to tie up the CCF with the Communists are futile and dangerous to the country.

(Mr. MacDonald, in a radio speech Monday night, predicted the Reds would take over the CCF).

The Burnaby member frowned on repeated pleas of hospitals for more government aid, until they have put their own houses in order.

Statistics showed, he said, a wide variation in the cost of supplies for different hospitals.

"I suggest serious and close scrutiny of their operational methods and costs is essential," he said, pointing out the hospitals have raised rates recently but still keep coming for more government aid.

He demanded the government reimburse or in other ways help members of benefit societies who have been hit by suspension of five societies in recent months.

He charged the government had been negligent because it delayed action after original investigations were made, and because it failed to bring in a state health insurance scheme.

## Labor Lobby On April 8

A labor lobby of 200 delegates will go to Victoria April 8 to protest against Bill 39, and the retail sales tax.

The meeting also decided to ask the CCL to reconsider its attitude on immigration, and to support the Mill, Mine and Smelter Workers' Union in its fight against proposed deportation of their union organizers who have entered from the United States.

## Winch Would Lift Sunday Concert Ban

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, April 1.—Relaxation of the Lord's Day rules so that Sunday concerts and athletics can be held in B.C., will be sought in the Legislature by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Mr. Winch today gave notice of motion to put the issue on the floor of the House.

He proposes that the Attorney-General use his discretionary powers to allow such performances by non-commercial organizations.

At present, he points out Sunday entertainment at which admission is charged has either been discouraged or prevented.

The Lord's Day Act provides that before a prosecution can be laid the Attorney-General must grant a fiat, so that he has the authority to determine whether they should be stopped or not.

## MLA Suggests Water Plan

VICTORIA, April 1.—(CP)—Development of an irrigation scheme for Saanich with the costs being shared equally by the Federal and Provincial governments and landowners was called for in the legislature Wednesday by Arthur J. R. Ash (Cdn., Saanich).

In his maiden speech, the newly-elected member said he would support a Provincial health insurance scheme but warned it must be based on obtaining the co-operation of medical men, nurses, dentists, hospital administrators and druggists.



**M A R**

**1948**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3,

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## Province's 21st Legislature Starts Third Session





## Gold Key Missing but Sun Shines On 50th Anniversary of Opening

Fifty years ago, in drizzling rain, Lieutenant-Governor T. R. McInnes, with a key of solid gold, formally opened British Columbia's Parliament Buildings and the 1898 session of its Legislative Assembly.

Yesterday, in a blaze of warm sunshine, Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks officially opened the third session of the Province's 21st Legislature. The gold key was missing, but Col. Banks took note of the historic occasion.

In his Speech from the Throne, traditionally setting the wheels of another session in motion, His Honor said:

"The convening of this Legislature marks the anniversary of an important historic event. It is 50 years ago that the present Parliament Buildings were officially opened.

"Much has been accomplished since that date, and I am confident that the passage of another 50 years will witness development far surpassing anything experienced in the history of this Province."

### YEAR BROUGHT CHANGES

Though the passage of half a century brought few changes in the pattern of official opening ceremonies, the passage of one year brought several within the Legislative Chamber.

Premier Byron Johnson for the first time sat at the desk used since 1941 by John Hart, who sat among the private members.

Hon. W. T. Straith was in the House as Minister of Education, succeeding Dr. G. M. Weir, who is recuperating from serious illness.

Robert H. Carson of Kamloops addressed His Honor as Speaker of the Assembly, marking the Legislature's first change in the Speaker's chair since 1937. His predecessor in office, Hon. Norman W. Whittaker, sat among the guests as Mr. Justice Whittaker.

### TAKES ROYAL SALUTE

Accompanied by his aides, Cmdr. Hew Paterson, Lt.-Col. F. Brooke J. Stephenson, and Wing Cmdr D. D. Campbell, and his private secretary, Capt. J. G. Cromack, the Lieutenant-Governor dismounted from his car at the foot of the main steps at 2:46 p.m. and took the Royal Salute from the composite band.

While four field artillery pieces fired a 15-gun salute across the waters of the Inner Harbor, Col. Banks inspected the guard of honor provided by the Royal Canadian Navy and The Canadian Scottish Regiment, addressed a few words to Freeman King, in charge of Boy Scouts who lined the steps, then met Premier Johnson on the steps.

With his new Premier, Col. Banks proceeded to the Executive Chamber, received the beribboned Speech from the Throne, and entered the Legislative Chamber with his entourage at 3 p.m.

### BRIEF DELAY

There was a brief delay in opening of the session when His Honor discovered that the House had no Speaker—soon rectified after Col. Banks had retired, when Premier Johnson moved and Opposition Leader Harold Winch seconded Mr. Carson's elevation to the chair.

Thereafter, ceremonies followed the customary procedure, with the Lieutenant-Governor's delivery of the Speech, his withdrawal from the

chamber, introduction of Bill No. 1 establishing precedence of the people's affairs over those of the Crown, passage of formal resolutions, and presentation of ministerial reports.

Today the business of the House will begin when Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Cln., Victoria) will move and Air Vice-Marshal L. F. Stevenson (Cln., Vancouver-Point Grey) will second the formal motion of thanks to the Lieutenant-Governor that touches off each session's main debate.

Two constituencies were unrepresented when the House opened, Saanich and Cariboo. The House passed a standing vote of regret at the death of Louis LeBourdais, whose Cariboo seat will later be taken by Walter Hogg, Coalition candidate in the recent by-election.

Saanich seat, formerly held by Mr. Justice Whittaker, will be taken by Arthur J. R. Ash on March 15.

First bill to be introduced in the House was one to amend the Vancouver Enabling Act of 1935, to authorize funding of the city's sinking fund shortage, disposition of proceeds from tax sale properties, validation of agreements with War-time Housing Ltd., and authorization of future housing agreements.

The House appointed J. L. Webster (Cln., Rossland-Trail), Dr. J. J. Gillis (Cln., Yale), W. A. C. Bennett (Cln., South Okanagan), H. J. Welch (Cln., Comox), and Harold E. Winch (C.C.F., Vancouver East) a committee to name its eight select standing committees.



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# New Municipal Aid Indicated on Way By Throne Speech

## Would Alleviate Rising Costs Of Social Security, Services

New measures to aid municipalities and alleviate the situation caused by rising cost of social security and other public services will be presented to the Legislature during the present session.

This was confirmed in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the House yesterday.

While the Speech did not indicate the form new legislation would take, or whether it would make provision for imposition of a sales tax, the fact that it was named first of coming action was taken to mean that the Government regards it as the most important legislation of the session.

"Careful study has been given to a number of provincial-municipal problems, as well as to the rising cost of social security and other important public services," the Speech said.

"My Government is aware of the situation created thereby and proposes to place before you measures designed to alleviate this situation."

It noted also that "the serious condition of the hospital situation is engaging the attention of my Government, and proposals are being studied with a view to finding a solution to this problem."

Other new legislative proposals briefly referred to by His Honor included:

1. Revision of labor laws for "further improvements in employer-employee relations."
2. Increases in certain allowances under the Workmen's Compensation Act.
3. Important amendments to the Forest Act to widen scope of the sustained yield program.
4. "Ample provision" for further improvement of main highways and completion of major public works projects already undertaken.
5. Amending legislation to improve the agriculture industry.
6. New method of admission to mental hospitals to provide for clinic treatment.
7. Provision of new technical personnel and facilities for British Columbia Research Council to deal with problems related to industrial chemistry, physics, applied biology, mining and other fields of research.
8. Establishment of a new biological laboratory to develop the fishing industry.

### Today in the Legislature

3 p.m.—Debate on Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne opens.

Mover, Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Coalition, Victoria); second, Air Vice-Marshal L. F. Stevenson (Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey).

## Mace Misbehaves, Falls Disturbs House Dignity

Dignity of official opening ceremonies in the Legislature yesterday afternoon was momentarily disturbed when the mace, symbol of authority, fell from the table in front of the Speaker's throne and rolled to the floor.

The incident occurred immediately after the retirement of Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks, following delivery of the Speech from the Throne.

Hon. R. H. Carson, just appointed Speaker of the House, was in the chair when it happened.

The mace rested on its small, gold-braided cushion on the table in front of the chair, indicating that the House was in session.

Eye-witnesses—and there were more than 400 in the House—were in disagreement as to whether Mr. Speaker bumped the table with his knee or upset the mace by touching the cushion.

Whatever the cause, there was a moment of incredulous hush as it crashed to the floor.

Unperturbed, Sergeant-at-Arms W. R. Webster, its custodian stooped, picked the mace from the floor, and placed it on the hooks below the table, where it remained until the House rose for the day.

Normally, the mace is removed from the table only when the House is in committee.

Oldest members of the Legislature were unable to recall any parallel in the history of British Columbia's Parliament.

A superstitious few toyed with the thought that it might be an omen of something, though they were not prepared to say what.

## New Orders in Council Retain 13 B.C. Areas for Public Use

Thirteen areas in various parts of the province totaling 273 acres were set aside for "recreation and enjoyment of the public" by Provincial orders in council signed yesterday. Purpose of the reserves is to assure permanent public access to beauty spots and fishing and hunting areas.

Seven of the areas newly set aside are in West Vancouver, on the shores of Burrard Inlet, ranging in size from half an acre to three acres.

Those reserved in other parts of the province are: 22 acres fronting on Seymour Arm of Shuswap Lake; 102 acres at the south end of One Eye Lake; 39 acres north of Hope; 15 acres on Glimpse Lake, southeast of Stump Lake; 58 acres at the west end of Indian Point Lake, and 22 acres at the west end of Isaac Lake.

The Government also took action to reserve from alienation the area on Chase River, south of Nanaimo, containing ancient Indian petroglyphs recently declared to be historic objects under the Historic Objects Preservation Act.

### Seen in Passing

Hon Robert Henry Carson, Liberal M.L.A. for Kamloops, who was chosen Speaker of the Twenty-First Legislature yesterday at its opening sitting, has probably had more hours in the chair of House than any other member in it. For more than a decade he has acted as chairman of the House in Committee, and for almost as long as Deputy Speaker under successive incumbents.

## Liquor, Gasoline Taxes Swell Revenue in B.C.

Provincial Government revenue in the fiscal year ended last March 31 exceeded the estimate by \$14,665,557.

Public accounts tabled in the House after the opening of the Legislature yesterday showed that the Government, which had budgeted for total revenue of \$42,152,389, actually took in \$56,817,944.

Expenditures, totaling \$46,315,293, were \$1,668,220 above the estimate.

But even so, the Province came out with a surplus of \$10,502,650, against a 1945-46 surplus of \$8,141,863.

Its liquor business, bringing in \$6,250,000 more than was expected, was mainly responsible for the big surplus. Estimated at \$8,500,000, liquor profits actually yielded \$14,759,257.

Gasoline tax, estimated at \$4,650,000, produced \$5,662,063. Motor Vehicle Act revenue, estimated at \$3,035,000, yielded \$4,457,794.

Succession duties totaled \$2,918,918, against an estimate of \$1,500,000.

Dominion Government grants, \$23,051,807, showed no variation, since the Dominion-Provincial new tax agreement did not become operative until after the end of the 1946-47 financial year.

Timber royalties and sales revenue totaled \$4,260,947. It had been estimated at \$3,500,000.



# Government House En Fete Following Legislature Opening

## Latest Spring Fashions Worn by Guests At Opening of 21st Provincial Legislature

The newest of colorful Spring fashions were much in evidence at the brilliant ceremony attending the opening of the 21st British Columbia Legislature yesterday afternoon at the Parliament Buildings.

Mrs. Banks, wife of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, was unable to attend the opening ceremony due to a recent injury, but assisted in receiving and shaking hands with the guests attending the reception at Government House held later in the afternoon. Mrs. Banks chose for the occasion an ensemble of black and pale blue, pencil-slim black crepe skirt with cocktail-split in front, fitted black moire jacket and pale blue crepe blouse with diamante embroidery.

The reception rooms at Government House were beautifully decorated with Spring blooms, making an attractive setting for the lovely gowns worn by the guests.

Mrs. Byron Johnson, making her first public appearance as wife of the new Premier, was attractive in a purple two-piece suit with grey squirrel coat. Her model hat of corded ribbon was in shades of blue, mauve and aqua.

Mrs. Herbert Anson, wife of the Minister of Mines and Municipal Affairs, was in black with black beret trimmed with gold sequin bands and veiling.

Mrs. Tilly Rolston, M.L.A., was in a smartly cut black suit with black felt hat trimmed with brilliants. Mrs. Nancy Hodges, M.L.A., wore a smart dress of bright green crepe and black felt hat with turned brim.

A light grey suit with model pink felt hat trimmed with pink roses and silver fox cape was worn by Mrs. Gordon McG. Sloan; Mrs. Gordon Wismer was smart in a navy crepe two-piece dress, navy straw beret with side quill and fingertip sable coat; Mrs. Harold E. Sexton wore a dark navy tulle and navy felt beret; Mrs. G. R. Pearkes chose a navy and white ensemble, navy and white polka dot dress with navy redingote and navy felt hat.

Mrs. John Hart wore an afternoon dress of turquoise blue crepe, brown sailor felt hat and brown fur coat; Mrs. E. W. Hamber was smart in a black crepe dress, black felt model hat with turquoise pompon and sable fur; Mrs. Walter C. Nichol was in a coral crepe afternoon dress with small black felt hat and seal-skin coat trimmed with mink.

Mrs. E. Rollo Mainy was in a pastel peach wool with pale blue blouse and tiny felt hat trimmed with grey beige ostrich tips. Mrs. Leo J. Callanan was in a black crepe featuring a back panel with fine black straw hat in the new Watteau style trimmed with off-white roses.

Mrs. E. T. Kenney, chose a navy blue ensemble with bolero jacket and shell pink blouse, and matching navy hat; Mrs. Frank Putnam wore a smart suit dress in wine with touches of robin's-egg blue and model hat of robin's-egg blue and wine feathers with matching ribbons. Mrs. Putnam was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. G. G. McKenzie of Vancouver, who wore a Bengal dressmaker suit in navy blue with fine white straw off-the-face sailor.

Mrs. E. C. Carson, wife of Minister of Public Works, wore an afternoon dress of fine black faille trimmed with pink, and wide black off-the-face felt hat with wide black satin ribbon trim.

Mrs. R. C. MacDonald, wife of the Minister of Mines and Municipal Affairs, was in navy blue with matching navy hat, while her daughter-in-law, Mrs. E. MacDonald, chose black crepe trimmed with a large draped satin bow at the waistline and pleated black satin hat.

Black crepe was the choice of

Mrs. L. C. Eyres with small black off the face sailor model wreathed with pink poppies. Mrs. W. T. Straith wore a fine wool beige dressmaker suit featuring ballerina skirt and short fitted jacket with a large brown corded silk beret, while her daughter, Miss Mary Straith, wore a powder blue with black hat and accessories.

Cloud grey crepe was the choice of Mrs. R. H. Carson with black straw hat trimmed with pink, and brown squirrel coat. Her daughter, Miss Betty Carson, wore a dress of deep violet shade with small hat of pink and violet shaded roses. Mrs. D. J. Carson of New Westminster chose a two-piece model of moire silk with Winter white hat with black feather trim.

Mrs. L. F. Stevenson, wife of Air Vice-Marshal Stevenson, member for Point Grey, Vancouver, wore a chic beige suit trimmed with brown squirrel with matching hat while her daughter, Miss Mary Ann Stevenson, chose a paddy green dressmaker suit with matching bowler hat. Mrs. A. R. MacDougall, also of Vancouver, wore navy blue with matching hat.

Mrs. David Sloan was striking in a model black baratheia cloth suit with silver fox fur and black hat trimmed with osprey tips.

Mrs. H. J. Welch, of Qualicum Beach, wore a red gabardine tailored suit with plaid hat, while her daughter, Mrs. D. Findlay, chose a beige suit with London tan plumed model hat. Mrs. J. J. Laird, of Shillikamien, chose white jersey silk with matching turban.

Mrs. Percy E. George wore a dress

of rich wine, matching hat with white feather trim; a light blue afternoon dress with brown hat was worn by Mrs. G. R. Easter, while Mrs. Hugh McLeod wore navy blue with pale pink applique trim, navy hat trimmed with pink, and bride's blue topcoat trimmed with Persian lamb.

Mrs. E. V. Finland wore an afternoon dress of cocoa brown with matching model hat, while her guest, Mrs. A. H. Hull, of Qualicum Beach, was gowned in pearl gray with blue gray fox fur and accessories.

Mrs. J. B. Munro chose a two-piece black crepe dress trimmed with black grosgrain ribbon and black hat; Mrs. A. H. Cox was smartly attired in a navy blue ensemble trimmed with pink, navy blue hat and sealskin coat.

Miss Joan Coenen Van's Gravesloot, daughter of the Consul of the Netherlands, Vancouver, wore a fine tweed talleur of brown and grey.

Mrs. E. Wynne Johnson of Vancouver was smart in black crepe with black felt hat trimmed with pink roses. Mrs. Edwin Jackson of Cobble Hill was also in black with smart black hat with sprays of lily of the valley. Mrs. George Melrose was in a black suit and hat with bright green ribbon trim; Mrs. George Paulin was in soft green crepe with brown calot and brown fur coat; Mrs. G. C. McKenzie was smart in navy and white which was also chosen by Mrs. C. Delbridge of Vancouver. Mrs. J. M. Wood wore an afternoon dress of raisin brown crepe and hat of velvet ribbon en tone.

Mrs. J. Mowat of Port Alberni was in a black afternoon dress and black hat with rose trim, while Mrs. Frank Hughes, also of Port Alberni was in figured crepe. Mrs. M. L. Greene was in gray and black and Mrs. Leon Lotskar of Vancouver was in black and flower hat.

Mrs. P. B. Scurrah wore an afternoon dress in navy crepe, white straw sailor hat with navy tulle bow. Mrs. W. C. Mainwaring was smart in a bright blue afternoon dress and black model hat.



Hon. Byron I. Johnson, Premier of British Columbia, and Mrs. Johnson.

His Honor the L

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1948

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His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Charles A. Banks receiving Mr. F. R. Gullick, Australian Trade Commissioner, and Mrs. Gullick at the reception held at Government House following the opening of the Legislat-



A group of Vancouver people chat together at the reception, from left to right, Mrs. George Baillie, Mrs. Herbert Wood, Jonkheer F. Coenen Van's Gravesloot, Consul of The Netherlands, and Miss Joan Coenen Van's Gravesloot.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1948



Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Finance and Co-Leader of the Coalition Government, Mrs. John Hart, Mrs. Anscomb, Mrs. C. B. Delbridge of Vancouver and Mr. John Hart.



Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, Attorney-General of British Columbia, Mrs. Wismer and Mrs. Efor Wynne Johnson of West Vancouver

—Colonist Photos.

## Provincial Liquor Bill May Exceed Record \$48 Per Capita Last Year

Spending on liquor in British Columbia during the fiscal year ended last March 31 were equivalent to nearly \$48 a head, for every man, woman and child in the province.

And they are still climbing.

Totalling \$47,961,515, the province's liquor bill for the year exceeded that of the previous financial year by \$9,218,059 to set another new high record.

It yielded \$14,759,257 net profit to the province, \$6,250,000 above the estimate, and representing roughly one-fourth of British Columbia's total revenue for the year.

These were figures given in the Liquor Control Board's annual report, tabled in the Legislature yesterday.

An interim report covering the succeeding six months, up to October 31 last, showed liquor spendings soaring even higher, and indicated they may exceed \$52,000,000 when the current fiscal year is ended.

Total of sales during the six months was \$26,257,720, which yielded the province a net profit of \$7,531,030, against \$6,343,205 for the corresponding six months of the preceeding year.

British Columbia's \$14,760,000 net profit for the last fiscal year compared with \$11,194,000 in 1946-47; \$7,881,500 the year before, and \$6,946,259 the year before that.

The board's report showed that \$28,594,839 was spent on wines and spirits, \$19,366,674 on beer, ale and stout.

Federal Government took \$8,552,501 in duty, excise and sales tax.

Sales to individuals at liquor stores totaled \$38,351,659, to beer licensees, \$9,809,856.

### Speech From Throne

Few Speeches from the Throne in a Provincial Legislature ever say anything. Yesterday's was no exception in connection with the opening of the British Columbia Legislature. Its terms committed the Government to little, and to that little vaguely. There was, for instance, this reference to the municipalities, which disclose nothing:

"Careful study has been given to a number of provincial-municipal problems as well as to the rising cost of social security and other important public service. My Government is aware of the situation created thereby and proposes to place before you measures designed to alleviate this condition."

A good deal more to the point, and to the facts as the municipalities have found them to be, was the return of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year ending March 31 last. These showed that British Columbia had collected the highest net revenue surplus in its history, \$10,502,650; while its total revenue collections amounted to \$56,817,944. In that, liquor sales totaled \$47,961,515, with net profits of \$14,634,291—also the highest in history.

On the expenditure side, the Province disclosed current expenditures of \$46,315,293; exclusive of outlays from capital borrowings of \$15,109,142, of which latter the chief items were approximately \$5,000,000 from capital for roads, and advances exceeding \$7,500,000 to the B.C. Power Commission. Expenditures from revenue surplus aggregated \$4,652,490, of which the largest single items were \$1,000,000 "to offset in part shortages in the provincial sinking fund account," and a further \$2,074,552 for roads.

Briefly put, British Columbia as at the end of March, 1947, was enjoying higher revenues than it had ever known. In the same period the Province gave the municipalities thirty-nine per cent of the cost of education, one-third of motor registration fees only, the 40-40-20 disbursement on social services, the 70 cents per diem hospital grant, and some building grants on a shared basis of cost.

The municipalities did not show any fat surpluses on that assistance. On the contrary, many of them went further into the red. That is the condition that the Provincial Government have to meet, and it has become acute now with the rejection of school board estimates in British Columbia. Not fresh taxation in any form, but a far more even disbursement of its existing revenues would seem to be needed. The "measures designed to alleviate the situation" will be anticipated with interest, not alone by the municipalities but by the taxpayers as well.



## Price Boost Time Limit On Gasoline Advocated

A suggestion that if any increase in gasoline prices is found warranted, a definite time limit should be placed on it was put forward in the Legislature yesterday by Air Vice-Marshal L. F. Stevenson (Coalition, Point Grey).

Calling for action to end the present supply deadlock, he said British Columbia's important tourist industry was just as sensitive as any other, and already there were signs that the gasoline shortage was turning visitors away.

The Point Grey member conceded that cost of producing oil fuels had risen with all others, but suggested that if current investigations showed there was no alternative to permitting an increase, it should be for a limited period to give oil companies time to cut their marketing costs and methods and instal additional refining facilities.

"I would suggest an endeavor be made to get the liquid fuel business into a more competitive position," he added.

At the same time, Air Vice-Marshal Stevenson, seconding the Address in Reply motion, expressed a hope that the Government would explore every possible measure to prevent further increase in price of milk.

"Farmers as a group are opposed to an increase, as they know from past experience that consumption will drop," he declared.

"The people who need milk so badly cannot afford to pay more. The previous increase deprived a good many of the milk they should have had."

(Provincial Milk Board will open hearings here March 8 on application from primary producers and distributors for a new two-cent increase on all grades.)

### Deputy Speaker



Thomas A. Love, veteran newspaperman and former mayor of Grand Forks, yesterday was named deputy speaker of the Legislature, on the motion of Premier Byron Johnson, seconded by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

The Progressive-Conservative Coalition member for Grand Forks-Greenwood was deputy speaker under Hon. M. W. Whittaker last session. His reappointment was necessitated by the change in Speakers.

## States People Are Seeking Medical Aid

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition Member for Victoria and president of the National Women's Liberal Federation, flatly told the Legislature yesterday the people of British Columbia were looking to the Government to remove the haunting fear of hospital and medical bills.

Mover of the motion that started the Throne Speech debate on its way, Mrs. Hodges devoted the whole of her speech to social problems.

She warned the Government that solvency of hospitals was threatened unless more substantial help was given.

Pointing particularly to the plight of white-collar workers and older people on fixed incomes caught by rising living costs, she said there was a growing demand for a contributory hospital and medical system in the Province, and urged the Government to introduce its own health insurance plan until the Federal Government puts health insurance on a Dominion-wide basis.

### ASKS REVISED SYSTEM

Declaring that present discrepancies in scales of allowances and pensions "just don't make sense," Mrs. Hodges said the time was ripe for a thorough revision of the whole system of payments, aimed at standardization to remove present inequalities and injustices. She placed special emphasis on inadequacy of allowances to widows under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Taking up the cudgels for deserted wives, Mrs. Hodges called for legislation to give dower rights to protect their interest in their homes. She said Provincial statistics showed an alarming percentage of desertions and that, because married women in most cases had no legal right to their homes, many men were taking advantage of the present law.

### Today in the Legislature

3 p.m.—Debate on Address in Reply to the Throne Speech continues.

Harold E. Winch (C.C.F., Vancouver East), Leader of the Opposition, will be the sole speaker.

## Price of Fish in B.C. Too High Air Vice-Marshal Tells House

A few words about the price of fish found their way into debate in the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

Air Vice-Marshal L. F. Stevenson (Coalition, Point Grey) said it was too high by far, and for that reason British Columbians weren't eating nearly enough of it.

"It is an astonishing thing to me that the people of this Province don't eat more fish, and that complaints about the high cost of food seem to hinge on the cost of meat," he declared.

"Our West Coast herring is first-class food, recognized as such by people all over the world, but it's almost unsaleable at home.

"The price of fish on our local markets is too high, and the fishing companies themselves should establish markets to sell their own catch if others fail to do so at reasonable rates."

### SPEECH ON RESOURCES

In a speech devoted chiefly to the Province's resources, Air Vice-Marshal Stevenson warned that despite the highest wages in the land, lumber and pulp industries were producing profit from the forests at a rate that might well indicate the Government had underestimated the value of forest resources.

"It should examine this matter carefully with a view to adjusting our royalties before too many long-term management licences are granted," he warned. "Perhaps some sliding scale based on retail prices might be appropriate."

"Price of local lumber and its fabrication into homes and buildings has passed all reasonable limits."

He considered it regrettable that last year's Forest Act amendments had not been allowed to stand over in draft form for a year, so that

they could have been more fully studied by all concerned.

Larger companies with staffs of experts to study the proposals had been able to get changes made in the original bill. Smaller operators, with no such staffs, could not appreciate the changes the bill proposed in the short time available to them.

### NEED OF STUDY

"Legislation involving such long-term agreements as those provided in the Forest Act deserve the most careful treatment, as amendment is not a simple matter," he cautioned.

Of the agriculture industry, he said adjustments were needed to meet home and export requirements of the future, which looked as if they would have small resemblance to those of wartime and the years immediately following.

He urged the Government to plead with Ottawa the cause of hundreds of veterans who had established themselves in the poultry industry under the Veterans' Land Act and were now facing ruin.

"They were provided with chicks, but not the necessary capital to feed the birds until they reached the egg-producing stage," the Point Grey member pointed out. "Now they are short of capital and their credit has reached its limits."

Air Vice-Marshal Stevenson had opened his address with sweeping condemnation of everything savoring of Communism.

"The leaders of these subversive forces crawled under their stones during the war," he declared, "but they are again out in the open, spreading their venomous idealism in far too many channels of our social and industrial life."

## B.C. States Jurisdiction On Literature Not Clear

Questions of provincial jurisdiction to restrict circulation of undesirable literature have not yet been determined, Attorney-General Gordon Wismer informed the House yesterday.

He said discussions were still going on between his department and that of the Minister of Justice, with a view to clearing the way for British Columbia to bring in its own legislation.

This statement by the Attorney-General was in answer to Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Cln., Victoria), who had expressed a hope that regulatory legislation would be possible this session, with "enough teeth in it" to keep off the newsstands all publications, whether imported or Canadian, of objectionable and harmful character.

Mrs. Hodges directed her attack against magazines and comics of low standards, particularly those dealing with "sordid and revolting

crimes," detrimental to the early education of youth.

She recalled that a delegation representing 23 parent-teacher associations and 35 other organizations had received an encouraging reception from the Attorney-General last November, and had been led to hope that necessary legislation would be brought in this session.

## Friday For Premier First Address

Premier Byron Johnson will give his first speech in the Legislature of the Coalition Government.

In it he is expected to outline in broad outline detail than the Throne Speech from the program of the Government for the present session.

Come to be a speech," the Premier is expected to be considerably in the session's Sole speaker of the House, position Leader will be the sole speaker.

## Former Premier Seen in House

Two former Premier Johnsons were in the House yesterday afternoon—one on the other in the House.

John Hart, of Government, Johnson at the retained his given the pl immediate ri benches. For years of Leg in the House.

T. D. Patt the Premier's Coalition can watched proc row shelf ab

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## Friday Chosen For Premier's First Address

Premier Byron Johnson on Friday afternoon will make his first speech in the Legislature as leader of the Coalition Government.

In it he is expected to disclose in broad outline, but in greater detail than that contained in the Speech from the Throne, the program of the Government for the present session.

Come to be known as the "policy speech," the Premier's address will be considerably earlier than usual in the session's order of business.

Sole speaker at tomorrow's sitting of the House, he will follow Opposition Leader Harold Winch, who will be the sole speaker today.

## Former B.C. Premiers Seen in House

Two former Premiers of British Columbia within less than a decade were in the House yesterday afternoon—one on the floor of the House, the other in the press gallery.

John Hart, who turned over reins of Government to Premier Byron Johnson at the end of last year, but retained his seat in the House, was given the place of honor to the immediate right of the treasury benches. For the first time in 22 years of Legislative duty, he was in the House as a private member.

T. D. Pattullo, who surrendered the Premiership to Mr. Hart when Coalition came into being in 1941, watched proceedings from the narrow shelf above Mr. Speaker.

Both he and Mr. Hart are honorary life members of the press gallery—the only two—and since his defeat in 1945 Mr. Pattullo has consistently exercised his privilege.

## Winch Hits Coalition 'Iron Curtain' Around Gasoline Prices, Taxes Data

"Indecision, inactivity, stumbling uncertainty, and a reliance on a self-hypnotic suggestion of invulnerability" were labels pinned on the Coalition Government by C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch in the Legislature yesterday.

First Opposition contribution to the Throne Speech debate, his two-hour address without assistance of notes boiled down to a sweeping condemnation of almost everything the Government has done.

He called the Coalition "irresolute and lacking in courage," and charged that it had been derelict in its responsibilities, with the result that the people of the province were facing a situation that could have been avoided by far-sighted preparedness for the inevitable problems following cessation of hostilities.

At the same time the Opposition's impassioned No. 1 orator threw at the Government a charge that in the last two or three months it had utilized "iron curtain" tactics to deny the Opposition access to records, reports, contracts and agreements that had freely been given when John Hart was Premier.

### CRIES FOR JUSTICE

"We read the cries of municipalities for justice and appeals for assistance in the cost of schooling," he said.

"The Maclean Assessment Commission report has been in the hands of the Government for two or three weeks. It has not been made public.

"Not only that, but the Leader of the Opposition has been refused any access to it whatsoever, though it is a matter that will have to be discussed in the House."

He declared the same tactics had been used in connection with gasoline price investigations—a matter that was going to cost the people \$3,000,000 on the first price increase alone.

"The public are entitled to know the facts justifying that increase, if it was justified," Mr. Winch asserted. "The public got merely a statement from the Premier that it was justified."

He said he had never been refused access to statements of the B.C. Electric Railway Company, but had not been allowed to see oil companies' submissions to the Petroleum Control Board, and added:

"I think that is a wrong principle, and one that should be challenged."

Turning to social security proposals, he declared it was high time the Government stopped giving the excuse that it was "up to Ottawa."

### ADMINISTER OWN

If the Government intended to bring down a contributory hospitalization plan, he counselled it to frame one that would be administered by the province itself, not tied in with the Blue Cross.

"The Blue Cross plan costs a single man \$15 a year and a married man \$33 for hospital coverage. We in British Columbia can lay down a provincial plan that will not cost as much as that," he maintained.

His suggestion was a hospitalization plan of complete coverage for all normal hospital costs, including dressings and medicines, financed mainly by an annual contribution of \$10 by an estimated total of 722,000 adults, plus the \$3,000,000 now being contributed by Province and municipalities.

So far as medical and surgical treatment was concerned, he said he was convinced British Columbia could not go all the way provincially; but it could provide for hospitalization until "Ottawa wakes up and we can tie in with a Dominion plan."

Touching on provincial-municipal relations, he criticized the Government on its failure to implement the Goldenberg Commission recommendation of assistance in construction and reconstruction of main highways running through cities and municipalities.

### EDUCATION COSTS

"Crux of the whole municipal problem is cost of education," Mr. Winch went on.

"We say the Province should assume complete responsibility, remove it entirely from municipal hands."

He called for establishment of a provincial assessment board, a uniform assessment policy for the whole province, and a planned 25-year construction program on an amortized basis, with annual cost to be considered as a school cost.

Mr. Winch did not consider it possible to remove all education cost from land and improvements; said it was inconceivable that the obligation of industry to contribute should be taken away.

The fact was, he declared, that the people were not getting enough revenue from exploitation of their heritage in natural resources.

Last year, he stated, Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company made a net profit from exploitation of the metals of the province of \$23,323,000, paid \$718,307 to the provincial treasury.

### HIGH PROFITS

H. R. MacMillan Company made \$7,128,294 net profit, paid \$102,577 in royalties and stumpage; and latest reports showed Canadian Western Lumber Co., Ltd., with a net profit of \$9,000,000, compared with \$3,000,000 in 1946.

"The Government is neglecting major sources of revenue while big operators are declaring triple profits," he commented.

Of the big provincial revenue surpluses reported in the last six years, only \$4,300,000 now remained

uncommitted, and that, Mr. Winch asserted, called for an explanation of fiscal policy. He maintained that instead of appropriating \$15,000,000 from reserves for public works, the Government should have floated a loan issue.

Towards the close of his speech, Mr. Winch deplored continuance of racial discrimination, called for further revision of the Provincial Elections Act to remove irregularities discovered in the by-elections, and urged introduction of compulsory automobile insurance in place of the present financial responsibility scheme.

## Today in the Legislature

3 p.m.—Throne Speech debate continues.

Premier Byron Johnson will be the sole speaker, delivering his first speech in the House as Government leader.

## Data Sought By Member

E. E. Winch, veteran C.C.F. member for Burnaby, wants a lot of information from the Government about conduct of British Columbia's various institutions.

Each session Mr. Winch bombards the Provincial Secretary with questions on institutional care and welfare matters generally, and already he has filed more than a score on which he wants an answer before the present session ends.

He is seeking a complete picture of Government measures to combat drug addiction; much information as to what goes on inside Oakalla; details of capacity, staffing and treatment in mental and tuberculosis institutions and the Provincial Hospital, and figures covering payments under the Workmen's Compensation Act.



FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1948

## New Doukhobor Body Planned Legislature Advised by Winch

Warnings that there were movements afoot in the Interior to build up a new Doukhobor group to defy law and order were sounded in the Legislature yesterday by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Mr. Winch read to the House a translation of a letter signed "J. J. Veregin" that he said was being circulated in the Interior, setting out plans for a new group under an inducement of immunity from police control.

"That letter urges Doukhobors not to be naturalized by any country, not to take any oath of allegiance, and if they have served in the armed forces, to renounce that service and turn in their medals—and to pay \$17 a year to J. J. Veregin," the Opposition leader informed the House.

Then he read extracts from another letter being circulated in the Interior declaring that "man-made laws are superficial and false and cannot be endured."

The C.C.F. leader said Doukhobor outrages had cost the people of the province \$1,000,000 already and that the Government had been derelict in allowing them to continue so long.

"Many of the rank and file have gone to jail, but their leaders are still going free," he said. "There are fears that a group in the Interior is planning and plotting to carry on the outrages they said before the Royal Commission they would do if they thought it necessary."

Mr. Winch was referring to hearings before Judge H. J. Sullivan.

He said a serious situation was developing, and urged the Government to release the Sullivan report and consult the Legislature on the best method of handling the situation.

## Hospital Measure To Be Submitted To B.C. Legislature

Will Come Up at Present Session  
Johnson Says in Policy Speech

Measures designed to bring hospitalization "within the financial reach of the people" will be submitted to the British Columbia Legislature this session, Premier Byron Johnson announced in his policy speech in the House yesterday.

How the new hospitalization scheme will be set up and administered, the Premier did not suggest. In fact, he told the Legislature a scheme has not yet been worked out, but will be this session.

He said action was required in two directions:

1. Revenue sources of hospitals must be pooled to provide adequate services for the money available.

2. Administration of hospitals requires more strict examination to ensure that maximum service is obtained for money expended.

### PREMIER HOPEFUL

In addition, the Premier said he was "hopeful" that the Dominion would be willing to share in the cost of hospital construction, so that immediate accommodation requirements could be met, and preparations made for increased demands should the Dominion implement a health insurance measure.

He maintained that British Columbia's tax agreement signed with Ottawa last year could only be fair to this Province if the Dominion Government agreed to bear a larger share of the cost of old age pensions; implement a system of compulsory contributory superannuation; give financial assistance in the construction of hospitals and join with the provinces in a system of health insurance.

"If these measures are not forthcoming," he said, "then the Province will be compelled to meet the more emergent problems by implementing restricted schemes of its own."

Earlier, the Premier said the Federal Government's failure to carry out the Green Book proposals "places this Province in a very difficult situation."

He said only part of the Dominion's promised social security measures had been put into effect.

Examination of British Columbia's social services showed that costs and numbers of recipients had risen so high that the existing tax agreement could not be considered just under the circumstances.

British Columbia was making financial concessions through the tax agreement to what were termed "less fortunate provinces," while at the same time being compelled to assume a very large share of their social services because of emigration of their people to this coast.

As a result of increased health and welfare services, costs had risen in this Province from \$9,300,000 in 1945-46 to an estimated \$19,346,000 in 1948-49.

Meanwhile, Ottawa collected \$139,858,000 in British Columbia last year from income, corporation and succession duty taxes, gave back \$23,000,000, or only 16 per cent.

## More Refining Facilities Sought For Gasoline in B.C., House Told

Government intention to press for expansion of gasoline refining facilities in British Columbia was announced by Premier Byron Johnson in the Legislature yesterday.

He told the House increased refinery capacity ultimately would overcome present inequalities that made fixing of gasoline prices difficult.

The three cents interim increase allowed in January gave to those companies selling only British Columbia refined gasoline a reasonable profit, but it was claimed that those depending on heavy importations of refined fuel still sustained heavy loss.

"It is felt that to grant any increase beyond what has been given requires a further examination of the company books, and this the Government proposes to do before deciding whether a further revision should be made," the Premier informed the House.

He said Touch & Company, chartered accountants examining oil company operations for the Petroleum Control Board, reported that despite the three cents increase, one company would lose \$108,341 if volume of business in 1948 were to be the same as 1947.

"Since the demand is increasing, it can be assumed that the loss would be even greater," Mr. Johnson pointed out.

"The Government feels that it has gone as far as it can possibly go for the moment. However, it wishes to give every assurance that the public's interests will be protected with respect to price."

"It is the desire of the Government that oil companies should enjoy a reasonable profit, but not an excessive one. At the same time, the Government is desirous that the public should be supplied with an adequate quantity of gasoline."

## Rail Extension Parley Slated During Spring

Negotiations for extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway into Peace River district on a partnership basis with Ottawa and the two transcontinental railways will be resumed this Spring.

John Hart, who started them before he resigned the premiership of British Columbia, will carry them on when C.P.R. President W. M. Neal returns to Canada, Premier Byron Johnson told the House yesterday.

He said that although a general survey had been made and sufficient data assembled to determine routes and costs, many final adjustments would have to be made before construction commenced.

"In the past, surveys have been too hurried and revisions omitted which would have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is our desire to obviate belated revisions," Mr. Johnson stated.

Surveys of coal resources were continuing to bring to light a greater volume of coal. Analyses had proved to railroad officials the province's early claim to an extremely high grade, the Premier said.

## Small Re Faces B.C.

Of all British Columbia revenue surpluses—more than \$1,000,000 in the last fiscal year—little more than \$300,000 uncommitted.

Premier Byron Johnson disclosed in his policy speech in the House yesterday.

"This means that there is no reserve left with which to meet the abnormal economic conditions now confronting the province," he declared.

While the House was left in the lurch as to the Government's attitude towards imposition of a tax, the Premier's conclusion on financial problems taken as an indication that a move is likely.

This is what he said:

"I am sure members will understand why the Government is concerned . . . and why it is necessary that our revenue be increased, if we are to maintain our public services, those affecting social welfare, municipalities, works, at the high standard the public has insisted upon."

Later on, he said, increased revenues could only be obtained by increased taxes and restraint in expenditure.

Reviewing the financial position of the Province, Premier Johnson disclosed that estimates for the fiscal year 1948-49 would total \$58,000,000 against actual expenditure of \$58,000,000 in 1946-47.

Every indication, he said, pointed to a further substantial increase in expenditures during the fiscal year.

Unappropriated surplus for 1944, amounted to \$1,000,000. Each year since then other surpluses had been added, bringing the total to \$41,936,374 last March.

Anticipated surplus for 1948-49 now ending was \$300,000, an over-all total of \$42,236,374. But the Premier warned that the House that appropriated the surplus had diminished the account to \$4,961,374 remaining, which had been committed to construction. When the commitments were met, the surplus would be reduced to little more than \$300,000.

He enumerated the various items from the surplus account since 1944 adding up to a total of \$42,236,374, and concluded that the apparent surplus was used to finance many of the province's needs, as well as the normal working of the government, which normally would be financed by consolidated revenue.

## Small Revenue Surplus Faces B.C., Says Premier

Of all British Columbia's huge revenue surpluses—more than \$10,000,000 in the last fiscal year alone—little more than \$300,000 remains uncommitted.

Premier Byron Johnson made that disclosure in his policy speech in the House yesterday.

"This means that there is little or no reserve left with which to meet the abnormal economic conditions now confronting the Province," he declared.

While the House was left in ignorance as to the Government's attitude towards imposition of a sales tax, the Premier's concluding statement on financial problems was taken as an indication that such a move is likely.

This is what he said:

"I am sure members will realize why the Government is deeply concerned . . . and why it is so necessary that our revenues should be increased, if we are to maintain our public services, particularly those affecting social welfare, education, municipalities and public works, at the high standard the public has insisted upon."

### TWO AVENUES

Later on, he said, increasing requirements could only be met by increased revenues on the one hand and restraint in expenditures on the other.

Reviewing the financial operations of the Province, Premier Johnson disclosed that estimated expenditures for the fiscal year ending this month would total \$65,644,000 against a \$58,000,000 budget and against actual expenditures of \$46,300,000 in 1946-47.

Every indication, he said, pointed to a further substantial increase in expenditures during the coming fiscal year.

Unappropriated surplus at April 1, 1944, amounted to \$16,385,940. Each year since then other surpluses had been added, bringing the total to \$41,936,374 last March 31.

Anticipated surplus for the fiscal year now ending was \$356,000, making an over-all total of \$42,291,373.

But the Premier went on to tell the House that appropriations had so diminished the account that only \$4,961,374 remained, nearly all of which had been committed for school construction. When these school commitments were met, the surplus would be reduced to little more than \$300,000.

He enumerated appropriations from the surplus account since 1944 adding up to a total of \$37,630,000, and concluded that it was apparent the surplus account "was used to finance many capital undertakings, as well as expenditures which normally would have been financed by consolidated revenue."

### Makes Policy Speech



PREMIER BYRON JOHNSON

Who delivered his first speech in Legislature yesterday since he assumed premiership of British Columbia. In policy speech, Premier Johnson indicated new taxes were in store for province.

## Expect Budget For March 17

March 17 has been tentatively set by the Government as budget day in the Legislature.

Present plans call for the Throne Speech debate to be wound up on Tuesday, March 16, and the formal resolution to be put to the House to clear the way for Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb to bring down his budget the next afternoon. There is a possibility, however, that the main debate may carry on for an extra day.

Tempo of the debate will be raised next week, with three or four speakers scheduled for each day.

Provisional lists for the first four days of the week are:

Monday—R. A. MacDougall (Cln. Point Grey), E. F. Rowland (C.C.F. Omineca), and A. C. Hope (Cln. Delta).

Tuesday—W. D. Smith (Cln. Atlin), J. H. Corable (C.C.F. Peace River), A. B. Ritchie (Cln. Salmon Arm), and W. H. Brent (C.C.F. Prince Rupert).

Wednesday—C. W. Morrow (Cln. North Okanagan), John McInnis (C.C.F. Fort George), and W. J. Johnson (Cln. Revelstoke).

Thursday—Tillie Rolston (Cln. Point Grey), A. J. Turner (C.C.F. Vancouver East), and H. J. Welch (Cln. Comox).

## Standing Committees Set Up in Legislature

The Legislature yesterday set up its standing committees for the session, in readiness for committee work to be begun next week.

Committees, with the first-named in each case as chairman, are as follows:

Standing Orders and Private Bills—C. W. Morrow (Cln. North Okanagan), D. C. Brown (Cln. Burrard), A. J. McDonnell (Cln. Vancouver Centre), James Mowat (Cln. Alberni), J. H. Cates (Cln. North Vancouver), Mrs. T. J. Rolston (Cln. Point Grey), A. R. MacDougall (Cln. Point Grey), H. E. Winch (C.C.F. Vancouver East), A. J. Turner (C.C.F. Vancouver East), and Randolph Harding (C.C.F. Kaslo-Slocan).

Public Accounts and Printing—W. A. C. Bennett (Cln. South Okanagan), Thomas King (Cln. Columbia), A. J. McDonnell, A. R. MacDougall, Thomas Love (Cln. Grand Forks-Greenwood), H. J. Welch (Cln. Comox), C. W. Morrow, Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F. Columbia), J. H. Corable (C.C.F. Peace River), and H. E. Winch.

Agriculture—Thomas King, A. C. Hope (Cln. Delta), C. W. Morrow, L. F. Stevenson (Cln. Point Grey), A. B. Ritchie (Cln. Salmon Arm), Dr. F. W. Green (Cln. Cranbrook), Cmdr. C. T. Beard (Cln. Esquimalt), W. A. C. Bennett, J. H. Corable, E. F. Rowland (C.C.F. Omineca), Randolph Harding, and John McInnis (C.C.F. Port George).

### MINING, RAILWAYS

Mining and Railways—T. A. Love, W. J. Johnson (Cln. Revelstoke), W. D. Smith (Cln. Atlin), J. L. Webster (Cln. Rossland-Trail), Dr. J. J. Gillis (Cln. Yale), James Mowat, H. J. Welch, Dr. R. R. Laird (Cln. Similkameen), Thomas Uphill (Lab. Fernie), Samuel Guthrie (C.C.F. Cowichan-Newcastle), J. H. Corable, and E. F. Rowland.

Forestry and Fisheries—H. J. Welch, J. H. Cates, L. F. Stevenson, Dr. F. W. Green, A. B. Ritchie, James Mowat, Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Thomas King, W. A. C. Bennett, Herbert Gargrave, W. H. Brett (C.C.F. Prince Rupert), and John McInnis.

Municipal Affairs—A. C. Hope, J. H. Cates, D. C. Brown, T. A. Love, C. W. Morrow, A. B. Ritchie, W. A. C. Bennett, Mrs. Rolston, W. J. Johnson, Samuel Guthrie, A. J. Turner, and Herbert Gargrave.

Labor—Dr. Gillis, W. J. Johnson, W. D. Smith, L. F. Stevenson, A. R. MacDougall, A. J. McDonnell, J. L. Webster, Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Cln. Victoria), H. J. Welch, A. C. Hope, Thomas Uphill, Herbert Gargrave, A. J. Turner, E. E. Winch (C.C.F. Burnaby), and Samuel Guthrie.

### Social Welfare and Education

—Mrs. Rolston, Mrs. Hodges, James Mowat, Dr. Gillis, Dr. Green, Dr. Laird, W. D. Smith, E. E. Winch, Randolph Harding, and John McInnis.



## Aid to Municipalities Ends This Year Until Goldenberg Plan Implemented

Municipalities will be given further assistance by the Provincial Government this year, but it will be the Government's last act to aid them until they themselves have put into effect recommendations of the Goldenberg Report.

That was the blunt statement made by Premier Byron Johnson in the House yesterday.

He did not explain what form the new assistance will take.

Nor did he give any indication as to what the Province intends to do about education costs.

Dealing with the Goldenberg Report, he said the Provincial Government had implemented all its recommendations with only one exception, that dealing with main trunk roads passing through municipal areas.

"This recommendation is being studied with a view to determining the most equitable manner in which to carry them out," he told the House.

He said the Government had passed legislation making it possible for municipalities to carry out recommendations affecting their own administration, and that "so far not one municipality has implemented those recommendations."

### NOT DETERMINED

It, therefore, could not be determined what the real improvement in provincial-municipal affairs would be until all the findings had been implemented.

"There is one thing that is certain," the Premier continued. "A basis must be found whereby municipalities can operate without constantly appealing to the Province for financial aid."

"The Government feels that the municipalities should fulfill their end of the undertaking as outlined in the Goldenberg Report."

"In addition, the Government is prepared to submit to the Legislature measures for granting still further assistance. That aid, I feel sure, will meet the desires of the municipalities."

"In giving them this assurance, however, let me say that the aid will be considered final."

"No other plea could possibly be given serious consideration unless the municipalities themselves have taken action to assume those responsibilities outlined in the Goldenberg Report."

He appealed to all school districts to exercise greater restraint in school expenditures, particularly on new buildings.

"Reason must prevail in these matters, otherwise the education program will get far beyond the ability of the taxpayer to meet," Premier Johnson warned.

Construction costs were entirely out of line, and until bidding became more competitive and quotations more reasonable, construction should be limited to emergent building necessities.

### What Is the Policy?

If one were to deduce what may be the Provincial Government's policy from Premier Johnson's "policy speech" in the British Columbia Legislature yesterday one would be forced to the conclusion that it will be to tax more, spend more and stave off the municipalities and others by promises left in blank. Thus the municipalities are promised help of an unstated variety which will meet their desires; the public is promised hospital relief in blank; and motorists are assured that their interests will not be forgotten on the disputed price and volume of gasoline.

In the same breath, Premier Johnson states that the municipalities must fend for themselves by implementing the provisions of the Goldenberg report (presumably the business tax); that the oil distributing companies importing gasoline into British Columbia are losing money; that this Province cannot do much about hospitals or social services until Ottawa first acts; and finally that the British Columbia Treasury (with \$42,291,374 of reported revenue surpluses as at March 31) has only \$300,000 left that it can call its own. It is all very puzzling, particularly the suggestion that the Province itself spent almost \$20,000,000 in one year over and above the voted appropriations of the Legislature.

One question what comfort the eighty municipalities of the province will derive from the Government's latest pledge in their favor, thus: "The Government feels that the municipalities should fulfil their end of the undertaking as outlined in the Goldenberg report. In addition thereto the Government is prepared to submit to the Legislature measures for granting still further assistance. That aid, I feel sure, will meet the desires of the municipalities." What aid, and when and how will it be applied?

On hospitalization, Premier Johnson's remarks were even more nebulous. He said, in part: "The Government has been engaged in a study of this problem and proposes to submit to the House, for its consideration, measures designed to bring hospitalization within the financial reach of the people." That is a wide promise for a treasury that now pleads exhaustion and the necessity for further taxation immediately.

Even if there had been no "policy speech" the leader of the newly-formed Coalition Government would have been expected to say something. We cannot help but feel that he has not said it yet. What is the policy? How will it be applied? When will it be carried out? The taxpayers are in no mood to stand for further \$65,000,000 budgets in blank. The municipalities, with their budgets open, must know what figures to write into their current tax bills. Just where on these pressing issues does the Government stand? Mr. Johnson has not said.

### Today in the Legislature

3 p.m.—Throne Speech debate continues.

Speakers — J. H. Corsbie (C.C.F., Peace River), W. D. Smith (Coalition, Atlin), A. B. Ritchie (Coalition, Salmon Arm) and W. H. Brett (C.C.F., Prince Rupert).

### First Message Bill Appears in House

First message bill of this year's session of the Legislature was introduced in the House by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald yesterday, and given first reading.

It is a bill to validate the 1947 election of commissioners of the village municipality of Osoyoos.

### Winch Agrees To Withdraw House Motion

A motion calling for return of all documents and submissions by oil companies on which the Government based its January three-cent gasoline price increase was withdrawn by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch in the House yesterday.

Last week Mr. Winch charged the Government with "iron curtain" tactics in denying him access to various records.

Yesterday he said he had been assured by Premier Byron Johnson that the information requested would be made available to him.

### Sees Monopoly As Threat To Resources

British Columbia's timber resources are in danger of monopolistic control by a few big operators.

That was the warning sounded in the House yesterday by A. O. Hope (Coalition, Delta).

It was the second the Government has heard from among its own supporters this session.

Last week Air Vice-Marshal L. F. Stevenson (Coalition, Point Grey) said profits were being made that might indicate the Government had under-estimated the value of its forests; hinted the Government might have been a bit too hasty in its Forest Act amendments a year ago, to the advantage of big over small operators.

Yesterday Mr. Hope said he understood there were to be some changes, and cautioned Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney to look at them very carefully.

"We read of certain interests getting very large blocks, and one wonders if at some time in the future we may wake up to find the province in the hands of about ten people," Mr. Hope said.

## Big Muni Are Need

Financial difficulties of municipalities bulked largely in the Speech debate in the House yesterday.

A. R. MacDougall (Cln., Ver-Point Grey), called the "Cinderellas of the Canadian," said members of Executive Council might get their annual pleas, but reminded the Government.

"The pleas of the municipalities to their parent body are no louder and recently been made more often, pleas of this Government's Federal authority."

He said there must be immediate adjustment between local, provincial and municipal.

If they were to emerge from backwoods state, the municipalities would have to embark on public works programs, much as they are on this Legislature," their could not be divorced from financial financing.

At the same time, Premier Byron Johnson, talking school districts, barking on a "spree of buildings" in days of struction costs.

### BLAMES PROVINCE

But, he said, if that unheeded, the fault would be the provincial administration for having pledged itself to implement the Came matching new school for dollar.

That, Mr. MacDougall offered too big a temporary school district that might be able to afford \$500,000 schools, but could afford knowing the province to find the rest.

Touching on British Columbia's own financial problems, sum the province was spend on education and vices was entirely disjunct to provincial revenue.

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"However, it seems we cannot hope that done within the coming

While pleased to hear Johnson promise more municipalities this year, Mr. said he was "intrigued" him say this assistant final, at least until Commission recommen-

"I must say I was prised to hear this," seems, to say the least, a parent to bring a change and then, at any existence, to proclaim no circumstances will receive a parent's contribution the future."

### NEED BASIS

He maintained that must be based on a stable municipalities an expanding source

"It is unthinkable assistance would take any static grant, or even a greater percentage



## Big Municipal Public Works Projects Are Needed, Says Point Grey Member

Financial difficulties of municipalities bulked largely in the Throne Speech debate in the House yesterday.

A. R. MacDougall (Cln., Vancouver-Point Grey), called them the "Cinderellas of the Canadian economy," said members of the Executive Council might get tired of their annual pleas, but pointedly reminded the Government that:

"The pleas of the municipalities to their parent body are probably no louder and recently have not been made more often than the pleas of this Government to the Federal authority."

He said there must be an immediate adjustment between Federal, provincial and municipal entities.

If they were to emerge from the backwoods state, the municipalities would have to embark on large public works programs, and "inasmuch as they are creatures of this Legislature," their financing could not be divorced from provincial financing.

At the same time, he joined Premier Byron Johnson in warning school districts against embarking on a "spree of new school buildings" in days of high construction costs.

### BLAMES PROVINCE

But, he said, if that plea went unheeded, the fault would lie with the provincial administration itself for having pledged itself in advance to implement the Cameron Report, matching new school costs dollar for dollar.

That, Mr. MacDougall declared, offered too big a temptation to a school district that might not be able to afford \$500,000 for new schools, but could afford \$250,000, knowing the province would have to find the rest.

Touching on British Columbia's own financial problems, he said the sum the province was called on to spend on education and social services was entirely disproportionate to provincial revenue.

"The Dominion should for all time relieve the burden of old-age pensions and the like," he asserted. "However, it seems obvious that we cannot hope that this will be done within the coming year."

While pleased to hear Premier Johnson promise more aid to municipalities this year, Mr. MacDougall said he was "intrigued" to hear him say this assistance would be final, at least until Goldenberg Commission recommendations were implemented by the municipalities.

"I must say I was slightly surprised to hear this," he said. "It seems, to say the least, cruel of a parent to bring a child into being and then, at any stage of its existence, to proclaim that under no circumstances will that child receive a parent's consideration in the future."

### NEED BASIS

He maintained that assistance must be based on a yardstick enabling municipalities to anticipate an expanding source of revenue.

"It is unthinkable that final assistance would take the form of any static grant, or even by sharing a greater percentage of costs of

education or hospitals, or whatever it may be," he went on.

"The municipalities have very limited scope in taxation. They are all in need of greatly increased funds, both for capital and current spending."

Returning to provincial problems, Mr. MacDougall declared it was time Ottawa took a substantial share in highway costs. It should assume responsibility for a trans-Canada highway and contribute to cost of construction of highways generally.

He said it was easy to be critical of British Columbia highways in comparison with those of Washington State, but sight should not be lost of the fact that the United States Government contributed very largely to the state highways, whereas Ottawa did nothing in this province.

Later in the afternoon A. C. Hope (Cln., Delta) declared that while main cities might get substantial revenue from implementation of the Goldenberg Commission's business tax proposals, benefit to smaller municipalities and rural areas would be negligible—little more than they derived now from trade licences.

### HITS PROVINCE

He said it was all very well for Premier Johnson to talk about municipalities putting their houses in order, but it was time the province did that to its own.

A very important part of the commission's recommendations was that the Government should accept responsibility for main highways running through organized areas.

"That has not been done," he said, "and from information I have it now seems doubtful whether it will be done this year."

He claimed municipalities should not have to bear any cost of assistance to old-age pensioners, yet they were still having to meet 20 per cent of the cost of medical care, plus "a lot of administration."

Then he maintained that municipalities and school boards had been taking "a little too much criticism," that the tax load was not equitable as between organized and unorganized territory.

Additional annual grants to municipalities for school purposes in the last 20 years roughly equalled the additional \$5,000,000 in municipal tax levy; but in the same period taxes collected in unorganized areas had dropped from \$3,261,700 to \$2,800,000.

Declaring the province did not need "any more commissions to make any more reports," he called for setting up of a committee of representatives of the Education Department, Municipal Affairs Department, and Union of B.C. Municipalities to bring down a sound assessment policy that would eliminate present overlapping.

"If that had been done in the first place there would be none of this trouble," he added.

## Coalition Member Backs Imposition of Sales Tax

A. R. MacDougall (Cln., Vancouver-Point Grey) is the Legislature's first member to come out in the open in favor of imposition of a Provincial retail sales tax.

There has been much talk recently of a sales tax as the new revenue source Premier Johnson says the Province must find, but it remained for the Point Grey Progressive-Conservative member to propose it in the House.

He said a sales tax would meet the increased demands of education and social services.

If part of it were given to the municipalities it would give them an expanding revenue based on increased population and the prosperity of the whole Province.

Anticipating opposition, he said a great deal of it would come from "the very sources who are constantly badgering the Government for increased social service and social assistance grants."

### NOT IMPRESSED

Mr. MacDougall said he was not impressed with the argument that a sales tax would bear more heavily on the man of small income than on the affluent.

"As a matter of fact," he maintained, "assistance to the aged and needy and unfortunate is predicated on the imposition of such a tax."

"It should be welcomed by property taxpayers, farmers and home owners, and those who wish to become home owners — the group which pays a major part of the cost of government."

"These people should realize that a retail sales tax more equitably spreads the tax burden within that group than does a property tax. The reasonable certainty that taxes on real property are not going to increase, because of this new immediate source of revenue, must be an incentive for those who wish to own their own homes and farms."

A retail sales tax was a pay-as-you-go tax, he concluded. The average man could go to sleep every night knowing that his sales tax liability to date had been liquidated.

Speaking of the Province's \$15,000,000 liquor revenue in the last fiscal year, Mr. MacDougall said:

"Those profits are becoming so large, and constitute such a big proportion of our total income, that it is becoming an unhealthy sign in our economy and is in itself argument for new sources of revenue."

## Gasoline Price Control Removal Is Suggestion Made to House

Removal of provincial gasoline price controls, leaving it to competition to hold prices down, was suggested in the Legislature yesterday by A. R. MacDougall (Cln., Vancouver-Point Grey).

He said he realized that such a move might lead to a combine, but pointed out that the Dominion Combines Investigation Act could take care of that.

"No one wants to pay more for any commodity than he is obliged to do, but why gasoline should be singled out to be sold at a loss is more than I can understand," the Progressive-Conservative member commented.

With many oil companies operating in the Province, there was nothing in the nature of a monopoly. That being so, and if price controls were removed, the situation should correct itself, and the Petroleum Control Board would be extricated from the "invidious position of having to decide what margin of profit is proper, not only for the industry as a whole but for this company or that, because there is a wide discrepancy between operations."

Mr. MacDougall joined his Point Grey colleague, L. F. Stevenson, who spoke last week, in warning the Province of the grave effect of the gasoline shortage on the tourist industry.

He told of exasperated United States visitors cancelling holidays and returning to the States when they found they could not get enough gasoline in Vancouver.

And he reminded the Government that with every gallon of gasoline sold in the Province yielding ten cents in revenue, it took "no mathematical wizard to deduce that any drop in sales means a serious drop in revenues."

He said he saw no reason why the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Act should not be repealed this year, or its operations suspended subject to the power of the executive to reinstate it if that became necessary in the interests of the public.



## Report B.C. Considering Alternative To Sales Tax for Budget Balancing

Searching for means to balance its budget, the Provincial Government is reported to be considering an alternative to imposition of a sales tax that would not place any additional burden on the public.

Coalition caucus is expected to hear this week proposals that the \$10,000,000 needed to balance the budget should be obtained by diverting approximately that amount from surplus revenues already appropriated for other purposes.

Last year the House approved a \$15,000,000 appropriation from the account for a three-year program of highway construction and reconstruction at the rate of roughly \$5,000,000 a year.

Latest proposal to avoid any new form of taxation is said to be that whatever remains of the highway appropriation from surplus revenue should be used for current expenditures in the 1948-49 fiscal year, and money required for completion of the three-year road plan should be raised by loan.

It is known that Premier Byron Johnson inclines to the view that this is the way capital projects should be handled.

In his speech in the House last Friday the Premier, enumerating drawings from the surplus revenue account, said:

"It is apparent that the surplus account was used to finance many capital undertakings, as well as expenditures which normally would have been financed by consolidated revenue."

A major battle is said to have developed in caucus over the suggestion that the province this year should impose a 3 per cent sales tax.

It is understood that several Coalitionists, including some of the Cabinet, recognizing the province's need for more money, incline to the view that the new proposals offer the best way out of a difficult financial position.

## Use Sweepstakes for Hospitals C.C.F. Member Urges in House

Sweepstakes to raise money for hospitals throughout the Province were urged in the Legislature yesterday by E. F. Rowland (C.C.F., Omineca).

Reminding the House of its unanimous resolution in 1938 favoring sweepstakes as a means of financing hospitals, Mr. Rowland said he would like to know what representations had been made to the Federal Government and what answers, if any, were received.

There was no answer from treasury benches.

Year after year the same proposal is raised in the House by Thomas Uphill (Labor, Fernie), mover of the 1938 resolution.

Mr. Rowland declared during Throne Speech debate yesterday that one of the two hospitals in his district had been on the verge of closing down last Summer because

## Lower Rates Should Follow Says Member

New business brought to insurance companies by British Columbia's highway safety responsibility law which went into operation this month should bring down rates, and if not the Government should make other changes.

This was the opinion expressed in the Legislature yesterday by A. C. Hope (Cln., Delta). While not explaining what the "other changes" should be, he hinted the Government might go into the business itself.

Mr. Hope said the financial responsibility plan was all right, but many people thought the cost was too high.

Here, coverage up to \$5,000 and \$10,000 against death or injury and \$1,000 against property damage cost from \$18 to \$23, compared with \$6 under Saskatchewan's compulsory insurance scheme.

"I think the volume of business the insurance people have picked up must be tremendous," Mr. Hope suggested.

"It's high time they adjusted their rates."

While not agreeing with the C.C.F. Opposition that everything Saskatchewan did was good, he thought "they might have something there" in car insurance.

It had insufficient funds to offer fair wages to nurses. For some weeks it had had to carry on with the matron as its only trained nurse.

First of the up-country members on either side of the House to speak in the debate, Mr. Rowland, whose riding got the biggest road maintenance vote in the Province last year, charged that public works funds were not being spent fairly or wisely.

He said the system of repeatedly filling potholes with gravel was pure waste of money, and that the department was not carrying out its own stated policy of giving first attention to main highways and roads serving greatest population.

Touching on farmers' problems, he urged that the Agriculture Department's land clearing units should have attached to them units for breaking the ground after it was cleared. Farmers in general had no suitable equipment for the work, and in consequence some of the land that had been cleared a year ago already was returning to its wild state.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1948

## Municipalities Waiting

British Columbia Municipalities are still waiting for the Provincial Government to declare what they will do with respect to education, hospital and other costs at this session. So far the Government have missed four chances to make this plain: one in the Speech from the Throne, two more in the addresses of the mover and seconder of the main resolution, and the fourth when Premier Johnson rose to announce the new Coalition's policy. Meanwhile in the Legislature itself private members are hoisting kites, guessing what form the promised relief to the municipalities—"to meet their desires"—will assume.

That is not a strong position for the Government. On the contrary, it invites the suspicion that the Administration itself does not know what it is going to do. The Provincial Cabinet told municipal officers nothing definite yesterday when they called on the Executive Council. They neither confirmed nor denied Hon. W. T. Straith's reported statement that a sales tax "was being considered." Meanwhile the municipalities have their budgets open and must close them soon. To do that they simply must be told what it is that the Province proposes to do with their requests at this session. Silence is not an answer to anything.

Meanwhile it is becoming abundantly clear what it is that the Government should do. The disparity of federal, provincial and civic revenues taken out of the same urban areas in British Columbia has now grown so great that it is pinching the Province and breaking down the municipalities. There is small room on top of the Dominion's \$140,000,000, the Province's \$65,000,000, and the municipalities' \$28,000,000 to impose additional taxation of any kind, either by means of sales tax or otherwise.

To restore some degree of equity in that situation the Province should press the Dominion for a greater realization of its obligations: for help with hospitals, with roads and with schools. The Province itself should stop trying to do capital works out of revenue, and so crippling itself that it cannot meet its own current obligations to the municipalities. Instead of a third-round boost in wages and prices, which would do nothing only spur inflation the more, the Dominion, the Province and the municipalities should join in cutting down their budgets to a size the taxpayers can afford.

Even so, the municipalities will have to be helped from provincial revenues, which have drained them of all but twenty-five cents on every dollar of local taxation. No mere handout at this session can cure that. There must be a more even division of local revenue fields, on a basis that will rise and fall with the level of the times. It is not fresh taxation but a juster division of existing taxation that is needed.

## Road Outlet Requested to

Steering clear of matters of Government policy, W. D. (Coalition, Atlin) pleaded Legislature yesterday for outlet to break the isolation Province's northernmost riding.

In Throne Speech debate, minded the Government agreed to build its share of to connect the town of Atlin Alaska Highway at a point Jake's Corner. So far, Jake waiting for the road.

Mr. Smith said the agreement was made contingent on being induced to build a through the Yukon Territory as yet, there had been no movement from the Federal Government.

Citizens of Atlin felt Province should proceed with construction of the British section of 30 miles, as it assured the Dominion would build its 30 miles.

Mr. Smith said in the mining in his constituency taken a new lease of life, spite many difficulties—them previously thought mountable—production becoming important.

Discussing transportation in detail, he said a welcome health insurance plan because isolation cost of sickness or disability extremely high and delay ment serious.

In some sections, higher airplanes afforded means of reaching doctor. Others must take

## There's At Ken

"There's Atlin" is a prospectors of Atlin—British Columbia's northern border district—have given to split the Province's Liquor Commission.

The reason? Alcohol so low that in Atlin's stuff freezes, breaks the is lost.

That's the story Will Coalition member for Atlin House yesterday.

"One fellow, fortune his frozen bottle before had thawed, removed all glass, and then licked his popsicle to his complete Mr. Smith related—to the complete enjoyment.

"It would seem that the Board is going to confirm this sub-standard grade they had better put some in it.

"I am told this freeze to distill the contents, freezes and leaves a stuff."

Yukon Territory re difficulty, Mr. Smith said It stocked 35 over-proof such cases.

Seriously, he told the people didn't appreciate pay \$150 to \$160 freight liquor.



## Road Outlet for North Riding Requested to Break Isolation

Steering clear of matters of broad Government policy, W. D. Smith (Coalition, Atlin) pleaded in the Legislature yesterday for a road outlet to break the isolation of the Province's northernmost coastal riding.

In Throne Speech debate, he reminded the Government it had agreed to build its share of a road to connect the town of Atlin with Alaska Highway at a point called Jake's Corner. So far, Jake is still waiting for the road.

Mr. Smith said the agreement was made contingent on Ottawa being induced to build its share through the Yukon Territory, but as yet, there had been no commitment from the Federal Government.

Citizens of Atlin felt that the Province should proceed with construction of the British Columbia section of 30 miles, as it was assured the Dominion would shortly build its 30 miles.

Mr. Smith said in the past year mining in his constituency had taken a new lease of life, and despite many difficulties—some of them previously thought insurmountable—production was again becoming important.

Discussing transportation problems in detail, he said Atlin would welcome health insurance and hospitalization because isolation made cost of sickness or disablement extremely high and delay in treatment serious.

In some sections, high-cost chartered airplanes afforded the only means of reaching doctor or hospital. Others must take the long

and costly boat trip all the way to Vancouver.

Dealing with additional surveys for a proposed new Alaska Highway, he said all claims previously made in favor of the western route for a road to open northern British Columbia had been vindicated. It would open many thousands of acres of first-class agriculture country and heavy timber, and afford access to the Ground Hog coalfield, while at the same time answering tourists' dreams.

## Discuss Brief On Transport District Board

Draft of a brief to be presented to the municipal committee of the Legislature calling for creation of an inter-municipal board, was considered by the Greater Victoria transportation committee yesterday, Alderman H. M. Diggon said.

"It has been sent back to legal representatives and will again be discussed by the committee early next week," he said.

The board would be designed to act for the four municipal councils of Greater Victoria in matters of public transportation and in supervision of the franchise agreement with the B.C. Electric Railway Co.

## There's No Joy in Atlin At Kennedy's Popsicles

Atlin's "popsicle" is the name prospectors of Atlin—British Columbia's northern border mining district—have given to spirits sold by the Province's Liquor Control Board.

The reason? Alcohol content is so low that in Atlin's winter the stuff freezes, breaks the bottle, and is lost.

That's the story William Smith, Coalition member for Atlin, told the House yesterday.

"One fellow, fortunately, found his frozen bottle before the contents had thawed, removed all the broken glass, and then licked his Kennedy's popsicle to his complete enjoyment," Mr. Smith related—to the Legislature's complete enjoyment, too.

"It would seem that if the Liquor Board is going to continue to supply this sub-standard grade of liquor they had better put some anti-freeze in it.

"I am told this freezing is one way to distill the contents, as the water freezes and leaves a core of real stuff."

Yukon Territory recognized the difficulty, Mr. Smith said pointedly. It stocked 35 over-proof rum for just such cases.

Seriously, he told the House Atlin people didn't appreciate having to pay \$150 to \$160 freight on watered liquor.

He had other Atlin liquor problems to tell the Legislature about. He said there was an agreement between the United States and Canada that liquor would not be shipped in sealed mail sacks across each other's territory.

Inasmuch as Atlin Riding was geographically situated almost entirely behind the Alaskan Panhandle, this precluded mailing of liquor to points thus situated. They had express service, so liquor could not be sent that way either.

"I realize that this is a Federal matter," Mr. Smith added, "but I mention it to show that the Liquor Act doesn't give the same privileges to every citizen in this province."

## Develop Peace River J. H. Corsbie Urges

The voice of the North country was heard in the Legislature yesterday crying for opening up of the Peace River district's vast resources.

J. H. Corsbie, C.C.F. member from Dawson Creek, said Peace River development would answer all British Columbia's problems, bring new prosperity from exploitation of foreign markets and ample revenue to drag the Government out of its financial jam.

In a left-wing speech singularly free from the condemnation usually highlighting Opposition contributions to debates in the House, Mr. Corsbie even went so far as to compliment Public Works Minister E. C. Carson on the road policy in his riding.

### GOOD SALESMAN

A salesman in private life, he did a first-class job of "selling" the potentialities of the North country to the House.

He said Canada's form of austerity program, mild though it was, was more severe than it need be if the Dominion and the Province set about developing their own resources to build a more stable internal economy.

From the Peace River, coal alone could solve the problem of a dwindling United States dollar supply. There was enough coal in the Peace River to take care of the needs of Western Canada and the Western States for "more years than any of us need worry about."

There was oil there, too, to lift Canada out of its present unsound importation of 10 to 12 per cent of its oil requirements.

"We are feeling the first waves of unemployment already," he said. "In a province as vast as ours and with as much of it undeveloped, unemployment should never become a problem."

Now was the time to plan against unemployment, less by a program of public works to provide jobs than by planned new development that would go all the way towards a solution.

The northern part of British Co-

lumbia could become a big industrial area, by provision of outlets through extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and of highways and roads to feed the railway.

"Extension of the railway would cost money, but so would unemployment," Mr. Corsbie reminded the House.

"It is no secret that the P.G.E. as it presently exists cannot be expected to be very profitable, much less pay off the backlog of debt that has piled up against it. Only by extending it into areas that can provide greater tonnage can we hope to see it become a profitable enterprise."

"There is no better time to start." While commenting that there were "no worse roads than ours" in the whole of the province, he warmly commended the Public Works Department on the program it launched last Summer to give the Peace River a network of gravel roads serving main districts. There was still urgent need for links with the Alberta road network, however.

### HITS GASOLINE BOOST

Mr. Corsbie protested last January's gasoline price increase as a hardship on farmers, and questioned why all of its yield had gone to wholesalers, with none to retailers, whose costs must have risen in equal proportion. That, he suggested, showed unfair discrimination against a less powerful group.

He was against imposition of a sales tax as the "most obnoxious of all taxes," taking more out of the small man's pocket than he could afford.

He was all for a plan of health insurance, from a prevention as well as a cure standpoint; said the hospitalization promised by the Government would be an improvement, but that full health insurance was the only real answer.

Coming closer to the cities, Mr. Corsbie drew a picture of the hardships that would follow any milk price increase, and declared a Dominion subsidy was the only logical answer to producers' claims; either that or public ownership of milk production and distribution.

## Increase Fees For Witnesses

Police court witnesses soon will get double their present fees for attendance at court, under an amendment to the Summary Convictions Act introduced as a message bill in the House yesterday by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

Present schedule of fees gives witnesses \$1.50 for each day attending trial. New scale will raise it to \$3. In addition, they and interpreters will get 20 cents one-way mileage, in place of the present 15 cents.

Interpreters' fees will remain unchanged, at \$2.50 for each half-day of attendance, but in addition they will get actual living expenses not exceeding \$5 a day when away from ordinary place of residence.

The bill also provides for upward revision of other fees in the scale under 30 different headings, including fees to justices of the peace, clerks and constables.

## Nanaimo River Power Source

A survey of water power potential of Nanaimo River showed an estimated 18,200 horsepower available from that source, Hon. E. T. Kenney, Minister of Lands and Forests, informed the Legislature yesterday.

His statement was in answer to a question on the order paper by Samuel Guthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle), who wanted to know also whether rights had been granted to any individual or corporation.

Mr. Kenney said rights for waterworks purposes only had been granted to Nanaimo city and Granby Consolidated Smelting & Power Co., Ltd.



## Wait Until Anscomb Budget Speech Cabinet's Answer to Municipalities

Municipalities will have to wait until Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb makes his budget speech in the House—probably next Wednesday—to find out what additional aid the Provincial Government is going to give them.

That was the flat answer a delegation from Union of British Columbia Municipalities said they got from Cabinet yesterday.

Mayor W. H. Mott, of New Westminster, union president; Mayor Percy George of Victoria, first vice-president, and R. R. F. Sewell, secretary, spent half an hour with the Executive Council, and came away knowing little more than when they went in.

Said Mayor Mott afterwards: "We'll have to be satisfied with the Government's answer for the present. At least we know now when we are going to hear what the Government proposes to do."

### NO COMMITMENT

According to the delegation, the Government did not commit itself as to whether or not it plans to bring down a sales tax.

If it does, municipalities will not be satisfied with a two-to-one division of the proceeds in favor of the Province, Mayor George told reporters. He said the delegation had reiterated its stand that the allocation should go the other way: that the municipalities should be assured of receiving a two per cent tax yield, and that anything else should be used for hospitalization and social services.

Both he and Mayor Mott said they had tried to impress on the Government the fact that municipalities were being hard pushed, because they had to get their own share to unload municipal burdens.

The suggested business tax would not solve the problem. It would help in cities, but 90 per cent of the municipalities would not get enough benefit from it to pay for the cost of setting up the necessary machinery to collect the tax.

The delegation also urged the Government to give municipal councils more control over school expenditures. It did not ask for school boards to be abolished, but suggested that councils should have representation on them.

budgets through, and had turned down school estimates.

### REITERATE STAND

Mayor George said the delegation had reiterated its point that a sales tax in the main should serve to unload municipal burdens.

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The delegation also urged the Government to give municipal councils more control over school expenditures. It did not ask for school boards to be abolished, but suggested that councils should have representation on them.

## Cites Marine Disasters In Urging Coast Guard

Recent marine disasters in British Columbia waters, causing loss of many lives, bring forcibly to light the appalling lack of coastguard facilities on this coast, W. H. Brett (C.C.F., Prince Rupert) declared during Throne Speech debate in the House yesterday.

He said one case alone, in which no fewer than 48 lives were lost, was glaringly in point, forcing realization that the coast had no facilities even to attempt assistance.

Mr. Brett said he appreciated that provision of coastguard services was a Federal responsibility, but told the House:

"It is not good enough for us to sit back placidly and say it is up to the Federal Government and not to us to do anything about it."

"We must press on Ottawa the seriousness of the situation. It is a sad commentary indeed on our present line of reasoning to hear a minister of the Federal Cabinet say that the cost of such a service would be out of proportion to the need, and to realize that the value of human lives is being reckoned in terms of dollars and cents."

Mr. Brett also took issue with a recent statement attributed to Finance Minister W. T. Strath that British Columbia had "come to a point where we will have to decide whether we will build schools or roads." Nothing, he said, could be a greater indictment against the present administration.

He suggested that the Government had promised so much in Saanich and Cariboo by-election campaigns that there was nothing left for the rest of the Province.

The Prince Rupert member called for widening of the Province's electric power development field to open new regions, and Government ownership of brewing and distilling industries.

## Asks Forest Act Amendments For Small Operators' Benefit

Forest Act amendments to enable small mill operators and truck loggers to carry on were called for in the Legislature yesterday by A. B. Ritchie (Cln., Salmon Arm).

Aligning himself with earlier speakers on both sides of the House in the Throne Speech debate who have warned of danger of monopolies in exploitation of forest resources, Mr. Ritchie declared:

"The small operators are doing a good job of clearing up isolated patches of matured timber with which large operators would not be bothered."

In his district, he said, there were numbers of small mills and operators who cut anything from 500,000 to 10,000,000 board feet during the season.

"This cut is mostly off Crown lands, and they feel that with the new Forest Act they are out on a limb and the Forest Act is cutting it off," the Salmon Arm member declared.

"When they are through cutting on their present sales they have had it."

He pointed out, too, that there were areas of over-mature timber on watersheds that should be selectively logged. These areas were becoming more a fire hazard than a watershed.

Mr. Ritchie also called for careful scrutiny of fishing camp licence applications, warning that overcrowding did not help the fishing.

He said cheap irrigation was needed to develop potential agricultural lands, and urged the Province to press for extension of assistance under the Prairie Farms Rehabilitation Act.

Pointing to hardships suffered by many people when closing down of health and accident groups deprived them of protection, he expressed a hope that "some form of health insurance will be brought in."

## C.C.F. Plans House Campaign Against Racial Discrimination

C.C.F. campaign against racial discrimination will be carried to the floor of the House during the present session of the Legislature.

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch has placed a motion on the order paper calling for the House to express opinion "that no discrimination should be recognized by the Government, either in law or right to practice in some professions, against any Canadian citizen because of color, religion, or land of racial origin."

The motion is an echo of recent Forest Service orders demanding discharge of Japanese employed in logging operations on Crown timber lands, later withdrawn pending review by the House.

Mr. Winch's motion directs attention to the definition of citizenship in the 1946 Canadian Citizenship Act, and points out that ineligibility for inclusion on the voters' list "denies certain citizens the right to practice in some professions."

It described any discrimination as repugnant to democratic principles and British justice.

A further motion filed by Mr. Winch urges the House to call on the Dominion Government for a conference of provinces on social security proposals, and the Provincial Government to consider plans in the meantime to initiate a full hospital insurance plan that would fit into a Federal health scheme when it is inaugurated.

Mr. Winch, in a third motion, urges introduction of legislation this session to provide for provincial control over rental rates.

## Coalition On Medical

Speedy Government action in establishment of a medical school at the University of British Columbia was called for in yesterday by C. W. Morrison, North Okanagan).

He was the second Government supporter this week to the Legislature that it will people's ill-will if some do to meet an urgent need.

A. R. MacDougall (Point Grey) said Monday school must be within the province "somehow, and immediately."

Yesterday Mr. Morrison appointment that the Throne had made no mention of despite two resolutions of last session.

"Must we sit idly by and watch our young people leave this province?" he asked you, once they leave, the

"If passing resolution effect, I suggest consideration amendment to our Union with a view to compelling Government to act quickly."

### NOT PRIVATE

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Mr. Morrison said the hold the Legislature university governors re we fall our young people time."

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unorganized territory from the city, yet the persisted in its refusal capital expenditure needed new building third.

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"I don't think the stand for compulsory and I don't think it was thing for the Government to write costs," he m

### SPENDING ORGY

"When the Cameron implemented there was spending on new building

tendency towards big and more frills. With ment underwriting hospital boards might themselves enough maintenance expense

His view was that there should make coverage that of the Blue Cross everyone, with a maximum \$1 on single persons married men.

"You can't force out hospital insurance

## Coalition Member Requests Action On Medical School Project in B.C.

Speedy Government action to aid in establishment of a medical faculty at the University of British Columbia was called for in the House yesterday by C. W. Morrow (Coalition, North Okanagan).

He was the second Government supporter this week to warn the Legislature that it will incur the people's ill-will if something isn't done to meet an urgent need.

A. R. MacDougall (Coalition, Point Grey) said Monday a medical school must be established within the province "somewhere, somehow, and immediately."

Yesterday Mr. Morrow voiced disappointment that the Throne Speech had made no mention of the school, despite two resolutions of the House last session.

"Must we sit idly by and continue to watch our young people leave this province?" he asked. "Mark you, once they leave, they are gone."

"If passing resolutions has no effect, I suggest consideration of an amendment to our University Act with a view to compelling the Government to act quickly."

### NOT PRIVATE

"It should be remembered that this institution is not a private university, but is operated under the Government for the great mass of the people. Various governments from time to time have been justly proud of their achievements, but at the present time there is danger of all the good work being undone."

Mr. Morrow said the people would hold the Legislature and not the university governors responsible "if we fail our young people at this time."

Urging greater assistance to hospitals, he expressed hope that brief reference to hospitalization in the Throne Speech meant more than merely a pious hope that something might be done. In Vernon, he said, two patients were admitted from unorganized territory to every one from the city, yet the Government persisted in its refusal to finance capital expenditure for a badly needed new building beyond one-third.

He said two courses were open to the Government in any contributory hospitalization scheme. It could underwrite hospitalization costs entirely, with compulsory registration of citizens, or it could outline a scheme along the lines of the Blue Cross.

"I don't think the people would stand for compulsory registration, and I don't think it would be a good thing for the Government to underwrite costs," he maintained.

### SPENDING ORGY

"When the Cameron Report was implemented there was an orgy of spending on new buildings and a tendency towards bigger buildings and more frills. With the Government underwriting the costs, hospital boards might not concern themselves enough about keeping maintenance expenses down."

His view was that the Government should make coverage similar to that of the Blue Cross available to everyone, with a monthly levy of \$1 on single persons and \$1.50 on married men.

"You can't force people to take out hospital insurance. My scheme

is to make it available," he explained.

The Okanagan member described as "fantastic" school estimates being placed before local councils for approval, throwing an unequal and unfair share on municipalities. Under the present assessment system it was the cities and not the Government that were giving relief to unorganized districts, he said.

"In the name of decency, I urge the Government to make additional grants to municipalities," Mr. Morrow said.

Calling for removal of the anomaly of magistrates being paid by cities but appointed by the Government, he submitted that they should be paid out of consolidated revenue and put on a contributory basis for pensions.

At present, a magistrate got a pension at the whim of the city council, and he had yet to hear of a magistrate retiring on a pension.

"His services are made use of until he is 75, and then he is dropped like a hot potato," Mr. Morrow declared.

### Today in the Legislature

2:30 p.m. — Throne Speech debate continues.

Speakers—Mrs. T. J. Rolston (Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey), A. J. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East), and H. J. Welch (Coalition, Comox).

Committees — Municipal Matters, Cedar Room, 2 p.m.; organization meeting.

### Remember Others Trade Unions Told

TRADE unions which ask for longer and longer holidays with pay but seem to forget about those who work 365 days a year without benefit of an Hours of Work Act received a verbal slap in the House yesterday.

And it came from one who has been a member of a trade union for 42 years—W. J. Johnson, Revelstoke's Coalition representative in the Legislature.

"Some of them are demanding as much as four weeks' annual holiday with pay," Mr. Johnson remarked, then added:

"I've never heard of any of them saying to their wives: 'Here's \$100; go away for a holiday and don't come back to work for a couple of weeks.'"

## Claims Nurses, Teachers Deserve Higher Salaries

Increases in salaries for nurses and school teachers in rural areas were advocated in the Legislature yesterday by John McInnis (C.C.F., Fort George).

Mr. McInnis declared teachers in some country schools had classes anywhere from 50 to 75 per cent in excess of the standard maximum enrolment, and were entitled to more money for their extra work.

He said there was a shortage of nurses in the Province now and it would continue unless additional inducement were offered to them.

Discussing labor matters, he opposed Government supervision of strike ballots as impractical, but challenged anyone to say that labor organizations were opposed to secret ballots.

"As a matter of fact, they make a better job of it than the Government does with its own elections," he added.

In the main, Mr. McInnis directed a 45-minute contribution to the Throne Speech debate to the needs of the Prince George district, urging the Government to make provision for the great development that would inevitably take place there.

He contended that the district's roads, not built for heavy logging traffic in the first place, were not getting enough attention.

## "Unnecessary" Patients Criticized in Legislature

Too many patients are in British Columbia hospitals, not because they need to be, but because doctors find it easier to see their patients in one morning hospital round than to make separate calls at their homes.

That was the statement made in the Legislature yesterday by W. J. Johnson (Coalition, Revelstoke).

He declared unnecessary hospitalization was one of the most difficult features of the whole hospital problem.

Referring to mutual benefit schemes covering hospitalization, he said contributors were apt to consider that because they were paying for it they were entitled to hospital service, regardless of how trivial the sickness or accident might be.

"If they aren't receiving more benefits than the amount they are paying in, either in hospital or for drugs, they think it isn't worth while belonging," Mr. Johnson said.

Vexed at lack of headway in old age pension improvements, the Revelstoke member said it was time there was a contributory scheme in operation, financed by the Dominion and administered either by it or the Province. His suggestion was that a contributory pension

plan should be merged with unemployment insurance, one payment covering both, to give a pension of not less than \$60 and not more than \$100.

Like other speakers before him in the Throne Speech debate, Mr. Johnson maintained that the Trans-Canada Highway should be a Federal responsibility; that Ottawa either should operate the highway or make a grant to the Province to cover it.

Emphasizing importance of the tourist trade, he said main requirements were good roads, enough gasoline to travel them, suitable accommodation along the routes, with good meals at reasonable prices, and courteous service.



## Budgeting "Unrealistic" Says Coalition Member

The Coalition Government, which has taken a lot more rebukes from its own supporters in the past week than is usual on the floor of the House, yesterday heard itself called unrealistic in its budgeting.

The criticism came from C. W. Morrow, Liberal Coalition member for North Okanagan.

While concerned over the fact that liquor profits formed such a large part of the provincial revenue, he suggested that Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, instead of budgeting on the lean side, should be more realistic in his revenue estimates.

He noted that liquor revenue in the last fiscal year had produced \$14,700,000, against an estimate of only \$8,500,000, and that many other actual revenues were proportionately higher than had been allowed for.

"I suggest that this time we should budget for revenues closer to what we can reasonably expect to get," Mr. Morrow counseled.

### Seen in Passing

There is already a sales tax in this province, that imposed by the Dominion Government and applying on a considerable list of articles in use and demand by the public. If the Provincial Government erects a second sales tax on top of that it must either apply on the same articles or on additional ones. That may be good for a while for government revenues but it will not be good for business, and in the long run—like the added three-cent tax on gasoline—it may be found an embarrassment in itself. Also, its collection will be wholly in the municipalities.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1948

## Winch Thwarted Twice On Price-Boost Issue

Opposition Leader H. E. Winch was thwarted twice in the Legislature yesterday in attempting to have the House adjourned on a matter of "urgent public importance" to open the way for discussion of the two cents price on gasoline announced at the opening of the House by Premier Byron Johnson.

Asking leave to move an adjournment, Mr. Winch presented to Mr. Speaker R. H. Carson a signed statement which read in part:

"This two cents a gallon increase, added to another recent order, raises the price by five cents a gallon in the province. It is estimated this means an additional \$5,000,000 cost to the purchasing public.

"The Government has not made public the findings of George A. Touche & Company, employed by the Petroleum Control Board to investigate the books of the oil companies, nor the submissions of the oil companies asking for an increase in selling prices.

"As the factual justification for the first increase has not been made

public, it is an urgent matter of public importance when a further increase is granted.

"I have definite and conclusive reasons for questioning the justification for the new increase."

Premier Johnson said: "This is a matter of Government policy and the Government takes full responsibility."

Mr. Speaker Carson then ruled that the matter was before the House and a rising vote showed W. A. C. Bennett (Coalition, South Okanagan) and Tom Uphill (Labor, Fernie) supporting the C.C.F. stand that the gasoline price boost should be discussed. Mr. Winch claimed that as more than nine members supported his stand, the gasoline price boost was open for discussion.

Mr. Winch then appealed the Speaker's ruling, the Speaker being upheld 28-12. Then division was taken on the actual motion to adjourn for discussion and Dr. J. J. Gillis (Coalition, Yale) stood with the C.C.F. and Members Bennett and Uphill, the count being 37-12.

## M.L.A. Claims Coast Guard Urgent Need

Arthur J. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East), said yesterday in the Legislature there was an urgent need for a coast guard service and asked the Provincial Government to make representation to Ottawa in this respect.

He said coast steamships with passenger accommodations up to 300 were not compelled to carry wireless operators under Federal shipping laws. Inadequate communication could prove disastrous in times of emergency.

The Saskatchewan automobile insurance plan was submitted by Mr. Turner as superior to British Columbia's new plan.

He said British Columbia insurance companies "were enjoying a harvest of \$4,000,000 new business" and motorists, paying four times the premium here, were not receiving the same protection as in Saskatchewan where the plan was under Government auspices.

The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act providing for a Government-supervised strike vote was not satisfactory to labor in general and that objectionable feature should be removed.

"That clause calling for a supervised strike vote merely tells responsible organizations they are not capable of managing their own affairs," Mr. Turner said.

One or two instances of undemocratic methods should not condemn the entire trade union movement.

The combination of an Attorney-General, versed in the cold logic of the law, also attempting to deal with human relations as Labor Minister, drew objection from Mr. Turner. He didn't think Hon. Gordon Wismer, holding both portfolios, could give the necessary thought or time to both of them.

## Welch States Schools Lack B.C. History

The fact that early British Columbia history was practically ignored in the school curriculum of the province was deplored in the Legislature yesterday by H. J. Welch (Coalition, Comox).

Drawing attention to the latest historical work from the pen of Bruce A. McKelvie, recognized as British Columbia's leading historian, Mr. Welch suggested that Mr. McKelvie should be retained by the Minister of Education to write a history of the province for study in the schools.

Mr. McKelvie, he said, undoubtedly knew more of the historical facts of British Columbia than any other man.

## Member Suggests Port Hardy Road

Location of a possible road from Campbell River or Sayward north to Port Hardy, to complete the Island Highway, was advocated in the House yesterday by H. J. Welch (Coalition, Comox).

His suggestion was that the Public



H. J. WELCH, M.L.A.

Works Department should put a location crew over the proposed route, and that an arrangement should be made with loggers operating in that area to put their roads, wherever possible, on the site of the new location.

This, he maintained, would make possible completion of a road from Victoria to Quatsino Sound in the not too distant future.

## Night Sitting Tuesday Ends First Debate

The Legislature will go into night sittings unusually early this year.

Present arrangements call for the House to sit next Tuesday night, to enable Attorney-General Gordon Wismer to wind up the Throne Speech debate, clearing the way for Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb to bring down his budget the following day.

Speeding towards completion of the main debate, the House will hear four speakers this afternoon, J. H. Cates (Coalition, North Vancouver), Thomas Uphill (Labor, Fernie), Samuel Guthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle), and Randolph Harding (C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan).

Only two, D. C. Brown (Coalition, Vancouver-Burrard) and E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby) are slated to address the House on Monday afternoon, because Mr. Winch can usually be expected to take about two hours.

Tuesday afternoon C.C.F. Whip Herbert Gargrave (Mackenzie) will close for the Opposition, and be followed by A. J. McDonnell (Coalition, Vancouver Centre).

Mr. Wismer will be the only speaker during the night sitting on Tuesday.

## Logger B.C.'s

British Columbia's forest management and sustained yield brought into operation by amendments to the Forest Act, drawing more and more criticism from members of the Legislature on both sides of the House—chiefly from Government supporters.

Yesterday the House was "not in the best interest of the province" people of the province best interests of this C. This latest condemnation from Herbert J. Welch, member for Comox. Finding that he had had a mind since the amendment put through a year ago said:

"I must raise my the policy of alienation inheritance in perpetuity concerns by the sole minister of the Crown. DISLIKES 'PERPETUITY'."

"In the first place the word 'perpetuity' a long time. Furthermore it now stands puts the Lands and Forests in an enviable position. He make decisions beyond of Solomon."

No matter what decision

## Woman Proposes

Any move to put tax into effect in British Columbia was condemned in the Legislature yesterday by Mrs. Tilly, aggressive Conservative member for Vancouver.

Mrs. Rolston had word to say for it.

She called it a retort to the poor tax, and Government to stop, before doing anything else.

"You'll hear from this Province in no uncertain terms."

Mrs. Rolston reviled living costs—22.3 per cent and 48.9 since the outbreak of war.

Then she waxed wistful of "that silent givers who out of a shrinking dollar try families, buy shoes, rent, and milk and butter."

## Suggests ly Road



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Brown (Coalition, and E. E. Finch are slated to address Monday afternoon. Finch can usually speak for about two hours. Hon. C.C.F. Whip (Mackenzie) will be in opposition, and be followed by McDonnell (Coalition Centre).

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## PROPOSES FUND

Mr. Welch emphasized that his suggestions were not made in criticism of the minister's administration for which he had the highest respect, but in an effort to clarify "a very contentious situation."

If the Government needed more revenue, she suggested it should review the Dominion-Provincial agreement, use its unexpended road fund, get a contributory social security program going, and collect more revenue from the forests.

First bill to receive third reading in the Legislature this session was an act to validate the 1947 election of three commissioners for the village of Osoyoos, a routine measure to facilitate administration of that settlement.

The Government-supervised strike vote was resented by labor as a stigma on the union movement. As long as he could remember, Mr. Uphill said, strike votes had been taken by secret ballot. It was more reasonable that the Government should supervise a union vote than that they should supervise the voting in a private corporation.



# \$2,500,000 Forest Aid For Small Operators Announced by Minister

## Increased Royalties on Timber Also Provided by Amendments

Increased royalties on timber; a forest development fund of \$2,500,000, and permission for bona fide farmers to operate woodlots on a sustained yield basis were provided in amendments to the Forest Act introduced in the Legislature yesterday.

Increased royalties on timber; a forest development fund of \$2,500,000, and permission for bona fide farmers to operate woodlots on a sustained yield basis were provided in amendments to the Forest Act introduced in the Legislature yesterday.

Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney would make no estimate of the revenue increased royalties would bring to the province, stating the figures would be disclosed in the budget speech.

In the Pacific Coast district, the royalty on fir, cedar, pine and spruce will be increased from \$2 to \$3 per thousand feet for grade one; \$1.50 to \$2 on grade two and 75c to \$1 on grade three. Hemlock royalties will be increased from \$1.50 to \$2 on grade one, \$1 to \$1.50 on grade two and 75 cents to \$1 on grade three.

In the Prince Rupert district, the increase on fir, spruce and cedar will be from \$1.65 to \$2.50 on grade one, from \$1.25 to \$1.75 on grade two and 75 cents to \$1 on grade three. Hemlock will be boosted from \$1.25 to \$2 on grade one, 95 cents to \$1.25 on grade two and 75 cents to \$1 on grade three. In the Interior, white pine will increase from \$1.50

to \$2.00; yellow pine and spruce is increased to \$1.50 and others from 75 cents to \$1.

The amendments provide a fund of \$2,500,000 for loans to private timber operators to enable them to take off timber more economically. Mr. Kenney explained that this frequently involved taking timber from the rear section of a lot first and that many operators could not afford to do.

Contributions to the Forest Protection Fund are increased from \$250,000 to \$650,000.

The amendments require that the farm wood lot must be adjacent to farm property and must be managed according to reforestation principles. The farmer is permitted to take off the annual growth periodically and is required to pay no taxes or charges, except stumpage fees.

## Charge of Steel Cartel Meets House Opposition

Samuel Guthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan, Newcastle) launched an attack on the "so-called" system of private enterprise in the Provincial Legislature yesterday but concluded his speech by saying he was afraid he had made no impression on the opposition benches.

His claim that there was a steel cartel in Canada was met with the cry "poppycock" from the Government side of the house. It would require an investment of only \$1,600,000 to build a steel mill in B.C. to break the cartel, he declared, and this was a small amount compared with the \$30,000,000 being spent on electric power.

He claimed bus transportation on the Island was a monopoly and defied "any prosperous opposition member" to attempt to establish a transportation line on the Island.

He alleged the government was flouting the will of the people in failing to introduce health insurance legislation and asked what the government was waiting for.

### ONLY GOOD RISKS

Insurance companies would only accept good risks for car insurance Mr. Guthrie declared, stating full coverage in British Columbia cost \$52 in comparison with \$16 in Saskatchewan. He urged that the Mines Minister require examination and certification of superintendents and mine bosses; abolition of the means test and lowering of the age limit for old age pensions and subsidizing of milk producers.

There was not a single young man

## Says Impounding Rules Get Ridiculous Results

Regulations regarding the impounding of cars involved in accidents were resulting in "perfectly ridiculous situations" and should be amended, J. H. Cates (Cdn., North Vancouver) told the Government yesterday.

He reported the case of a driver in Vancouver who reported to police that someone had struck and damaged his car while it was parked on the street and had his

car promptly impounded by police because he had "no pink card."

The act, he said, was penalizing innocent persons and injuring the injured.

He called for the Government to demand that the Wheat Board ship more grain through British Columbia ports, pointing out they once handled 100,000,000 bushels, while the estimate for 1947-48 was only 35-38,000,000 bushels. Ships could carry 2,000 tons of grain without reduction of lumber carried, Mr. Cates said, and this would reduce freight rates on lumber. In addition, each ship which called left an estimated \$20,000 behind for labor and supplies.

Turning to the Goldenberg Report, Mr. Cates asked that the Government fully implement the provisions calling for payment of grants in lieu of taxes on Crown-owned lands.

Subsidies for milk production would be necessary to enable the producer to stay in business and still supply sufficient milk at a price which the consumer could afford.

Mr. Cates called for closer scrutiny of those wishing to change their names; provision of a training ship in connection with the Borstal system, and increased mothers' allowances to take care of higher living costs.

## Royal Assent Given to Bill

Royal assent was given by Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks yesterday to a bill that was rushed through the Legislature Thursday afternoon.

The Lieutenant-Governor went to the Legislative Assembly because it was necessary the bill become law yesterday owing to a technicality.

The bill is entitled "An Act to Validate the 1947 Annual Election for the Village of Osoyoos." Without the validation the village commissions would not have been able to carry on.

# Gas Strik From

## Opposi As "Su

The Provi further two ce on top of thre criticism from the Legislature

Quoting from the Government, Touche & Comp accountants engaged Control Board company operation pointed out that half cents allowed represented 4.75 per cent to Imper 12.23 per cent to 11.25 per cent to

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# Gasoline Boost Strikes Sparks From Gargrave

## Opposition Whip Attacks Raise As "Subsidizing Inefficiency"

The Provincial Government's action in granting a further two cents increase in gasoline prices last week, on top of three cents allowed in January, drew scathing criticism from Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., Mackenzie), in the Legislature last night.

Quoting from the report made to the Government by George A. Touche & Company, chartered accountants engaged by the Petroleum Control Board to investigate oil company operations, Mr. Gargrave pointed out that the four and one-half cents allowed to the companies represented 4.75 per cent return on capital to Imperial Oil Company, 12.23 per cent to Standard Oil, and 11.25 per cent to Shell Oil.

### SAYS PLANT OLD

He declared Imperial Oil had an old, out-dated refinery at Ioco, and charged:

"With the four and one-half cents, you are subsidizing an inefficient operation on the part of Imperial Oil. That's on the word of your own auditors."

Premier Byron Johnson interjected that Imperial Oil was importing 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 gallons of gasoline at a very high price. It was not a question of inefficient plant, he said, but of importation of gasoline that the people of the province must have to keep running.

"The company has allowed its refinery to get into that position because under this set-up it doesn't have to worry about refineries so long as the Government protects it as it is doing," replied the C.C.F. whip.

He maintained that "90 per cent of this trouble is an attempt to break the control of the petroleum industry that we have in this province."

He charged, too, that because there was no control over fuel oil, there was no end to the increases the oil companies were slapping on, with the result that users were now paying over double what they did a few years ago.

"The companies are allowed to determine what proportions they will refine for gasoline or fuel oil," he said.

"What is happening is that they are producing more fuel oil because they can make more profit."

"The Government has done a very wrong thing. If it really believes that competition is the life of trade it should merely set a ceiling price and let those companies that can sell for less do so."

## Ten-Year Silence Ends for Saanich

FOR the first time in more than a decade, Saanich will have a voice in the Legislative Assembly today when Arthur J. R. Ash, who won the by-election for Coalition last month, takes his seat in the House for the first time.

From 1937 until last year, Saanich was represented by Hon. Norman W. Whittaker, who, while an influence in Government caucus, had no voice in debates in the House from the Speaker's chair.

Mr. Ash and Walter Hogg, who won the Cariboo by-election as Coalition candidate, both will be seated when the Legislature meets this afternoon.

## Bill Limits Use Of White Canes

Use of white canes by other than blind persons soon will become illegal in British Columbia.

Provincial Secretary George Pearson yesterday introduced in the Legislature a bill to restrict the blind use of white canes in any public thoroughfare, public conveyance, public place, or place to which the public has access, and to provide for fines not exceeding \$25 for wrongful use of white canes.

Blind persons are defined as those registered with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, or who are in receipt of blind pensions or are certified as having not more than 6/60 vision in the better eye after correction with glasses.

## Coalition M.L.A. Asserts Law Deliberately Defied by Winch

D. C. Brown (Cln., Vancouver-Burrard) declared in the House yesterday things had come to a pretty pass when elected representatives of the Legislature deliberately and flagrantly defied a law of the province.

He was referring to last year's Nanaimo laundry dispute, when, he said, Opposition Leader Harold Winch and two other C.C.F. members of the House joined the picket line of an illegal strike.

"If there are any who should set an example in strict adherence to the laws of our province it is the elected representatives of the people," Mr. Brown said.

He reminded the House that Bill 39 was made law by the Legislature last year, and until it was adjusted or amended it should be respected and enforced. That had not been the case in a number of instances.

He pointed out that the supervised strike vote had never been an issue in any of the illegal strikes in British Columbia since the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act was made law, yet the Opposition directed much of its attack against those sections of the act.

"We have had far too many avoidable strikes in British Columbia during the past year, and have tolerated too many illegal ones," Mr. Brown declared.

He said he was not defending industrial exploiters, who were just as bad as labor racketeers and agitators, but that to a large degree the past year's strikes could be traced to Communist influence; that many of them were "promoted by the Kremlin clique in Moscow, through Stalin's agents operating on the Pacific Coast."

It was encouraging to note, however, that many labor unions of repute were now taking steps to pluck out Communism from within their ranks, Mr. Brown added.

Later last night Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F. whip and member for Mackenzie, told the House he was not ashamed to say he had been one of those who joined the picket line.

"When I consider an injustice is being done to a group of workers, then I am prepared to take my place with the workers, right or wrong," he declared.

"Do you believe in upholding the laws or not?" interjected A. R. McDougall (Coalition, Point Grey).

Mr. Gargrave replied: "I do. But sometimes it may be necessary to take action that is against one's own convictions."

## Would Prevent "Blunders" In Law-Making

Means should be devised to enable the Legislature to give greater consideration to bills to avoid "blunders" which have characterized law-making in the past, Allan J. McDonnell (Cln., Vancouver Centre) told the House last night.

Cutting out the time devoted to speeches and formalities, he said, the House rushed through as many as 100 bills in 12 days with the

result that they were given insufficient study.

He suggested a board of deputy ministers to examine thoroughly all bills before they are presented to the executive council.

Among the blunders were the Goldenberg legislation relating to municipalities and School Act amendments, which had placed an extremely difficult burden on municipalities.

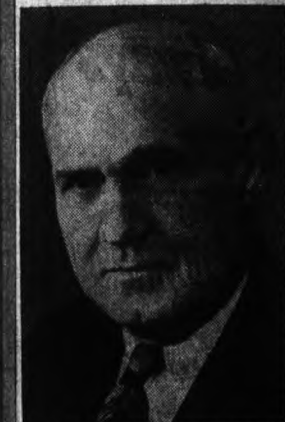
It was intended, he said, that the Government pay 55 per cent of the cost of education, whereas in fact this year Vancouver would pay 71.15 per cent and the Province only 28.35 per cent.

He referred to other legislation which had resulted in \$1,500,000 in payments that the Government was forced to pay to contractors.

"In the light of these discrepancies," Mr. McDonnell declared, "there is something wrong."

## Weir Returns For Budget

Dr. G. M. Weir, member for Vancouver-Burrard and former Minister of Education, probably will return to his seat in the Legislature to hear Finance Minister Herbert



DR. G. M. WEIR

Anscomb's budget speech tomorrow, it was learned at the Legislative Buildings yesterday.

Stricken by illness soon after the end of the 1947 session, Dr. Weir has not since been able to return to duty. Because of continued ill-health, he relinquished the education portfolio to Hon. W. T. Straith when the new Coalition Government was named on December 29, after retirement of former Premier John Hart.



## E. E. Winch Attacks Lack of Action In Stamping Out Illicit Drug Traffic

Problems of drug addiction claimed the attention of the Legislature for more than an hour yesterday, as E. E. Winch lashed out at what he termed the Government's continued failure to recognize its responsibility for adequate measures to put down the traffic.

Calling for a new approach to the problem, the veteran C.C.F. member for Burnaby said:

"Year after year we persist in mixing non-addicts with addicts and peddlers.

"Year after year I have advocated using the women's jail building as a segregation and treatment centre."

He called on the Legislature for immediate action:

1. To establish a hospital for the treatment of drug addicts with a view to their rehabilitation.

2. To establish legalized medical clinics for the treatment of certified chronic drug addicts for the purpose of administering the minimum amount that would enable them to carry on their means of livelihood and refrain from having to resort to underworld sources of drug supply.

### QUESTIONED DOCTORS

Mr. Winch said since the last session he had sent questionnaires containing these proposals to 900 doctors throughout the province. Of those who replied, 352 favored the first proposal and only 21 opposed it, and 255 approved the second, with only 70 opposing.

He quoted extensively from R.C.M.P. official reports on drug addiction to show that while the average age of addicts was about 35 years, two out of every three started taking drugs at 17.

While the yearly average over the last nine years of commitments of drug addicts to Oakalla was 203, the figure rose last year to 345.

In 1935 the price of opium on the street was 75 cents a "deck" from peddlers. By 1945 it was \$20 a grain, and today the price for illicit dope was \$10 to \$12, though the drug-store price on prescription was only 15 cents a grain.

Mr. Winch noted that R.C.M.P. reports said a development of particular interest during the past year was the reappearance, particularly on the West Coast, of opium, which had virtually disappeared from the illicit market during the war.

### PRISON WRONG PLACE

The same reports gave it that the prohibitive cost of narcotics forced the addict to rob and steal to support his habit.

He quoted the Archambault Report also as authority for a statement that the only way to handle a drug addict was to "confine him or her in an institution, separate and apart from all other inmates, and the period of incarceration should be of an indeterminate term. Prison is no place for them."

"The Attorney-General is responsible to a degree for the policy and administration of his department, but the initial and final responsibility is ours, individually and collectively," Mr. Winch reminded the House.

"We contend that the problem is basically medical and educational, and not mainly one of crime for which the only treatment is punishment—proved over and over again to be ineffective.

"Place the treatment in the hands where it belongs—with the medical and educational professions. Keep

the Department of Justice out of jails. Their job, so far as it belongs anywhere, should finish at the gate."

On other aspects of social problems, he urged provision of special facilities and specially-trained teachers for instruction of mentally-retarded children, and Provincial assistance to boys and girls clubs and community centres.

## Asks Close Earmarking If Sales Tax Effected

If the Provincial Government finds it necessary to impose a retail sales tax this year, the whole of the yield should be earmarked for costs of education and social services, according to D. C. Brown, Progressive Conservative Coalition member for Vancouver-Burrard.

In the House yesterday Mr. Brown differed from his Progressive Conservative colleague from Point Grey, Mrs. Tilly Rolston, who last week roundly condemned sales tax proposals.

He said that if the Government couldn't make ends meet and was compelled to tap new revenue sources, sales tax was the equitable and realistic answer.

"It certainly is in keeping with the 'ability to pay' idea, and that is of paramount importance," Mr. Brown said.

He was emphatic, however, that there must be a definite and unconditional provision that "not one red cent could be used for any purposes other than to help finance education and to pay our share of social services."

As an alternative, Mr. Brown suggested consideration of a tax on unearned increment. This, he maintained, would be the best way to keep the province's bank account in good shape and at the same time do a better job for those in need of social assistance.

Either of those means of finding additional revenue would come within provincial powers and would not conflict with the Dominion-provincial agreement.

He maintained, however, that there could be no argument that the cost of social services should largely be borne by the Federal Government, whose budget surpluses were running into hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

"It is their responsibility, and Ottawa knows they have got to give us a better deal," Mr. Brown declared.

He said health insurance was a "must," that it was a Federal responsibility, but if Ottawa did not do something soon, British Colum-

bia should make a start on a contributory plan. Excuses would not be tolerated by the people any longer.

Dealing with social services, he maintained that if cost of living was going to level off at today's figure, old-age pensions would have to be increased under a contributory scheme of some kind, and other allowances would have to be revised.

Mr. Brown made a strong bid for provincial assistance to community centres and to Alcoholics Anonymous.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1948

## Heated Words Fly as Winch Denies Claims

Allegation by Allan J. McDonnell, (Cln. Vancouver Centre) that the C.C.F. had invited the Communist Party into its ranks to obtain withdrawal of the Communist candidate in the Saanich by-election brought a heated exchange with Opposition Leader Harold Winch in the House Monday night.

"The statement is absolutely and positively incorrect," Mr. Winch declared and insisted that no member was permitted to make a misstatement about another.

Mr. Speaker ordered that Mr. Winch's statement must be accepted.

Mr. McDonnell was also forced to accept a denial that Mr. Winch had ever called for a "National Socialist state" in Canada.

Mr. McDonnell continued, however, to inform the House that Mr. Winch had appeared on the same platform during the Nanaimo laundry strike and had on the platform no one "lower in rank than thirty-three degree Communists."

"The chairman was Harold Pritchett," he continued. "The meeting was called by the B.C. Federation of Labor, a Communist-dominated organization."

Mr. McDonnell alleged that Mr. Winch had been keeping bad company.

## Entrance Age For Nurses Cut by Year

Minimum entrance age for students in nursing schools will be lowered from 19 years to 18 by an amendment to the Registered Nurses' Act introduced by Provincial Secretary George Pearson in the Legislature.

The bill makes no change in educational requirements, which will continue to be high school graduation with university entrance, or its equivalent as certified by the registrar of the University of British Columbia.

The bill was one of four introduced by Mr. Pearson.

Two others, amending the Industrial School for Boys' Act and the Industrial School for Girls' Act, provide authority for the superintendent of child welfare to recommend removal of an inmate to any common jail or mental hospital.

An amendment to the Medical Act will allow the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia to apply funds to the assistance of members and former members and their dependents.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb introduced a bill to amend a section of the Trust Companies Act relating to reserve funds.

## Wisner Speech Defends Car Insurance

Attorney General Gordon Wisner told the House flatly yesterday that he was not going to be stampeded by press reports into abandoning the safety and responsibility law which provides for impounding of motor vehicles.

There were plenty of administrative difficulties, but that did not mean the law was all bad. It was designed to meet the mounting toll of death and destruction on highways, and if Manitoba's experience could be accepted as a guide, there was little doubt that it would aid greatly in meeting the problem.

Replying to criticisms regarding the impounding of cars of tourists and visitors from other provinces, Mr. Wisner declared "that a person killed by a tourist is just as dead as one killed by a British Columbia car."

The law must either be enforced or not enforced, and police could not be expected to decide the case of every motorist who did not carry a pink card.

Step by step the minister analyzed the Saskatchewan legislation, which has won praise from the C.C.F. benches, and showed that there was little protection provided for public liability.

## Opposition On Socialism

A challenge to disprove that socialism is on a provincial basis was the Opposition bench by Attorney-General Minister Gordon S. W. concluded the address the Speech from the Throne.

Under the terms of the Act, control of all financial matters rested with Ottawa, there would be no control of capital which a C.C.F. Government.

The entire economy of the province had been built up with the aid of the C.C.F. had the C.C.F. had the power to serve as a where businessmen and being frightened away said, quoting figures of the population of the "PLAYING POLITICS"

Defending British Columbia in concluding the Doral tax agreement, Ontario and Quebec politics with "this national unity" in reference to the Hart proposals of any of their own.

Prime Minister King clear, the minister promised Federal help and contributory

could not be undertaken number of signed up. Since signed, it appeared either Ontario or Quebec. Mr. Wisner was neither province would the King Government want to see it swayed regardless of the Canada for social services.

The financial position of the government was current influenced by health posts, he stated, and new taxes must be these purposes until had taken over the wise there would be for the tax.

## Comox Steel Proposed

ESTABLISHMENT of a mill at Comox, B.C., with coke ovens at high-grade B.C. ore, was proposed by the Legislature by Allan J. McDonnell, Vancouver Centre.

With ample capacity as a day for work could be found blast furnace processes it would be cal to produce tons a day.

The speaker rolling mill at scheduled to within a month.



## Opposition Challenged On Socialist Question

A challenge to dispute the argument that socialism is not possible on a provincial basis was hurled at the Opposition benches yesterday by Attorney-General and Labor Minister Gordon S. Wismer as he concluded the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Under the terms of the B.N.A. Act, control of all financial matters rested with Ottawa. Provincially there would be no control over the flight of capital which would follow a C.C.F. Government.

The entire economy of Canada had been built up with venture capital and not one dollar would be invested if the C.C.F. had control. Saskatchewan served as an example of where businessmen and citizens were being frightened away, the minister said, quoting figures on the declining population of that province.

### "PLAYING POLITICS"

Defending British Columbia's part in concluding the Dominion-Provincial tax agreement, he declared Ontario and Quebec were playing politics with "this great issue of national unity" in refusing to accept the Hart proposals or to put forth any of their own.

Prime Minister King had made it clear, the minister said, that the promised Federal health insurance and contributory pension plans could not be undertaken until a sufficient number of provinces had signed up. Since seven had already signed, it appeared that this meant either Ontario or Quebec.

Mr. Wismer was convinced that neither province would sign up with the King Government "because they want to see it swept from power regardless of the crying need in Canada for social security measures."

The financial position of the Government was currently very much influenced by health and welfare costs, he stated, and any money from new taxes must be earmarked for these purposes until the Dominion had taken over the burden. Otherwise there would be no justification for the tax.

## Comox Steel Mill Proposed in House

ESTABLISHMENT of a steel mill at Comox using electrical power from Elk Falls, coke ovens at Union Bay and high-grade British Columbia ore, was predicted in the Legislature Monday night by Allan J. McDonnell (Coalition, Vancouver Centre).

With ample electric power, a mill could operate with capacity as low as 100 tons a day for which a market could be found, whereas with blast furnace or open hearth processes it was not economical to produce less than 250 tons a day.

The speaker said a steel rolling mill at Vancouver was scheduled to start production within a month.

## Bitter Speech By C.C.F. Whip Hits Finances

Charges of deliberately misleading the people of the province during the Saanich and Cariboo by-election campaigns were leveled at the Government in the House Monday night by C.C.F. Whip Herbert Gargrave (Mackenzie).

"At no time was any indication given of the financial situation of the Province—that the Minister of Finance would probably slap on an iniquitous sales tax," Mr. Gargrave declared.

"All that was given was a picture of prosperity under a businessmen's government. Now we are beginning to see what a mess of things that businessmen's government has made."

Then, turning to statements made in the Saanich by-election, he recalled the people there had been promised \$65,000 for public works next year, and declared:

### HINTS BRIBERY

"Promises of that kind before money has been voted by this Legislature to my mind approach bribery."

Both Premier Johnson and Public Works Minister E. C. Carson interjected that the money had been approved last year.

Of the Dominion-Provincial tax agreement, he said former Premier and Finance Minister John Hart had described it as providing an "expanding revenue to meet our growing requirements," bringing financial stability for years.

"Now we find that Ottawa was just a little too smart, and the Premier and the Minister of Finance are beginning to cavil at the deal."

"Right now we should admit we didn't make a very good deal. With \$138,000,000 collected by the Dominion in this province last year, certainly our share should be more than \$23,000,000."

Attacking the proposed sales tax as "disgraceful" in indefensible in modern economy, he said if the Government needed more money it should get it from the monopolists who were showing profits out of all reason.

### SAYS PLAN ABSURD

Covering a wide field in the Opposition's final blow of the Throne Speech debate, Mr. Gargrave dubbed the province's automobile insurance plan as absurd.

Of Premier Johnson's emphasis on Green Book proposals, he said the book would be green with age before Ottawa got around to carrying the proposals out. "We want to hear the Premier's plans for health insurance," he said.

Dealing with operations of the new Labor Relations Board, he said its functions should be made a lot clearer than they were now, and its hearings on proposed changes in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act should have been public.

## Attorney-General Assails "Trojan Horse" Tactics

There was a "Trojan Horse" in gratulation to the new Czech government was a slap in the face to all England, in the United States and Canada, Attorney-General and Labor Minister Gordon S. Wismer



ATTORNEY-GENERAL WISMER

said in the House yesterday as he gave the Communists a tongue-lashing.

He called attention to "spectacle of the greatest totalitarian country in the world 'liberating' state after state in eastern Europe" and asked if there was not some similarity with 1939 in the methods employed.

Coming closer to home he pointed that the methods employed were the same as those employed by Communists in B.C. — gaining control of large labor unions — and stated that regardless of whether the C.C.F. had invited Communist support there was no question that they were getting it across Canada.

Action by Nigel Morgan and Tim Buck in sending messages of con-

The present was no time for long-range criticism of the King Government, Mr. Wismer suggested. It was time for Canadians inside and outside of politics to join together in facing the "greatest threat to the Canadian way of life which we have ever experienced."

## Report Shows Deficit Erased By New Prices

New gasoline prices may eliminate deficits of British Columbia oil companies and allow some to make substantial profits.

Last year only Standard of B.C., among the three big oil companies in the Province, showed a profit.

This was indicated when Premier Byron Johnson tabled in the Legislature the report of George A. Touche & Company, chartered accountants, who probed oil companies' claims submitted to the Coal and Petroleum Control Board.

Gas prices are five cents a gallon higher than last year, with 4½ cents going to oil companies and one-half cent to retailers.

The accountants reported that Imperial Oil Company stood to lose \$1,476,001 if no increase was granted. With the increase, the company should realize a profit of \$575,635 or 73 per cent on its employed capital, which income taxes would reduce to 4.75 per cent.

Standard Oil of B.C. would have shown a slight profit of \$20,820 at the old prices and with the new rates stands to make \$1,039,901 for the year, representing 18.81 per cent on employed capital, or 12.23 per cent after income taxes.

Shell Oil Company faced a possible loss of \$221,224 at the old price, according to the report, but at the new rate should have a profit of 17.3 per cent on employed capital, which income taxes would reduce to 11.25 per cent.

For the smaller companies, the accountants' report showed that Home Oil showed a profit of \$122,894 or 5.71 per cent on employed capital for last year; McColl-Frontenac, a loss of \$93,947; United Oil a profit of \$48,169 or 27.07 per cent on employed capital and British American showed a profit of \$513,890 or 7.84 per cent.

## Today in the Legislature

2:30 p.m.—Budget speech of Hon. Herbert Anscomb.

Committees—Social Welfare and Education, 9:30 a.m., Cedar Room; Private Bills, 10:30 a.m., Maple Room; Agriculture, 10 a.m., No. 1 Committee Room.

## New Members Assume Seats

Arthur J. R. Ash, Saanich, and Walter Hogg, Caribou, took their seats in the Legislature for the first time yesterday, as by-election results were officially presented to Mr. Speaker, R. H. Carson.

Both men were sworn in yesterday

morning. Mr. Ash was led to his seat by Hon. Herbert Anscomb and Mr. Hogg by Premier Byron Johnson.

## Age

Age for students will be 18 by an act of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia.

Change in education, which will affect school graduation entrance, or its regulation by the registered university of British Columbia.

Four introduced to the Medical Council of the Province and Surgeons to apply funds of members and their de-

Herbert Anscomb bill to amend Trust Companies serve funds.

## Speech

## Insurance

Gordon Wismer flatly yesterday going to be stamping out and responsibility provides for motor vehicles.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1948

## House Committee Will Receive 100 Agricultural Resolutions

More than 100 resolutions have been approved by the Advisory Board of the Farmers' Institutes and will be presented to the Agricultural Committee of the House, which holds its first session this morning.

The resolutions were approved during a two-day session of the board which concluded yesterday.

Farmers should be allowed to destroy deer when the animals are destroying farm crops, the board decided in endorsing a resolution presented by A. R. Hiscok, representing Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

To increase the number of game fish in British Columbia lakes, the board wants the Government to establish a research plan; and to keep down the spread of predatory animals appointment of more hunters will be requested.

The Public Works Department will be asked to play a more active part in removing brush from the sides of highways and to provide power equipment for the spraying and killing of noxious weeds at the roadside.

Claiming that farmers bear an unfair proportion of school taxes, the board will ask the Government to revise the whole system of school taxation.

The board will express dissatisfaction with rural mail service on Vancouver Island; opposition to daylight saving time; urge the government to oppose any increases in British Columbia freight rates and stricter enforcement of the Pure Foods Act and will request that the Government introduce a scheme of health insurance in the Province.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1948

## Commission To Require \$20,000,000

Power Commission requirements for the current fiscal year and 1948-49 will be in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000, from its total borrowing authority of \$30,000,000.

This was announced in the budget speech yesterday by Finance Minister Anscomb.

He told the House that up to March 31 last, the Government had advanced to the Commission a total of \$9,161,350, of which \$7,611,350 was loaned during the fiscal year ended at that date. Interest on loans or advances so far made had been paid by the commission.

He explained that the commission would begin to pay sinking funds on loans made by the Government four years from the start of the loans at a rate to permit of liquidation in 40 years.

The Government itself, however, in some cases had borrowed the money for a period of half that time, so that when the loans came due they would not be entirely liquidated at the first due date by sinking funds provided by the commission.

In other words, the Government would have to refund a portion of them.



HON. HERBERT ANSCOMB

## "Critical Times Ahead" Suggestion to Members

Closing his budget speech in the House yesterday with a review of economic trends, Finance Minister Anscomb said a national survey of business conditions in 1947 revealed a year of great activity and accomplishment.

But he warned: "Consideration of economic developments suggests the possibility of critical times ahead."

He brought to light the fact that the net value of production in British Columbia was estimated at \$680,000,000 last year, an increase of \$120,000,000 over the year before.

Industrial production showed increasing gains. At no time was employment higher and unemployment less.

Retail sales index, the gauge of spending, rose from 194 in 1944 to 250.5 last year. Bank debts, partly reflecting rising prices and speculative activity, climbed to \$6,539,000,000.

The minister was apprehensive of

conditions in Europe and their effect on Canada's export trade. He said Canada was going through a critical exchange situation. Though it had an export surplus, that surplus was not convertible into United States dollars, and thus the country could not meet fully payments for imports from the United States.

It was his opinion that the current austerity program could have been prevented had trading been based more closely on the real value of the dollar rather than on a dollar pegged artificially.

Speaking of inflation, he said: "Self-restraint should be the watchword, for if the rise in prices were to continue, normal safeguards would eventually vanish; hard-earned savings would soon be eaten away, and finally even the bare essentials of life would be beyond the reach of most."

Mr. Anscomb said the various capital projects in hand, while expensive, were short of actual needs if the Province were to provide for a fast-growing population; yet the full scope of development and productive works would, perforce, have to be deferred until international and political stability was restored.

"Were it not for my faith in this country and my sincere belief that this stability will be restored in the not-too-distant future," he said, "I would view with the utmost alarm the volume of our proposed spendings."

## Net Debt Decrease Last Year Set at \$10,242,377 for B.C.

In a review of public debt in his budget speech yesterday, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb announced a decrease of \$10,242,377 in the net debt last year.

On December 31 last, gross debt of the Province stood at \$165,702,659, and net debt \$122,406,186.

On a per capita basis, net debt was lowered from \$177.74 to \$116.58, and Mr. Anscomb said that so far as debt was concerned the Province was in a stronger position today than it had been for many years. Average rate of interest payable on debt was 3.44 per cent.

Value of the provincial sinking funds on December 31 was \$24,296,472. Maturities falling due in 1948 and early in 1949 would be repaid from sinking funds. All sinking fund installments had been paid for during the current year.

Total assets of the Province at March 31, 1947, were \$332,109,651, or \$17,061,777 more than the previous year.

Liabilities totaled \$257,059,092, or \$2,869,297 more than at the corresponding date the year before. Surplus of assets over liabilities rose from \$67,878,978 on March 31, 1946, to \$75,050,559 last year.

Value of highways was placed at \$35,089,560, an increase of \$5,864,896.

Pacific Great Eastern Railway represented an outlay of \$105,733,676, the Minister said. It was the Government's intention to have a proper evaluation made of the railway's assets in order to determine the value that should be inscribed in the accounts of the Province.

Largest net revenue surplus in its history accrued to the Province during the year ended March 31 last, when a current account income of \$56,817,944 exceeded current expenditures of \$46,313,293 by \$10,504,650. Collections exceeded estimates by \$14,665,000, and expenditures were \$2,557,565 greater than was anticipated.

Probable expenditures by the Province for the current year were placed at \$65,674,000, against an original estimate of \$58,781,000. Authority for that would be supplementary estimates for \$3,416,000, special warrants already authorized of \$1,259,000, and statutory expenditures of \$2,318,000.

Mr. Anscomb said every \$1,000,000 borrowed required roughly \$60,000 annually for 28 years to carry it.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1948

# B.C. More Than Doubles Budget in Three Years

## Expenditure of \$77,449,869 Finance Minister's Estimate; Surplus Is Nominal \$166,440

### Revenue Estimate Highest Hope Anscomb Tells House in Speech

In three years, British Columbia has more than doubled its provincial budget.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's second budget presented to the Legislature yesterday anticipates a total revenue of \$77,616,309—greater by \$18,700,000 than the estimate for the current fiscal year, and by \$40,348,500 than that for 1945-46.

It estimates expenditures at \$77,449,869, for a nominal surplus of \$166,440.

What the actual surplus will be only another year's operations will tell. For 1946-47 it was \$10,502,550.

Yet Mr. Anscomb prefaced his estimates with this caution:

"The estimate of our revenue reflects the most we dare hope to receive as current income.

"On the other side of the ledger, however, we have costs based on present prices. If the spiral of inflation keeps rising, it will be next to impossible to keep expenditures within the estimated appropriations."

#### NEW REVENUE

Major new revenue is the \$12,000,000 estimated to come from the three per cent sales tax. Increased timber royalties are expected to yield another \$900,000. All other revenue sources are calculated to produce \$64,716,000, nearly \$6,000,000 more than their original estimated return for the current year.

The minister estimates liquor profits in the coming year at \$13,500,000. Though \$1,900,000 higher than last session's estimate, that is just \$1,000,000 less than actual profit for 1946-47, and \$2,000,000 less than the probable profit for the year ending this month.

Expenditure estimates are greater by \$18,668,534 than the amount originally anticipated for the current year, by \$31,134,575 than actual expenditures in 1946-47.

However, Mr. Anscomb pointed to experience during the current year, when supplementary estimates, special warrants and statutory over-expenditures raised the total of anticipated costs from \$58,780,000 to \$65,974,000.

#### EXCEED EXPENDITURES

Next year's estimates, therefore, would exceed the expenditures anticipated for this year by about \$11,800,000.

The minister presented to the House the following summary of estimated 1948-49 expenditures by departments, with increases over current year's anticipated totals shown in brackets:

Public debt, \$10,987,915 (\$364,689).  
Legislation, \$195,100 (\$11,990).  
Premier's office, \$30,118 (\$2,768).  
Agriculture, \$790,070 (\$95,770).  
Attorney-General, \$3,793,923 (\$198,552).  
Education, \$12,981,537 (\$1,731,960).

Finance, \$7,797,890 (\$4,134,236; including municipalities' \$4,000,000 share of sales tax revenue).

Fisheries, \$33,438 (\$8,058).  
Health and welfare, \$13,679,691 (\$2,611,226).

Labor, \$384,685 (\$99,600).  
Lands and forests, \$5,425,565 (\$1,239,499).

Mines, \$585,180 (\$64,720 decrease).  
Municipal affairs, \$69,067 (\$34,057).

Provincial Secretary, \$7,880,892 (\$727,578).  
Public Utilities and Motor Carrier Act, \$241,762 (\$46,887).

Public Works, \$11,945,392 (\$1,104,007).

Railways, \$35,764 (\$1,754).  
Trade and Industry, \$591,380 (\$52,395).

Most of the increase for education, Mr. Anscomb said, was attributable firstly to \$1,100,000 special aid to rural school districts to lessen the tax burden on real property where that was most severe, and secondly to an increase in basic grants due to expansion in school attendance.

For health and welfare, more money was needed to carry out general policy and provide additional funds for broader scope with respect to health units, tuberculosis control and welfare services generally.

Under the heading labor, an additional \$29,065 was needed for the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Board, and an additional \$53,820 for the new Labor Relations Board. (Chairman of the five-man board receives \$7,500, members \$5,000 each, plus expenses.)

Most of an extra \$727,578 for the Provincial Secretary's Department was to cover increase in the Government's contribution to civil service superannuation, larger grants to hospitals generally, and increased operating costs.

Dealing with public works, the minister said notwithstanding an all-time record provision in the main estimates last year of \$9,820,512, the department had found it necessary, as a result of price inflation, to over-expend by more than \$1,000,000.

#### MAINTENANCE HIGH

Amount sought by that department was \$1,100,000 greater than actual expenditure this year, to enable minimum requirements to be carried out. For maintenance alone, no less than \$9,370,000 would have to be spent.

Answering statements that revenue from gasoline tax and licensing of vehicles was far in excess of amounts spent on upkeep of highways, roads and bridges, Mr. Anscomb presented figures showing estimated expenditure at \$14,860,000, including debt charges, against revenue of \$13,945,000.

He showed that the Department of Trade and Industry was asking an additional \$23,705 for the Travel Bureau and \$25,990 for the Bureau of Economics.

### Comparison Of Costs Is Presented

Presenting the problem of mounting welfare costs to the Legislature yesterday, Finance Minister Anscomb disclosed that in the coming year the Province would spend more than \$20,000,000 on social services.

"That," he emphasized, "is nearly as great as the total revenue the Tolmie Government (1928-33), at one time, had to run the entire Province."

Presenting a comparison of costs of productive and non-productive services, he said the coming year's \$77,450,000 expenditure would be apportioned this way:

Debt services, 14.75 per cent.  
Social services, 42.58.

Productive services (agriculture, public domain, highways, bridges and ferries), 22.44.

General services, 20.23.

He asked the House to note that the sum to be spent on social services generally was nearly twice that to go to productive services.

"Notwithstanding a very substantial increase in expenditures for productive services—that is, for development of our basic economy, agriculture, forests, mining, highways and the like—the allocation does not, in my judgment, represent a proper proportion of the total," he declared.

"We have to face the facts. It is the money we are spending on productive enterprise and the initiative and energy of our own people who produce and make a profit, that provides the means for our great social service structure."

### Today in the Legislature

3:30 p.m.: Budget debate opens.

C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch (Vancouver East) will be the sole speaker, leading for the Opposition following delivery of the budget yesterday.

Committees—Municipal Matters, Cedar Room, 10 a.m., to receive representations from Union of British Columbia Municipalities.



# B.C. Municipal Aid Total \$17,988,000

## Legislature Told Provincial Action Generous—Report Adoption Asked

Direct financial aid by the Province to municipalities will total \$17,988,000 in the coming fiscal year, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb announced in his budget speech to the Legislature yesterday.

That, he said, compared with a total of only \$2,965,449 in 1941-42.

Here is how the minister said the assistance would be allocated:

One third of retail sales tax, estimated at \$4,000,000.

School salary grants, transportation and teachers' pensions, \$6,800,000

One-half share of new buildings, \$3,000,000.

Indigent relief, medical and hospital services, \$2,348,000.

Keep and transport of prisoners, \$60,000.

Local roads, \$70,000.

Share of motor vehicle licences, \$1,600,000.

Interest on municipal pension plan loans certificates, \$110,000.

"Surely no better evidence of generosity could be submitted," Mr. Anscomb declared.

"In addition to this direct aid, the Government extends annual costly indirect aid by way of grants to hospitals, health and welfare services, etc. etc., and but a few months ago paid over to the municipalities grants totaling \$2,680,000 to either repay debts, re-establish sinking funds, or for capital projects.

### ACCEPT REPORT

Dealing with provincial-municipal relations generally, he said the Goldenberg Commission recommendations, "for all practical purposes," were accepted by the Government in the belief that a firm, equitable, and permanent fiscal relationship had been established; more particularly because the Government already had extended bountiful relief to the municipalities through implementation of the Cameron Report earlier.

He concluded:

"This Government readily admits that since implementing the Goldenberg recommendations the spiral of inflation has created new financial difficulties for the municipalities, and that once again additional aid will have to be extended to them.

"But let us not forget that the commissioner took great pains to

assess the problems and to suggest, not palliatives, but long-term solutions for them . . .

"It was the commissioner's stated belief that municipalities generally were in a satisfactory financial position; that many of the grievances on which their claims for redress were based no longer existed, and that some of their claims for additional revenue were basically unsound . . .

"As I pointed out last year, Commissioner Goldenberg in several instances recommended important changes in municipal assessment, taxation, and methods of administration, which were equally a part of the solution of the municipal problem.

### GAVE LEGAL MEANS

"The Province provided whatever legal means were necessary, and it is now time for the municipalities to meet their own responsibilities."

Turning to school building programs, he said Government acceptance under the Cameron Report of 50 per cent of costs had resulted in all boards launching on programs much greater in extent than they otherwise would have done. It had led to a looseness.

He disclosed that the Minister of Education now had before him applications for schools to a total cost of \$40,000,000, which, if the Government agreed to them, would cost the Province \$20,000,000.

"It must be quite obvious to everybody," the minister pointed out, "that a program of that sort cannot be financed by the Province out of current revenue.

"While we propose to earmark \$4,000,000 for the immediate present out of revenue surplus account, from that time on it will have to be financed by provincial loans. I do not think it will be necessary for me to introduce a loan bill this session on that account, but I shall have to do so at the next session."

## No Strings On Tax To Cities

Municipalities' one-third share of proceeds from the provincial 3 per cent retail sales tax to be imposed this year will be paid over to them without any strings attached.

"It will be the responsibility of each of the municipalities to allocate its respective portion in that manner as will best meet its own requirements," Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb told the House yesterday.

"There will be no vestige of coercion as to where or how the money shall be spent."

Of the \$12,000,000 the new tax is estimated to yield at the outset, \$4,000,000 will be given to municipalities, \$8,000,000 retained by the Province to balance its budget.

The Province will devote its two-thirds to "purposes of a nature such as social services, health and welfare, and old-age pensions.

### NO LIST OF GOODS

Beyond saying he would recommend liberal exemptions from the tax for food for "family" consumption, the minister did not enumerate what goods would be taxable, what exempt. That will come when the Retail Sales Tax bill reaches the House.

Leading up to the Government's determination to levy a sales tax, he said it was neither easy nor pleasant to arrive at such a decision, but it was inescapable because of economic forces beyond the Government's control.

"One thing certain was that we had reached a point when neither compromise nor a deficit budget could be tolerated," Mr. Anscomb explained.

"To belound the real issue and facts would have been an unforgivable disservice to the people of this Province; to have done so would only postpone until the next year the evil to be faced in double measure."

### VOLUME INADEQUATE

While some measure of increased revenue was available through higher timber royalties and from greater liquor profits, gasoline tax, motor vehicle licence fees, and other sources, the possible volume was quite inadequate.

Notwithstanding certain municipal opinion to the contrary, the retail sales tax was not a new idea in British Columbia, the minister continued. It had been considered by his department many times.

Answering municipalities' claims for a greater share of the tax yield, he said that collections within municipal areas at 3 per cent, based on population, would amount to about \$9,000,000. But to assume that all sales made within a municipal area were of articles for use therein would be most erroneous.

### NEARLY HALF

"When we consider," he explained, "that a great deal of the heavy machinery and equipment that would be purchased within municipalities would be utilized outside such areas, and that the tax should not equitably be considered a municipal share, we will find that the

proposed grant of \$4,000,000, rather than being but one-third of the total, is approximately 50 per cent.

"There is a further fact to be considered — and this was emphasized in the Goldenberg Report — that much of the wealth finally spent in municipal areas originates in the hinterland. The needs of the Province must be considered as a whole, and not with relation merely to various separate needs."

## Current Trend Reflected In Estimates

Mainly reflecting current trends in salary and material costs, estimates tabled by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in the Legislature yesterday also indicated expansion in some Government departments.

The House, which voted \$20,000 last year to fight the Province's discriminatory freight rates case and is now being asked to approve an additional \$89,000 in supplementary estimates, will be called on to appropriate \$25,000 for the case for the coming year.

Education Department's appropriation of \$12,981,537—\$2,850,000 more than last year—will include nearly \$1,000,000 more in basic and supplementary grants; but \$22,000 is lopped off last year's \$395,300 for adult education.

### AGRICULTURAL AID

Department of Agriculture's estimates allow \$185,000 for the livestock branch, against \$142,000 last year; \$15,000 for subsidies on agricultural lime, against \$8,000, and an extra \$2,000 for agricultural fairs, which last year got \$10,000. Votes for soil surveys, agricultural development and extension, engineering, and land clearing also are increased, by roughly 20 per cent.

In estimates of Department of Health and Welfare appears a doubled grant of \$50,000 for cancer control and a new grant of \$25,000 for arthritis control. Vote for the division of tuberculosis control is increased by nearly \$400,000 to \$1,628,775.

Expansion of the Government's program of surveying and mapping is indicated in a \$230,000 estimate for that branch, \$95,000 more than last year. Provincial parks will get \$182,600, against last year's \$75,000. Estimates of the surveys branch are doubled to \$254,720.

Mines Department is asking for \$50,000 more than last year's \$150,000 for mining roads and trails.

Covered extensively by Mr. Anscomb in his budget speech, most impressive increases in expenditure estimates are for social assistance, hospitals and mental hospitals.

Hospital administration and grants call for \$2,265,290, compared with last year's estimate of \$1,809,155; mental hospitals \$3,075,207, against \$2,597,290.

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# Tax Proposed in Budget Meets Prompt Opposition

## Mayors See Possibility Of Boost in Mill Rate

The Provincial Government's proposed sales tax not only does not meet the needs of municipalities for increased revenues to meet soaring costs but makes it almost impossible for them to carry out the Government's recommendation that they help themselves. The result may be a zooming mill rate, or virtually no improvements to roads and other public services.

This was the reaction voiced following a meeting last night by Mayor William Mott, president of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and Mayor Percy E. George, vice-president.

They said a special meeting of the executive of the union would be called to see what action would be taken.

"We can't say we don't want this money," they declared, "but it has done little to answer our request for aid, and we expect it will have virtually no effect on municipal budgets this year."

### DISAPPOINTED

Expressing disappointment that the Government had taken two-thirds of a tax requested specifically to remove educational and hospital costs from local councils, the two union officials pointed out that Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's suggestion that they must now follow the Goldenberg Commission recommendations to help themselves was not practical.

Major recommendation of the commission was the imposition of a business tax by municipal councils.

Imposition of such a tax now, it was pointed out, would in effect result in a double sales tax, because the business tax would be passed on to the consumer by businessmen. This was without consideration for Federal sales taxes.

This is what would happen if Vancouver follows its plan to im-

pose a business tax, July 1. Prices in Vancouver would be forced higher than in other cities unless business men absorb the tax, Mayor George and Mayor Mott contended.

They also listed the following objections to the Government's fiscal policy:

1. By the Cameron school legislation and revised scales of social services the Government had caused school costs to soar but had pegged its own share of the cost.

2. The Government's contribution to hospitals had been set 25 years ago, and municipal councils were left to meet all increases since. (Victoria paid three times its legal requirement last year).

3. Further changes in school and social service legislation this year could wipe out all sales tax benefits, leaving the municipalities worse off than before.

4. The Government had failed to take the municipalities into its confidence as to intended legislation this year, with the result that there was no way of knowing what expenditures would be.

### NO ASSURANCE

5. There was no assurance that the Government would not eventually take the whole of the proposed sales tax. A one-third share of amusement and pari-mutuel taxes was once granted to the municipalities and later taken away. It was pointed out, while the one-third share of motor vehicle licence revenue was only restored last year.

## Capital Projects' Expenditure Adds Up to \$28,600,000 Total

Proposed expenditures on capital projects in British Columbia in the fiscal year add up to a total of \$28,600,000.

To meet them, \$5,000,000 will be taken from revenue surplus and \$23,600,000 derived from capital borrowings, Finance Minister Anscomb informed the Legislature yesterday.

Under its \$3,000,000 borrowing powers already available, British Columbia Power Commission expects to spend \$11,000,000 on power development or acquisition of existing plants.

Last session \$15,000,000 was appropriated from surplus revenue for highways, roads and ordinary bridges, to be expended at the rate of \$5,000,000 annually. The 1947 allotment has been spent, and with it a little more than \$2,000,000 in extra payments to contractors, recommended by Mr. Justice Sidney Smith, because of cost increases beyond their control.

The third instalment from the \$15,000,000, therefore, will be reduced by that amount.

An additional loan bill will be asked this session.

Total expenditures on capital ac-

count for roads, highways and bridges generally will include \$5,000,000, from surplus revenue, and \$4,900,000 from borrowings under authority of loan acts of 1943 and 1946.

It is anticipated that \$2,750,000 will be spent on steel and concrete bridges from borrowings under last year's loan act.

A sum of \$1,000,000 will be set aside for purchase of heavy road construction and maintenance machinery.

Cost of additional buildings at University of British Columbia is estimated at \$1,750,000, and expenditures of \$1,300,000 for provincial buildings are contemplated, to be charged to borrowings under the 1943 loan act.

Further borrowings for rolling stock, equipment and extraordinary maintenance of Pacific Great Eastern Railway will be met, by a loan bill of \$5,000,000, of which \$800,000 will be spent during the coming year.

Authority will be taken for loans of \$2,500,000 to set up the revolving fund for construction of forest roads, repayable by industry.

## City May Receive Little Of Sales Tax This Year

Victoria may receive \$282,000 a year from the proposed sales tax annually, but probably little or none of it this year.

This was the interpretation placed on Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's budget speech by Ald. Edward Williams, City Council finance committee chairman, as he expressed bitter disappointment at the inadequate provision for municipal aid.

"I just don't know how we are going to balance our budget this year," he declared. "It is at least certain that there will be no new work. We will be reduced to bare maintenance."

Mayor Percy E. George also pointed out that the city had been able to do little since the war in its rehabilitation program, and there

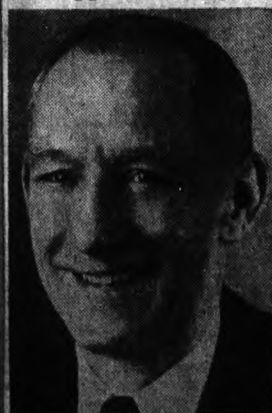
was little likelihood of much being done this year.

Said Reeve E. C. Warren of Saanich: "I don't consider the Government has answered the plea of the municipalities through the U.B.C.M. I feel greatly disappointed."

Reeve R. A. Wootton of Oak Bay said he would like to see how the tax would work out before expressing any comment.

Ald. Williams drew particular attention to the fact that the budget speech had made no direct reference to hospital aid. Victoria had paid three times its legal requirement last year, and was apparently being left to continue on this basis for the current year. This, despite the fact that the Government was still basing its own contributions on a standard set 25 years ago.

### Opposes Policy



MAYOR P. E. GEORGE



## B.C. Tax Agreement Seen Short of 'Fair'

British Columbia's tax agreement signed with Ottawa last year, though it will yield the Province an additional \$1,413,000 in the coming year, falls far short of a fair return for tax fields which the Province surrendered.

This was indicated by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his budget speech in the House yesterday. He said:

"We... have every reason to assume that had we retained all our taxing rights we would have enjoyed an increased yield from the tax fields originally surrendered.

"While it is not possible to say what our position would have been had we not given up (these) tax fields, I think it can be assumed we would have collected in our own right a very considerable sum."

### RENEW PRESSURE

Mr. Anscomb said that the moment the session ended he and Premier Byron Johnson would bring renewed pressure to bear on Ottawa for another conference.

"It will be pressed until we do receive what is our just and right return for the revenues we have handed to them," the minister declared.

He said there was conclusive evidence that the agreement, which British Columbia signed in good faith, was predicated on the definite understanding that, as soon as a "sufficient" number of Provinces accepted agreements, the Dominion would implement its promises on social security measures and public investment requirements.

### STILL NO SIGN

Seven out of nine Provinces had signed, yet there had not been any indication from the Dominion Government that it proposed to keep its promises to John Hart who, as Premier then, negotiated the agreement for British Columbia.

Those promises were:

1. To accept full financial responsibility for the relief of employable unemployed.

2. To accept full responsibility for pensions of persons 70 years of age and over.

3. To share equally with the Province cost of old age pensions between ages 65 to 70.

4. To assist any province going into the health insurance business.

5. A public investment program in which Ottawa would pay 20 per cent of actual cost of construction of projects, if undertaken at a time to which the Dominion concurred.

Mr. Anscomb said the vast majority of the people of Canada believed the Dominion should participate to a much greater extent in social services already established and initiate others on a contributory national basis.

He concluded:

"We signed the agreement in good faith, knowing full well that a goodly proportion of our people's income would be used to aid other areas not so favored as British Columbia.

"But we signed in the belief that the surrender value of our tax rights would be used essentially for the common benefit of the Province and its respective municipalities; that the pooling of these resources, together with the provincial aid from the Dominion, would ensure sufficient

funds for adequate social security and social and health services, and give material assistance in the development of our resources.

"I do not think there can be any argument against a further conference on the definition of 'When a sufficient number of Provinces have signed up.'"

## Vote Today Indicated

Major issue at this year's session of the Provincial Legislature, the 3 per cent sales tax proposal announced by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his budget speech yesterday, may be decided on the floor of the House today—before the sales tax bill is even presented.

It is expected that Opposition Leader Harold Winch, who will start the budget debate this afternoon, will move an amendment to delete the estimated \$12,000,000 sales tax revenue from the budget.

If it carried, a motion of that kind would defeat the Government.

Such an eventuality is so unlikely as to be ruled out before the motion is made; but the division Mr. Winch undoubtedly will call for is expected to see several Coalition members voting with the Opposition.

When he informed the House yesterday that the Government intends to bring in a retail sales tax bill, Mr. Anscomb did not say anything about machinery for its collection or how it will be applied, other than that food for "family consumption" will be exempted.

### TOKENS UNLIKELY

What is likely is that:

1. Tokens will not be used.

2. The tax will apply to liquor sales.

3. It will probably be added to gasoline sales, which would boost the present price one cent.

4. Mr. Anscomb's reference to "family consumption" rather than human consumption of foods is taken as an indication that restaurant meals may not escape the tax. Under the "nearest cent" formula, however, morning tea or coffee likely will be exempted.

Expectation is that the levy will be computed to the nearest cent, meaning that chocolate bars and small articles of that nature would be exempt when purchased singly.

Date when the new tax will go into effect has not been mentioned. That, too, will be covered by the bill. Probability is that the effective date will be April 1, which is the beginning of the new fiscal year.

## Regard Sales Tax Grant As Helping School Costs

Although the one-third share of the 3 per cent sales tax to be passed on to municipalities will be theirs

to disburse as they see fit, the budget speech made it obvious the Government regards the grant as a school cost aid.

Here is Finance Minister's formula for distribution by the Province to municipalities:

1. Grants to cities and districts will be computed by adding the school population of 1947 to the municipal population estimate for 1946 and determining the per cent ratio of these to the total.

2. Village municipalities, which will receive assistance under special grants made by the Education Department, will receive an allocation based on their population only.

Each percentage factor will determine the portion payable to local governments.

Mr. Anscomb said he had given a great deal of thought to distribution of the estimated \$4,000,000. The problem was twofold because villages would automatically benefit from the special aid the Government proposed to give rural school districts of which they formed part, whereas aid to cities and districts embraced all purposes.

## Sales Tax Highlight Of Budget

Highlights of the Provincial budget announced yesterday include:

New Taxation — Three per cent retail sales tax (essential foods exempted) estimated to yield \$12,000,000. Municipalities to get one-third.

Estimated revenue, \$77,616,309; expenditure, \$77,449,869, for a nominal surplus of \$166,440.

Total aid to municipalities, \$17,988,000.

Increase of \$1,100,000 in aid to rural areas for education.

Public works capital projects to cost \$28,000,000.

Highway maintenance vote, \$9,370,000.

Social service and education to cost Province \$33,000,000, up \$12,500,000.

Probable total expenditure for 1947-48, \$65,674,000, or nearly \$7,000,000 more than original estimate.

Net debt, \$122,406,186, down \$10,242,377. Per capita debt reduced by \$81.16 to \$116.58.

Sinking fund total, \$24,286,472, up \$3,223,550.

Revenue surplus account down to \$4,305,000 from \$41,935,374.

New royalties on timber to yield extra \$900,000.

Pacific Great Eastern Railway borrowing powers to be increased by \$5,000,000, with \$800,000 to be spent in coming year.

Power Commission to spend \$11,000,000 on development and acquisition of plants.

Borrowing authority for \$2,500,000 forest development revolving fund to be sought.

## Supplementary Estimates Given House

Supplementary estimates totaling \$3,415,235, to cover expenditures during the past year not provided for in the 1947 budget, were tabled by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in the Legislature yesterday.

Establishing another new record, they compare with \$2,557,565 last year, \$920,230 the year before, and \$661,428 in 1946.

Unbudgeted Public Works Department costs account for almost one-third of the total. Amounting to \$1,007,500, they include \$795,000 more for roads, bridges, ferries and wharves than last year's estimates allowed, and \$119,000 more for maintenance and repairs to buildings.

Other departmental totals shown in the supplementary estimates are:

Agriculture, \$11,450.  
Attorney-General, \$486,600.  
Finance, \$75,185.  
Education, \$704,300.  
Health and Welfare, \$751,000 (social assistance, \$332,000).  
Labor, \$22,800.  
Lands and Forests, \$31,000.  
Provincial Secretary, \$320,000.  
Railways, \$6,000.

## Everything Year Late House Told

The anomaly of a year-old balance sheet having to be presented to the Legislature because the session came before the end of the fiscal year drew comment from Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in presenting his budget to the House yesterday.

It was a difficulty he had noted in his first budget speech a year earlier.

He conceded that the situation could not be rectified unless the Government decided to hold its session at another period in the year, bringing it closer to the closing date of Government business, March 31.

"A change like that is not necessarily acceptable or advisable," he remarked, "but it does not alter the fact that, in a modern, fast-moving world, I am having to tell you of things just a year late."

## Elections Faces New Session

Virtually rewritten by last year, the Provisions Act is to be re-opened the present session.

Amendments to be introduced this year are to involve any major rather to effect changes in the machinery as a experience in the Seaside by-elections, first since the act was passed.

Before they reach the act will be studied by a committee of the House hold its first meeting.

A motion by Provincial G. S. Pearson yesterday committee as follows: (Coalition, Columbia)

## B.C. Budget

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1948

**B.C. Budget**

Whoever may be pleased by it, the Coalition Government's current budget of some \$106,000,000 tabled in the House yesterday is likely to cause some thoughtful reflection on the part of the provincial taxpayer. With estimated revenue expenditures of \$77,449,849 and capital projects totaling \$28,600,000, the Province is planning to spend approximately \$100 per capita of population in the fiscal year 1948-49. It is strange on top of this, the largest budget in British Columbia history and more than twice as heavy as it was three years ago, to hear the Finance Minister warn that "consideration of economic developments suggests the possibility of critical times ahead." They will be critical for the taxpayer, certainly.

There are two direct increases in taxation in the budget. One is the 3 per cent sales tax, the operation of which has yet to be explained. The other is the increase in timber royalties. Both together are estimated to produce \$12,900,000 in the coming fiscal year. Estimated revenues of \$77,616,309, estimated revenue expenditures of \$77,449,869, and a "nominal surplus" of \$166,400 are reported, apart from loan authority and loans of \$5,000,000 for the P.G.E., \$11,000,000 for the B.C. Power Commission, and \$2,500,000 for the Forest Development Fund. Projected capital outlays are placed at \$28,600,000, to be financed by \$23,600,000 of old and new borrowings and \$5,000,000 from accumulated surplus. Once again the estimated receipts seem low, the estimated expenditures high, and the "nominal surplus" fictional.

A good deal of the budget address was taken up in explaining what the Province had done with some \$41,000,000 of accumulated revenue surpluses, including more than \$10,000,000 in the last fiscal year closed. In plain terms it seems to have spent the money, and will now produce supplementary estimates of \$3,416,000 of ordinary over-expenditure, \$1,259,000 in special warrants, and \$2,218,000 in over-expenditure on statutory accounts. While the Legislature is being asked to ratify the largest provincial tax bill in history, it would do well to inquire into such over-expenditures without its consent.

**Another Revenue Grab**

In plain terms, yesterday's Provincial budget means that the Government are preparing to use the municipalities as an excuse to dig \$12,000,000 additional out of the pockets of British Columbia taxpayers in another revenue grab by means of a 3 per cent sales tax, \$8,000,000 of which will go direct to the provincial treasury. The municipalities are to be silenced with a \$4,000,000 hand-out, the collection of which will still further reduce the municipal taxation field while fattening the provincial one in municipal areas. This may be a stop-gap, but it is not a solution of provincial-municipal relations and everyone knows that.

This paper, which championed the cause of municipal relations sincerely, is disappointed. The Province has thrown a crutch to the municipalities while taking an arm-chair for itself. A token vote of \$70,000 for "local roads" in municipal areas is not only a clear denial of an explicit Goldenberg recommendation, but also a travesty of that help for which the municipalities were asking. The recounting of provincial munificence to the municipalities, in which the budget indulged at some length, rings hollow when the municipalities' problems are understood. As they asked for help the municipalities will most likely accept the minority share, but they will understand now the mistake that they made.

It is typical of this stop-gap method of financing that the new 3 per cent sales tax remains even yet unexplained to the taxpayers. On what will it apply? What goods or commodities will be exempt? How will it be handled? All the Government seems to have seen in it is the \$8,000,000, the lion's share, in this fresh dip into the taxpayers' pockets. On top of the sequestered federal gasoline tax of two years ago, a \$12,000,000 sales tax will not bring much new business to British Columbia.

**"Fresh Start" Foreseen  
On School Tax Problem**

Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Coalition member for Esquimalt, said yesterday the Government probably would have to "start afresh" on school tax measures.

He made the statement before the Legislature's agriculture committee, of which he is secretary, after the committee had heard protests from the advisory board of Farmers' Institutes against the burden of school costs in rural areas.

"The Cameron Report sounded very fine, and the Government, in its lack of knowledge, implemented it," Cmdr. Beard told the delegation.

"Now it has got beyond control. You are just repeating what we as members are all trying to tell the Cabinet."

Members of the delegation said farmers and ranchers couldn't support the burden of school taxes multiplied several times in some cases, without any additional benefits in school service.

James Woodburn, Okanagan delegate, warned, however, that the burden must not be taken off unorganized areas and placed on organized districts.

George Brandon, Skeena, declared there was a "kick all throughout the province" on the school tax problem. Supposed to alleviate the situation, implementation of the Cameron report had had just the opposite effect.

**Elections Act  
Faces New  
Session Study**

Virtually rewritten by the Legislature last year, the Provincial Elections Act is to be reopened during the present session.

Amendments to be introduced in the House this year are not expected to involve any major issues, but rather to effect changes in elections machinery as a result of experience in the Saanich and Cariboo by-elections, first in the province since the act was revised last year.

Before they reach the House, the act will be studied by a special committee of the House, which will hold its first meeting next Monday.

A motion by Provincial Secretary G. S. Pearson yesterday names the committee as follows: Thomas King (Coalition, Columbia), C. W. Mor-

row (Coalition, North Okanagan), J. H. Cates (Coalition, North Vancouver), D. C. Brown (Coalition, Burrard), Harold E. Winch (C.C.F. leader, Vancouver East), Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., Mackenzie), and T. A. Love (Coalition, Grand Forks-Greenwood).

The committee will be considerably smaller than that which the House set up two years ago, and which continued to function between sessions, holding hearings in various parts of the province. The first committee was assisted by a departmental advisory committee made up of officers concerned with administration of the act.

A major outcome of its recommendations was enfranchisement of East Indians and Chinese for the first time.

The committee has until March 29 to present its report to the House.

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# Government Holds Firm As Opposition Strives To Eliminate Sales Tax

## Coalition Wins Confidence Vote Born of Winch's Budget Attack

The Provincial Government survived an Opposition no confidence motion on the sales tax issue yesterday by a margin of 32 votes to 13.

It was the first want of confidence motion the Coalition Administration has had to withstand since 1944. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch brought it in as an amendment to the routine motion for committee of supply, aimed at defeating the budget.

Premier Byron Johnson immediately rose to inform Mr. Speaker the Government could not accept the amendment, as it was a want of confidence motion.

"There will be an opportunity to discuss the sales tax later," the Premier said.

The House voted that the words Mr. Winch sought to have struck out of the motion should stand.

On division, two Coalition members sided with the Opposition: Mrs. T. J. Rolston (Point Grey) and W. A. C. Bennett (South Okanagan). Both are Progressive Conservatives.

### TWO ABSENT

Two other Coalitionists were absent from the House through illness: J. L. Webster (Rossland-Trail) and Dr. G. M. Weir (Burrard).

Mrs. Rolston, who condemned the proposed tax during the Throne Speech debate earlier in the session, did not speak yesterday, but Mr. Bennett declared:

"I regret that the Premier has made this a no-confidence motion, because I made my position clear against this unfair tax months ago in a statement to the press.

"I have informed the Premier of my definite stand against this tax. This is not a business tax; it will kill business. I am forced to vote for the amendment."

### ATTACK VIGOROUS

Voting on Mr. Winch's amendment followed a vigorous Opposition attack on the budget sales tax announcement of the day before.

Mr. Winch dubbed it a deficit budget, since the Government could not meet its expenditure requirements without introducing a new taxation measure.

At the same time, he called attention to rising administration costs and declared the Government was going "hog wild," increasing costs of administration by 76 per cent from \$4,900,000 in 1945-46 to \$8,695,000 in 1948-49.

He declared the Government was not bringing about any finality in the problem of provincial-municipal relations, and called for setting up of a provincial-municipal conference of Government departments, Union of British Columbia Municipalities, incorporated cities, Federation of

Agriculture, and members of the House to readjust financial responsibility, and reach agreement on percentage of revenue to be returned to municipalities.

Mr. Winch asserted the sales tax proposal was a contradiction of Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's statement in his budget speech that everything possible should be done to check inflation.

"It is an upside-down income tax based on inability to resist rather than ability to pay," he said. "It is class legislation of a vicious sort . . . It is evidence of panic and unpreparedness."

W. E. Brett (C.C.F., Prince Rupert) read a telegram of protest from Prince Rupert Retail Merchants' Association; Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., Mackenzie), one from Powell River Retail Merchants' Association.

## Today in the Legislature

2:30 p.m.—Budget debate continues.

Speakers — James Mowat (Coalition, Alberni), W. A. C. Bennett (Coalition, South Okanagan), and Randolph Harding (C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan).

Committees — Forestry, 10 a.m., Cedar Room.

## City Hall Bill Before Session

Private bill to empower Victoria to lease the City Hall site to the group wishing to build a hotel and to exempt the land and improvements from taxation with the provision that the city may accept a fixed tax instead, was introduced into the Legislature yesterday by Mrs. Nancy Hodges. It was referred to the private bills committee.

The bill provides that the city may lease the property for not more than 99 years or sell it to M. H. King, B. H. Gunning, Robert J. Fancett and Bernard A. Nixon, or a company formed by them, provided the proposal is put to electors in a by-law and approved by three-fifths majority.

Other bills introduced yesterday provided for the incorporation of the British Columbia Automobile and General Insurance Company, Vancouver, incorporation of the National Fidelity and Insurance Company and a bill to provide amendments to the Vancouver Incorporation Act.

## Tax Battle Continued By B.C. Municipalities

Battle between municipalities and the Province over the proposed sales tax flared up again yesterday.

As the executive of the Union of B.C. Municipalities concluded its annual presentation of resolutions to the municipal committee of the House, Reeve R. M. Grauer, Richmond, launched the attack.

He said the Government had taken all the power away from municipalities to regulate schools and social services.

"Sometimes I wonder if the Cabinet is running the whole show or not. We go into the Cabinet year after year and they tell us where we can go and what we can do. I don't think that's right."

Municipal representatives appeared before the municipal committee but saw little results in legislation. The committee was elected by the people and should have some power, he said.

Continuing his attack Reeve Grauer said much had been said about the wonderful condition of the Government a year ago when huge surpluses were reported but "now we hear they are broke."

"If the Government thinks we are satisfied with \$4,000,000 they are badly mistaken. We are in the same fix right now as we were in depression times."

Said Mayor William Mott of New Westminster, president of the union: "The budget speech leaves us high and dry. Taxes on property are as high as they can go regardless of what anyone says."

He recalled that representatives of 41 municipalities had appeared before the Government and this was followed by an hour and a half meeting between the union and the Cabinet on another occasion.

But, he said, "we are still up in the air as to what we are going to do this year. Regardless of what you say we have no control over school costs, we just get the bills at the end of the year."

It was all very well to suggest that school budgets could be submitted to arbitration, Mayor Mott said, but municipalities had won in less than 1 per cent of the cases.

Mayor Percy George said Victoria had a backlog of rehabilitation work on roads, sewers and other services. Little had been done since the war and "not one cent" would be available this year.

## Municipalities To Check Traffic

Request for authority to a board to represent the four municipalities of Great Victoria, pervision of the franchise agreement with the Vancouver Coach Lines Ltd., and the Electric Railway Co., Ltd., placed before the Municipal committee of the Legislature yesterday by the executive of the U.B.C. Municipalities.

The union presented resolutions adopted at its annual conference in September and suggested amendments in legislation.

Ald. H. M. Diggon stated, behalf of the Greater Victoria Transportation Committee, the present situation requiring municipal councils to be concerned with minor changes in transportation service was needlessly cumbersome.

At the request of Victoria union asked authority to municipalities to control the parking on private property of cars or discarded metal material. Despite repeated complaints from property owners regarding lowering of property values by this nuisance, Mayor George told the committee

## B.C. Sales Tax To Cost Farmers \$30 Each Year

Opposition to the proposed per cent sales tax simmered yesterday, with merchants complaining the "paper work" involved in preparing a protest demonstration and the man in the streeting about the cost of living.

Municipal administrators disappointed with their estimated \$12,000,000.

Some businessmen here signed about the tax, that something had to be done, most were waiting to see the plan before acting.

Main objection is that expense will be collected without any remuneration, with no remuneration, comments from business ranged from "unpopular" to "an awful nuisance" to "fair under the circumstances."

Businessmen may prepare opening of the Dominion taxation agreements for a deal" to meet social security a spokesman for the Board of Trade said.

It has been estimated will cost the average farmer, and labor sees the taking the load. Labor planning a protest lobby.

George I. Warren, of Vancouver and Island Bureau, said that the not affect the tourist U.S. tourists are used such a tax.

He said the Automobile members feel that the not be imposed on gas price has already risen recently, and a sales tax "tax on a tax" in the

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1948

## Municipalities Board Proposed To Check Transport Franchise

Request for authority to create a board to represent the four municipalities of Great Victoria in supervision of the franchise agreement with the Vancouver Island Coach Lines Ltd., and the B.C. Electric Railway Co., Ltd., was placed before the Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday by the executive of the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

The union presented resolutions adopted at its annual convention in September and suggested amendments in legislation.

Ald. H. M. Diggon stated, on behalf of the Greater Victoria Transportation Committee, that the present situation requiring four municipal councils to be consulted on minor changes in transportation service was needlessly cumbersome.

At the request of Victoria, the union asked authority to allow municipalities to control the dumping on private property of old motor cars or discarded metal and waste material. Despite repeated complaints from property owners regarding lowering of property values by this nuisance, Mayor Percy George told the committee the City

Council had found itself without power to combat it.

Victoria also asked, through the union, for power to regulate the planting of shrubs and trees on private property to prevent their extending over sidewalks.

## "Flirtation With Communists" Hotly Denied by C.C.F. Chief

Hot denials of Coalition allegations that the C.C.F. was indulging in flirtation with Communists in British Columbia were made by Opposition Leader Harold Winch in the Legislature yesterday as he led off debate on the budget speech.

"No member on the Government side dislikes the Communists any more than I, or dislikes totalitarianism any more than I," he declared. "Nor is there anyone that knows more of their dirty and despicable tricks."

In an exposition of the C.C.F. creed, he said the party was unalterably opposed to a one-party government.

Socialism was recognized as one of the greatest bulwarks against Communism, he contended, and the Communist menace would be best combated not by hysterical action and red-baiting, but by removal of fear and insecurity. Attorney-General Gordon Wismer had attempted to show that the alternatives were Capitalism or Communism. In fact, there was a middle course—Socialism.

Turning to allegations that the C.C.F. had encouraged breaking of

the law by supporting strikers against "Bill 39," Mr. Winch said when there was a question of justice involved the C.C.F. would have no hesitation in joining the strikers in protest.

He called for a "bill of rights" in British Columbia protecting citizens of every race against discrimination of any kind and claimed British Columbia had a bad name on the North American continent for racial prejudice and discrimination.

Amendments to the Liquor Act should be introduced to allow the guest of private club members to treat since it was done in practice anyhow and veterans' clubs should be allowed to sell beer for taking out the same as beer parlors selling for profit.

## Tax on a Tax

If the Provincial Government imposes a 3 per cent sales tax to apply among other things on liquor and gasoline, then one of the anomalies of this method of taxation will come to the front immediately—the imposition of a tax on a tax. Gasoline is already bearing a ten-cents-a-gallon provincial impost. If a sales tax is slapped on top of that it will be taxation on gasoline, and taxation of the taxation which now rests on gasoline. Likewise with the wares sold through the Liquor Control Board's vendors' stores: where triple taxation, including federal levies, would be involved. As there is already an 8 per cent federal sales tax in force, the new provincial levy—with its extra bookkeeping and its split-cent decisions on retail trading—is not being welcomed in any quarter that understands what will be involved. Having boasted for years about its "accumulated surpluses," the Province did not need a sales tax in order to find \$4,000,000 for the municipalities, while grabbing \$8,000,000 for itself.

## B.C. Sales Tax To Cost Family \$30 Each Year

Opposition to the proposed three per cent sales tax simmered yesterday, with merchants complaining of the "paper work" involved, labor preparing a protest demonstration, and the man in the street grumbling about the cost of living.

Municipal administrators were disappointed with their share of the estimated \$12,000,000 revenue.

Some businessmen here were registered about the tax, explaining that something had to be done, but most were waiting to see details of the plan before acting.

Main objection is that the revenue will be collected with extra expense to individual merchants with no remuneration, although comments from business leaders ranged from "unpopular, cumbersome, an awful nuisance, and regrettable" to "fair under the circumstances."

Businessmen may press for reopening of the Dominion-Provincial taxation agreements for a "new deal" to meet social services costs, a spokesman for the Vancouver Board of Trade said.

It has been estimated the tax will cost the average family \$30 a year, and labor sees the "little man" taking the load. Labor leaders are planning a protest lobby to Victoria.

George I. Warren, head of the Vancouver and Island Publicity Bureau, said that the tax would not affect the tourist trade as most U.S. tourists are used to paying such a tax.

He said the Automobile Club members feel that the tax should not be imposed on gasoline, as the price has already risen five cents recently, and a sales tax would be a "tax on a tax" in this case.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1948

## Low Pensions Plea Subject

Plea for consideration of inadequate pensions of superannuated civil servants is contained in a letter being circulated to private members at the Legislature by the British Columbia Retired Civil Servants' Association.

"We have twice presented our claims to the Provincial Government," the letter stated, "and we have been twice rejected."

"Of 456 persons receiving pensions, there were 153 receiving less than the \$40 a month given to old age pensioners, despite the fact that former civil servants had shared equally with the Government payments into the pension fund."

## Ban Requested On Advertising Of Credit Terms

Government regulations to prohibit advertising of "easy payment" terms on retail purchases were sought by a delegation of retail merchants of Victoria and the lower Mainland which met the Provincial Cabinet Wednesday.

It was contended by the group that advertising in the United States of "dollar down" credit terms had reached a point where orderly marketing was upset.

Purpose of representations to the Government, the delegation said, was to prevent a similar state of affairs in British Columbia, where easy terms advertising already was making its appearance.

Headed by O. B. Allen, Vancouver, the ten-man delegation included Ald. Aubrey Kent of Victoria.



# Sales Tax Plan Termed Unfair To Big Families

## Better to Levy Unearned Incomes, Withdraw Budget, Coalitionist Says

W. A. C. Bennett, Progressive Conservative Coalition member for South Okanagan, yesterday called on the Government to take the unprecedented action of withdrawing its budget for "reconsideration by experts."

His condemnation of the budget introduced by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, Progressive Conservative leader, last Wednesday was directed at its sales tax proposals.

In an attack on the Government more sweeping even than that from Opposition benches the day before, Mr. Bennett described the sales tax as an easy way to get revenue but a dangerous way for a Government to do business, since it did not call for careful budgeting.

### "WILL ADD FUEL"

He declared:

"It will add fuel to the fire, with new demands for increased wages and industrial strife.

In what will probably be his last speech in a major debate in the Provincial House before resigning to contest Yale federal by-election, Mr. Bennett said the Government had overlooked other sources of revenue.

It should have imposed an unearned increment tax, not taking money from the poor man but from inflationary dollars.

"You would get millions from it. Unearned profits have been enormous in this Province. You know what has happened in real estate," Mr. Bennett declared.

"I think this is a disgrace to any Government.

"This is an unfair tax, falling heaviest on large families least able to bear it. It is hard on farm-

ers, whose taxes should be at the lowest possible minimum, but who will have to pay this tax on all their tools, tractors and machinery."

Mr. Bennett warned the Government that the sales tax would result in mail-order offices springing up all over the Province, driving business away from British Columbia.

He described the budget as the budget of a capable accountant, but more suitable for private business than for government, then commented:

"Since Mr. Hart left the Government there doesn't seem to be much heart in it."

He criticized use of \$3,000,000 of gasoline tax for capital expenditure on hard surfacing instead of putting it into current revenue where it belonged, and declared that with that \$3,000,000 and revenue from a capital gains tax the Government would have \$12,000,000 without imposing a sales tax.

There was a moment of tension towards the end of Mr. Bennett's speech.

Mr. Anscomb, on his way out of his seat, leaned over to speak to Premier Byron Johnson.

"I wish the Minister of Finance would be more quiet. I didn't interrupt him on Wednesday," Mr. Bennett remarked.

"I haven't disturbed you for an hour and a half," snapped the Finance Minister, as he continued on his way out.

# Change in Liquor, Pension Laws Sought by B.C. Women's Council

Abolition of liquor advertising and drastic revision of provisions for holding liquor plebiscites was requested by the Provincial Council of Women in a brief presented to Cabinet yesterday morning. Mrs. Alfred Carmichael, Victoria, was spokesman for the group.

Liquor advertising in papers and magazines was "utterly inconsistent with the scientific temperance education given in our schools and will tend to undermine confidence in teachers and schools giving such instruction," the brief contended.

Before any petition called for a plebiscite on liquor is accepted, it should be signed by at least 300 voters, she claimed. At present no minimum is required.

No veterans' clubs should receive licences unless a plebiscite is held, and then only in electoral areas with more than 500 voters, the group maintained, and no petition on any plebiscite should be accepted unless presented from the entire electoral district.

### OTHER DEMANDS

The Provincial Council also asked:

That special courses be given children unable to adjust themselves to the recognized Provincial school curriculum.

That mothers' pensions be increased by the immediate award of a cost-of-living bonus until the Mothers' Pension Act can be amended to bring it into line with present day costs.

That widows with small children

be granted free hospital and medical attention because the compensation rate for such cases is far below the standard necessary "to ensure a decent standard of living."

That the Province ask the Federal Government for a subsidized low-rental housing scheme to be inaugurated without delay.

That a training ship be provided as part of the Borstal system for rehabilitation of delinquent boys.

The council reiterated requests that the dogwood be adopted as the floral emblem of British Columbia and that domestic workers be brought under acts providing for minimum wages, hours of work and unemployment insurance.

# Winch Claims B.C. Has Responsibility

Opposition Leader Harold Winch told the Government Thursday it had a moral responsibility toward those who had lost their money in health and accident benefit associations which had had their powers suspended or had voluntarily ceased operation.

He asked Attorney-General Gordon Wismer to consider whether criminal action should be taken against some people.

Six such companies had been closed down or ceased operations during the past few months, Mr. Winch stated. They had left liabilities for exceeding assets. There were \$132,500 in unpaid claims and \$95,442 in prepaid premiums, or a total of \$228,000. From 90,000 to 100,000 people were depending on the companies which they thought safe because of royal commissions and legislation by the Government.

The Government had a moral responsibility toward these people and should accept it by taking the companies over, consolidating and operating them.

# Labor Board Salaries Said Too High

Payment of salaries of \$5,000 a year to each of the four members representing labor and industry on the new provincial Labor Relations Board drew fire from W. A. C. Bennett (Coalition, South Okanagan) in the House yesterday.

Mr. Bennett said he had no objection to a \$7,500 salary to J. Pitcairn Hogg as chairman, since he was continuing as legislative counsel, and the addition to his former salary was small.

But he demanded: "Why pay \$5,000 to each of the members, compared with salaries paid to civil servants? No wonder there is a breakdown and a feeling of frustration in the civil service.

"That's the kind of expenditure in this Province the people don't like."

Criticizing administrative costs in Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's budget, he maintained that the budget could be reduced.

Premier Byron Johnson rose to call on Mr. Bennett to name where reductions could be made.

"I'm not foolish enough to name them on the floor of the House," Mr. Bennett replied.

The Premier said if a member made statements of that kind in the House he should "name them on the floor and not talk in generalities."

# B.C. Timber Unless Lic

Sharp warning of what will happen to British Columbia's industry if drastic measures not taken to perpetuate it sounded yesterday by Dr. Orchard, deputy minister of and chief forester for the Province.

He told the Legislature's logging committee on forestry that past 36 years had been years of growth in the industry, up four-billion foot cut last year declared:

"The next 36 years are going to be years of deterioration. come to any other conclusion."

"Our inventory is sufficient accurate to indicate the timber the coast we have 150,000 feet of timber left. We are it at the rate of 3,000,000 a year, so that it amounts years' supply.

"It takes 100 years to grow. What are you going to do after between the 51st and 101st year?"

In a two-hour explanation of Government's forest management policy, Dr. Orchard said the situation was bad on the coast, where the logging was concentrated.

"Towns, some of the established, are going to be predicted. There isn't a town about it."

"It's sneaking up on timber resources of British Columbia have got a pain in the back. It's malignant now, and the cure for it except drastic measures."

### WON'T PRACTICE

He said private ownership would not practice Outright Government management was not practised with 75,000,000 acres of forest scattered all over the Province would take a staff of managers of permanent forest.

Solution decided on a study was the management plan, with these features:

1. It was a long-term with title staying in the government.

2. It allowed of low charges.

3. Regulation was left possible to the man who the job in the bush, approval of a plan of keep the land always.

Answering criticism Government had not given thought to the plan, Dr. Orchard said it had started back had been under consideration for five years before he.

The only "little man" he excluded was the one not willing to accept a liability for his own timber.

"And the quicker he's the better," Dr. Orchard mentioned.

### ENOUGH TIMBER

Specific provision would take care of the silviculture management licence in which others are established. Enough timber be held out of the license present operators to continue.

"What we will do is small operators into tions," he explained. who logs 1,000 feet

# Monday in the Legislature

2:35 p.m.—Budget debate continues.

Speakers—Hon. R. C. MacDonald, Minister of Mines and Municipalities, Randolph Harding (C.C.F., Keesee-Sloan) and Thomas King (Coalition, Columbia).

Committees—Special committee on the Provincial Elections Act, 10 a.m., No. 1 committee room.

# 308 Addicts Sent to Jail

Three hundred and eight drug addicts, 96 of them females, were admitted to Provincial jails last year, Attorney-General Gordon Wismer has informed the Legislature, in answer to a question placed on the order paper by E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby).

Of the total:

Sixty-two males and 26 females were convicted as addicts.

Five males were convicted as dope peddlers.

One hundred and forty-six males and 74 females, though drug addicts, had been convicted of other offences.



## B.C. Timber Industry Said Doomed Unless Licence Plan Made Effective

Sharp warning of what will happen to British Columbia's timber industry if drastic measures are not taken to perpetuate it was sounded yesterday by Dr. C. D. Orchard, deputy minister of forests and chief forester for the Province.

He told the Legislature's standing committee on forestry that the past 36 years had been years of growth in the industry, up to a four-billion foot cut last year, and declared:

"The next 36 years are going to be years of deterioration. I can't come to any other conclusion."

"Our inventory is sufficiently accurate to indicate the trend. On the coast we have 150,000,000,000 feet of timber left. We are cutting it at the rate of 3,000,000,000 feet a year, so that it amounts to a 50 years' supply."

"It takes 100 years to grow trees. What are you going to do for timber between the 51st and 99th year?"

In a two-hour explanation of the Government's forest management sustained yield policy, Dr. Orchard said the situation was bad on the coast, where the logging industry was concentrated.

"Towns, some of them long established, are going to die," he predicted. "There isn't any question about it."

"It's sneaking up on us. The timber resources of British Columbia have got a pain in the tummy. It's malignant now, and there's no cure for it except drastic measures."

### WON'T PRACTICE

He said private ownership generally would not practice forestry. Outright Government control and management was not practical, for with 75,000,000 acres of forest land scattered all over the Province it would take a staff of many thousands of permanent foresters.

Solution decided on after years of study was the management licence plan, "with these main features:

1. It was a long-term tenure, with title staying in the Government.

2. It allowed of low carrying charges.

3. Regulation was left as far as possible to the man who was doing the job in the bush, subject to approval of a plan of cropping to keep the land always productive.

Answering criticism that the Government had not given enough thought to the plan, Dr. Orchard said it had started back in 1920, and had been under continuous study for five years before becoming law.

The only "little man" who would be excluded was the one who was not willing to accept any responsibility for his own timber supply. "And the quicker he's pushed off, the better," Dr. Orchard commented.

### ENOUGH TIMBER

Specific provision was made to take care of the situation if a management licence covered areas in which others already were established. Enough timber would be held out of the licence to enable present operators to carry on.

"What we will do is push some small operators into other locations," he explained. "The man who logs 1,000 feet a day is an

itinerant and is always moving, anyway."

Dr. Orchard told the committee there had been an unfortunate misconception of the situation in connection with Canadian Western Timber Company's forest management licence application to supply its proposed pulp mill at Duncan Bay.

Although the company had drawn a circle around 800,000 acres, that merely covered the area in which it wanted timber. At the absolute outside it would get 100,000 acres, probably a good deal less, to supplement the 135 acres of forest land it already owned.

The deputy minister agreed with A. B. Ritchie (Coalition, Salmon Arm) that Government publicity on the forest management plan was "rotten," but pointed out:

"It is not ethical for a civil service to go out and try to 'sell' what they think is right. That isn't our function. A judge, after making a decision, doesn't go out and defend it in the newspapers."

## Car Insurance Rates Cause Farm Protest

Vigorous protest against increased cost of automobile insurance since the highway safety responsibility plan was approved last year was lodged with the Legislature's agriculture committee Wednesday.

Advisory Board of Farmers' Institutes of British Columbia told the committee:

"We have no protection against insurance agents and consider the charges excessive."

"We suggest the Government carry this insurance, and charge (for it) when licences are issued."

A. R. Hiscock, Vancouver Island delegate, said farmers had asked for coverage previously, because they couldn't afford to be involved in accidents without it, but they felt it should be on a cost and not a profit basis.

"My own insurance cost me \$6 more this year for the same coverage as I had before," he told the committee. He maintained that with group insurance the rates should be far less.

A. H. Peppar, Lower Fraser Valley delegate, said insurance companies used to give lower rates in rural areas because the hazard was less. This year the rates had been raised about \$5.

The committee was called on to use its endeavors to "get some changes made" this year.

## New Road to West Coast Urged By Alberni Coalition Member

Opening of a new road to the West Coast of Vancouver Island, north of Alberni, was urged in the Legislature yesterday by James Mowat (Cdn., Alberni).

Settlements on the West Coast were isolated except for boat travel and access to Long Beach "the finest in the world" would bring in tourists.

There is a sign at Tofino reading "Western End of the Trans-Canada Highway" and residents were determined that it would stay there as a constant reminder to the Federal and Provincial Governments.

Opening of a steel rolling mill in Vancouver was a very important development for the Province, he said, and called attention to the fact that there was an island of ore near Bamfield; a mountain of ore near Zeballos and large quantities of limestone along the Alberni Canal.

### COMMENDS WORKS

He commended the Public Works department for the new road from Parkville to Alberni but claimed the Cameron Lake section was not being kept passable. For several weeks cars had been dragged through, sometimes with the aid of a bulldozer. This was not easy on cars and hard on the tempers of drivers.

The Campbell river power development would do much to bring industrial development, Mr. Mowat said, and urged that a survey of hydro power potentialities on the West Coast be undertaken to include Zeballos, Tofino, Uchuelet and Bamfield, where fish processing plants need power.

Mr. Mowat asked increase of old age pensions to \$50 a month; reduction of age limits to 60 for women and 65 for men, and a cost-of-living bonus for those in receipt of Mothers' Allowances. He asked what was being done for those working for various departments of the Government who have reached the age of 65 and have insufficient money with which to live.

## Games Found Benefiting Mental Cases

A program of indoor and outdoor games designed to keep the 3,000 patients of the Provincial Mental Hospital at Essondale happy has brought about excellent results, according to W. R. Brown, director of the institution's recreational therapy.

Speaking to the legislative social welfare and education committee, Wednesday, Mr. Brown told how patients, unable to move a muscle for a day at a time, had been trained to go up a ten-foot diving board; and highly-tensed patients after insulin treatments had been returned to normalcy through archery.

Despite progress made in the last two years, Mr. Brown felt that only the surface of possible work has been scratched, and appealed for a recreational building, a larger staff and more equipment.

The recreational program of the institution was designed to keep the patients engaged in their play, so that they would forget hallucinations and "voices."

## Firemen Renew Pension Lobby

Support of private members of the Legislature for a plan to levy a 2 per cent tax on fire insurance premiums to boost firemen's pensions was being sought at the Legislative Buildings Wednesday by a 12-man lobby from British Columbia Provincial Association of Firefighters.

The association was turned down by the Government when it made similar proposals in a brief presented to Cabinet some time ago.

Its contention is that holders of fire insurance, as the people benefiting most from firefighters' services, should contribute to the pension fund, and that the proposed 2 per cent tax would represent only a few

cents a year on the average premium.

Yesterday's delegation was headed by James Lusse, Victoria, association president, and M. O. Howell, Vancouver, secretary-treasurer. It comprised ten members from Vancouver and two from Victoria.



## Small Education "Handouts" Said Little Aid to Finances

School tax problems will not be solved until the Provincial Government takes responsibility for 50 per cent of all costs above the basic cost, W. A. C. Bennett (Coalition, South Okanagan) told the Legislature during budget debate yesterday.

"Little handouts here and there are not the solution," he declared.

Describing education finance as the Government's No. 1 headache, he said the Cameron Report had been blamed for many things, many times very unfairly.

The Government had made its great mistake in setting up large school districts without enough consideration of local circumstances and problems, he continued.

The Government last year had failed to deal with the problem of rural assessments in a proper manner, Mr. Bennett asserted. Result of its action was to play rural areas against organized districts in one school district.

"New grants to rural areas will not solve the problem," he warned. "We are now going to have a worse situation than before."

Turning to last year's Dominion-Provincial tax agreement negotiated by former Premier John Hart, Mr. Bennett said it had been attacked in the House most unfairly.

"Mr. Hart made a splendid deal under most difficult circumstances," he maintained. "He raised the ante two or three times and rendered great service to this and other provinces."

"I believe the Federal Government has treated us unfairly since, but Mr. Hart took the only possible course and made a deal much better than anyone else could."

The Green Book proposals were already out of date, Mr. Bennett maintained, and if Ottawa was go-

ing to continue to take the benefit of taxation from British Columbia it must accept some of the cost of government here. It should pay half the cost of main highways, make a per capita contribution towards education, and bear 100 per cent of the cost of old age pensions.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948

## New Mineral Wealth for 1947 Seen Well Above 1941 Record

New wealth created by British Columbia's mining industry last year will exceed \$110,000,000, or \$20,000,000 above the record of 1941, Hon. R. C. MacDonald, Minister of Mines and Municipalities, said in the Legislature yesterday.

Gold mining industry has been caught between the millstones of rising costs and a fixed price, but total production will still be slightly higher than in 1946, the minister stated. Copper output would double in volume over 1946 and triple the 1946 value. Lead production was

less last year than in 1946, but its value would be almost double.

Mining prospects generally this year, he said, were "very bright and encouraging."

A brief flurry was provoked when Mr. MacDonald alleged that C.C.F. members had broken the law by participating in the Nanaimo laundry strike last year.

Herbert Gargrave (Cm., Mackenzie) insisted that the allegation be withdrawn because it was a misstatement. Mr. MacDonald withdrew, but contended the C.C.F. had at least encouraged others to break the law.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948

## Major Municipal Worry "Unsolved by Sales Tax"

One of the most pressing problems in municipal financing today was the ever-increasing cost of public school education, Mayor Percy E. George declared yesterday.

With this problem successfully disposed of, Mayor George said the majority of British Columbia municipalities could cope with the relatively smaller troubles of hospital financing, budget increases due to rising salaries of municipal employees, long overdue public works programs and needed expansion of essential services.

However, he maintained, unless adequate means were found immediately to relieve the already heavily burdened land and improvements from this oppressive education cost, municipal governments would be faced with these alternatives: To raise the mill rate, which has already reached the saturation point in many areas, curtail essential services, or go into bankruptcy.

The first was economically unsound and the second and third were even more serious, he said.

The municipality's share of the three per cent sales tax, recently proposed by the Provincial Government, while providing some measure of relief, did not remove the root of the trouble, Mayor George contended.

### ONLY STOP-GAP

It was at best only a stop-gap measure, destined to be swallowed up in a year or two by the ever-rising school costs.

While it was true that the municipalities, at the last convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, approved a similar tax, their plans for the use of the revenue thus provided were widely different from those proposed by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his Budget Speech.

The municipalities hoped that the Provincial Government would impose such a tax and with this added revenue assume full responsibility for all public school educational expenditure. The present education grants, made by the Government to the municipalities, would, of course, be discontinued.

The U.B.C.M. proposed a two per cent education tax, based on the sales tax principle, and estimated a revenue from this of \$10,000,000 annually. This amount, together with the present provincial school grants of approximately \$7,000,000 would not fall far short of the estimated

total provincial school budget of approximately \$18,000,000, the union felt.

### MAXIMUM RATE

Should this scheme not be acceptable to the Provincial Government in this form, Mayor George said he believed the municipalities would agree to set aside a certain maximum portion of their municipal tax levy to assist the Province in this field. A maximum rate for school purposes of 5 or 6 mills on land and 75 per cent of improvements was suggested, he said.

Such a plan would relieve the municipalities of the present heavy school burden, allow closer budgeting, and, most important, permit municipal governments to use income from real property taxes to carry out public works and put into effect essential services expansions constantly demanded by the public.

Another advantage of the plan was that the Province, having assumed full responsibility for school costs, could, and no doubt would, ensure that such costs did not soar beyond reasonable limits nor the Government's ability to pay.

Such was not the case at present, the mayor declared.

Local school boards, while financed by the municipality or municipalities in whose areas they operate, were governed by the Provincial Public Schools Act, which laid down broad policies which any board might follow—at the expense of the municipal council or councils, he stated.

### NOT IN PRACTICE

Mayor George said civic governments have been informed many times by the Province that the former have complete control over the school boards through the municipal purse, but he added that this did not work out in actual practice. True, he said, a municipal council might reject its school board's estimates and ask for a revision. Should the board be unable or unwilling to reduce its estimates, then either party could demand arbitration. At this point, the mayor pointed out, whether the subsequent arbitration was won or lost—and it was a fact that the municipalities won in not more than 1 per cent of the cases—the municipal council was deprived of whatever vestige of control it might have had previously.

The decision of such an arbitration board was final.

Under the plan proposed by the U.B.C.M. a Provincially-controlled school budget and a fixed maximum levy by municipalities for school purposes would relieve the municipalities of the "growing end" of school costs. At present the Province paid the fixed grant and any increase in the overall education cost must be met by the municipalities. Thus, as school costs rose so did the ratio of the municipal share to that of the Province.

"The municipalities would like to see the shoe on the other foot for a change," Mayor George said.

## Gargrave Just One

In a surprise move in the yesterday, C.C.F. Whip Herbert Gargrave sought to halt the debate on the ground that for 1948-49 tabled by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb were unconstitutional.

The member for Mackenzie insisted the Speaker's attention to that, in contravention of the Constitution Act, the estimates salaries for 11 Cabinet members, whereas the act allowed of receiving pay.

He was referring to the estimates for Hon. Wismar to be paid Attorney-General and Minister of Labor. Mr. Wismar's latter portfolio over last year.

"Since this is unconstitutional the whole debate is out of court," Mr. Gargrave submitted.

A. R. MacDougall, Vancouver and Coalition member Grey, maintained that the motion to pay 11 ministers did not create an 11th list.

Premier Byron Johnson amounts provided are ministers' salaries. The member for Mackenzie rather technical.

Mr. Gargrave suggested either another paid minister being created, or a mistake made on the part of the Finance.

Mr. Speaker R. H. served decision on the point raised by Mr. Gargrave that the debate might meantime.

Then John Hart (Coalition), former Premier of the Province, rose in the House that the estimate come into force until April 1 and added:

"I don't know whether it is the intention of the Government to add another minister to my own knowledge. I think that is the case."

## Tribute to Member At Session

Two members of the House received verbal bouquets yesterday from the House yesterday. Winch, veteran member by, on being 69 years old and J. H. Corsbie, Pease, his approaching marriage to Margaret Carr, of Victoria.

Reference to the Speaker's birthday was introduced, Opposition Leader Winch, and there was laughter in the House.

Elder Winch replied: "There is such a thing as being born 30 years too soon. The mistakes of your catch up with you. The Harold!"

Joining in well-wishes to the members, Mr. Johnson made special mention of Mr. Winch's untiring interests of patients in the institutions.



## Gargrave Holds Budget Just One Minister Out

In a surprise move in the House yesterday, C.C.F. Whip Herbert Gargrave sought to halt the budget debate on the ground that estimates for 1948-49 tabled by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb last week were unconstitutional.

The member for Mackenzie drew the Speaker's attention to the fact that, in contravention of the Constitution Act, the estimates provided salaries for 11 Cabinet ministers, whereas the act allowed of only ten receiving pay.

He was referring to provision in the estimates for Hon. Gordon Wismer to be paid \$7,500 as Attorney-General and \$7,500 as Minister of Labor. Mr. Wismer took the latter portfolio over last Autumn.

"Since this is unconstitutional, the whole debate is out of order and cannot continue," Mr. Gargrave submitted.

A. R. MacDougall, Vancouver lawyer and Coalition member for Point Grey, maintained that making provision to pay 11 ministerial salaries did not create an 11th paid ministry.

Premier Byron Johnson: "The amounts provided are only ten ministers' salaries. The honorable member for Mackenzie is getting rather technical."

Mr. Gargrave suggested that either another paid ministry was being created, or a mistake had been made on the part of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker R. H. Carson reserved decision on the point of order raised by Mr. Gargrave, and ruled that the debate might continue meantime.

Then John Hart (Coalition, Victoria), former Premier and former Finance Minister, rose to tell the House that the estimates would not come into force until April 1 next, and added:

"I don't know whether or not it is the intention of the Government to add another ministry, but from my own knowledge I don't think that is the case."

## Tribute Paid Members At Session

Two members of the Opposition received verbal bouquets from both sides of the House yesterday: E. E. Winch, veteran member for Burnaby, on being 69 years old that day, and J. H. Corsbie, Peace River, on his approaching marriage to Miss Margaret Carr, of Victoria.

Reference to the Burnaby member's birthday was introduced by his son, Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, and there was a burst of laughter in the House when the elder Winch replied:

"There is such a thing as being born 30 years too soon. Sometimes the mistakes of your childhood catch up with you. Think that over, Harold!"

Joining in well-wishes to both C.C.F. members, Premier Byron Johnson made special reference to Mr. Winch's untiring work in the interests of patients in the Province's institutions.

## Today in the Legislature

2:30 p.m. — Budget debate continues.

Speakers—Dr. F. W. Green (Coalition, Cranbrook), Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., Mackenzie), and Walter Hogg (Coalition, Cariboo).

Committees—Provincial Elections Act Special Committee, No. 1 Committee Room, 2:30 a.m.; Social Welfare and Education, Cedar Room, 10 a.m.

## Tax Proposal Termed Blow To Pensioners

Plight of pensioners and others on small fixed incomes when the proposed 3 per cent retail sales tax goes into effect was impressed on the Legislature yesterday by Randolph Harding (C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan).

"It is an additional heavy burden to an already exorbitantly high cost of living," he declared.

"Already the cost of living has soared to such an extent that many of our people are in a desperate plight, and the present proposed sales tax will only serve to aggravate the present serious condition."

In particular, Mr. Harding spoke of hardship on senior citizens and those in receipt of mothers' allowances or other social security assistance.

He said his opposition to the tax was not voiced with a view to embarrassing the Government, much less for the sake of political expediency, but in "the sincere belief that it will work a great hardship on the working-class people and others in the lower income brackets."

The official index today stood at 150.1, which meant that a family spending \$100 in 1939 now must spend \$150 to buy the same goods and services. Even that was not a true index, for the average family spent the greater part of wages on food and clothing; and the food index was over 180, while that of clothing was up to 160.

Mr. Harding admitted the Government needed money, but maintained it should get it from large corporations in the province that were making huge profits.

## Municipalities Promised Tax Grant by Province

Provincial Government will make a grant to municipalities this year for taxes on government-owned buildings used for commercial purposes in line with Goldenberg Commission recommendations, Hon. R. C. MacDonald, Minister of Mines and Municipalities, disclosed during the debate in the budget speech in the Legislature yesterday.

He expressed regret that the municipalities had expressed dissatisfaction with Government contributions this year before they actually knew how much they would receive and predicted "that they will receive a pleasant surprise."

(Presumably, the minister was referring to the sales tax.)

Strong hint that the government is considering limiting the authority of school boards was given by the minister.

"It is generally agreed that the policy of giving a public body the right to spend large sums of the

public's money, without any responsibility of collection, is wrong in principle, and would never be tolerated in a well-conducted business."

Discounting the pleas of the municipalities for greater financial aid, Mr. MacDonald declared that their financial condition on the whole was "excellent," that they had shown a steady reduction of debt and a steady increase of reserves and surpluses in the past nine years. Total debt was reduced from \$122,780,368 in 1937 to \$109,112,941 in 1946 while reserves had risen from \$4,055,973 to \$7,804,411 in the same period and surpluses from \$26,020,768 to \$41,226,378.

Pointing out that borrowing from municipal works approved this year had already amounted to \$8,000,000, Mr. MacDonald drew attention to the fact that costs have jumped 58 to 100 per cent. He warned that they should now go very carefully and construct only what was "absolutely necessary."

He expressed unqualified opposition to municipalities entering into agreements with the Federal Government for wartime houses providing for sale of city lots for one dollar and a 40-year agreement giving partial tax exemption. The municipalities were complaining on one hand against the exemption from tax of Federal and Provincial properties and on the other granting still other concessions for housing.

He felt that housing should be made available for veterans but contended it should be entirely a Federal problem.

(Victoria has 450 houses built or to be built under this type of agreement.)

## Sees Possible Racial Issues In Election Act

Hint that racial issues may arise in consideration of amendments to the Elections Act was given at a meeting of the special House committee at the Legislature yesterday.

Presenting a list of 50 routine amendments involving technical changes in the Elections Act, the advisory committee of civil servants suggested that non-controversial questions be dealt with first, leaving the question of Mennonites and other controversial matters until later.

The committee adopted a suggestion that all voters be struck off the list except those who have been registered on new type forms since April, 1947, or who have voted since then in a by-election or plebiscite.

It was contended that present methods of removing from the list those who had moved away was extremely cumbersome and expensive.

Harold E. Winch, C.C.F. leader, suggested the Province should work closely with the Federal Government in an attempt to work out a corresponding voters' list.

Committee elected Thomas King (Cln., Columbia) as chairman, and J. H. Cates (Cln., North Vancouver) as secretary.



## City's Bill Outlines Water Board Design

At a special meeting of the City Council yesterday it was decided to ask immediately for legislation to provide for the formation of a Greater Victoria Water Board.

A bill to amend the Greater Victoria Water District Act, 1922, was discussed by the council and will be referred to the British Columbia Legislature.

The bill makes provision for the setting up of the board, representation on the board, its powers and rights.

Earlier Oak Bay and Saanich had agreed on a figure of \$3,472,628 submitted by the City of Victoria as its price for turning over its water works system to a metropolitan board.

Under the draft legislation considered yesterday the board will be composed of four representatives from Victoria and one each from Oak Bay, Saanich and Esquimalt. The City Council firmly refused to agree to a suggestion of Oak Bay and Saanich that the city's representation be cut from four to three members so as to reduce "the preponderance of power."

Representatives on the board are to be appointed annually and must be selected from the respective councils of the municipalities.

The chairman of the board will be elected annually from among the members of the board. He will be entitled to vote, but will have no casting vote.

Under the authority of the board there will be set up a commission composed of three salaried commissioners who will hold office continuously or until removed by the board. The commission will undertake the management of the water system.

Minor amendments were made to the bill yesterday on the recommendation of Ald. F. N. Cabell, chairman of the water committee of the City Council, after which the city solicitor was instructed to present the bill to the British Columbia Legislature for enactment.

## Three of Predicted Money Bills Receive First Reading in House

Part of the money legislation forecast by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his budget speech last week was introduced by the minister in the House yesterday.

Three message bills given first reading provide for:

1. Borrowing of \$2,500,000 to set up a forest development revolving fund to assist operators in road and bridge construction, under repayable loans.
2. Increase in borrowing powers of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway by \$5,000,000.
3. Borrowing of \$5,000,000 for public

works, of which \$4,000,000 will be used for highways and bridges, including work within municipal limits necessary for extra-municipal traffic; and \$1,000,000 to supplement the equipment fund for purchase of construction and maintenance machinery.

A bill to amend the Trade Licences Act, introduced by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer, amends the licensing year to conform with the calendar year. At present the licensing year begins July 1.

To enable the Province to reimburse itself for the expense of providing coal resources in the Peace River district, Lands Minister E. T.

Kenney brought in a bill to authorize increase in royalties on coal produced in that area to 25 cents a ton.

Three other bills brought in by Mr. Kenney are designed to effect minor administrative amendments to the Land Act, Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, and Drainage, Diking and Development Act.

## Member Hopes Provincial Plans Will Aid Hospitals in Country

Hope that the Government's hospitalization plans would afford relief of financial problems of hospitals in rural areas was voiced in the Legislature yesterday by Thomas King (Coalition, Columbia).

In large areas, he pointed out, hospitals had their parent municipalities to fall back on for aid, but small hospitals, without anyone but the Government to turn to, found themselves in serious plight with costs mounting on every hand.

At the same time he urged the Government, in its scheme of hospitalization, to include a clause making it compulsory for patients to pay a proportion of cost, even if only as little as 20 per cent.

"WILL WANT TOO MUCH"

"They will clamor for too much if they think they are getting something for nothing, or something they've already paid for," he cautioned.

Discussing the proposed 3 per cent sales tax, he subscribed to views expressed by earlier speakers in the budget debate, that a tax on implements and machinery would drive business out of this province.

"If I were an agent in Calgary I'd pay the freight to Golden just to get the business," he remarked.

Mr. King said if the Government couldn't be talked out of the tax, he hoped it would not be applied

to farm implements and feed to fatten stock.

He called for amendments to the Liquor Act to allow municipalities to charge beer parlors licence fees commensurate with the business they were doing.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1948

## Major Voters' List Additions Sought in Vain by Opposition

Demand that the Provincial Elections Act be amended permitting every citizen to vote who has been in the Province six months and qualifies as a citizen under the Canadian Citizenship Act was made yesterday by Harold E. Winch, C.C.F. leader.

He presented his request to the special House committee on the Elections Act near the close of a two-hour session dealing with routine amendments.

With two of his Coalition supporters absent, Chairman Thomas King (Cln., Columbia) quickly ruled

that such a controversial question could only be discussed in full committee.

He gave a similar ruling when C.C.F. Whip, Herbert Gargrave, asked that the age limit for voters be reduced from 21 to 18 years.

To implement his request, Mr. Winch suggested that Section 5 of the Act be amended. The section now disqualifies every Japanese, Doukhobor, Hutterite or Menonite except if he has served in the armed forces; and every Indian who has not served in the armed services or has not been enfranchised under the Indian Act or is not resident on an Indian reserve.

"We have the Canadian Citizenship Act and we are the only Province to establish a clause discriminating against some classes of citizens because of their race or color," said Mr. Winch. "It is a disgrace to the Province. It is time we wiped out this dirty blot from British Columbia."

At a meeting following the afternoon session of the Legislature the Committee turned Mr. Winch's request down by a vote of five to two, with only himself and Mr. Gargrave supporting the motion.

Mr. Gargrave's recommendation that age limit of voters be reduced met with the same fate.

## Budget Debate Is Prolonged

Earlier Government plans to complete the budget debate before the Easter recess have gone by the board.

Present indications are that the debate will be wound up on Tuesday, when Public Works Minister E. C. Carson is scheduled to close for the Government, outlining the Province's works program for the coming year.

The House will take only a short Easter break, adjourning after tomorrow's sitting until Tuesday afternoon.

## School Comm To Eat

### Maclean Recommends

Greater control of school budgets, grants amounting to \$1,000,000 and appointment of a commission to enforce uniform standards recommended in the report of the Maclean Commission on the Education of the Province.

The commission was set up last year under the Public Schools Act following province-wide inquiries regarding tax inequalities and amendments to school boards under Dr. Maxwell Maclean's report. The commission was asked to inquire into all matters relating to the sharing of costs.

It is believed the recommendations of the commission mean any increased school costs above those outlined in the budget speech. The report was presented to the Government last month and is believed to be considered before the Finance Minister's report. The Finance Minister outlined the included \$1,000,000 in grants and a one-third estimated \$12,000,000 in grants to municipalities.

"It has been suggested," the commission reported, "that instances school boards up budgets which are means of the taxpayer's pocket, and which, on consideration, should be rejected."

Some boards had their estimates there imposed on a district, been approved by the district. All budgets should be subject to the approval of the Department of Education. The commission suggested, degree of supervision exercised by the Department over the accounting procedure of boards by requiring detailed reports and of uniform accounting.

The commission recommended powers for the Provincial Commission, right to:

Conduct an education for assessors.

Reassess any part in any municipality. Make orders regarding the assessment of any area.

Compel municipalities to produce all assessment rolls relating to the assessment of any area.

Apply the costs of assessment upon any which it is carried

# School Budget Control Commission's Proposal To Ease Tax Inequality

## Maclean Report Tabled in House Recommends Uniform Assessment

Greater control by the Government over school budgets, grants amounting to \$1,799,000 more than last year, and appointment of a commission with wide powers to enforce uniform assessments throughout the province is recommended in the Maclean Commission report tabled in the Legislature yesterday by Education Minister W. T. Straith.

The commission was appointed last year under the Public Inquiries Act following province-wide protests regarding tax inequalities caused by amendments to school legislation under Dr. Maxwell Cameron's report. The commission was empowered to inquire into all matters relating to the sharing of school costs.

It is believed the recommendations of the commission will not mean any increased grants for schools above those outlined in the budget speech. The report has been before the Government for two months and is believed to have been considered before the Minister of Finance outlined the policy. This included \$1,100,000 in aid to rural areas and a one-third share of the estimated \$12,000,000 sales tax for municipalities.

"It has been suggested," the commission reported, "that in some instances school boards have drawn up budgets which are beyond the means of the taxpayers of the district, and which, on more mature consideration, should have been rejected."

Some boards had also exceeded their estimates thereby levying an impost on a district which had not been approved by the "authorities." All budgets should be made subject to the approval of the superintendent of education, the commission suggested, and a greater degree of supervision should be exercised by the Department of Education over the budgeting and accounting procedure of school boards by requiring the filing of detailed reports and the adoption of uniform accounting practices.

The commission suggested wide powers for the Provincial Assessment Commission, including the right to:

Conduct an educational program for assessors.

Reassess any parcel of or all lands in any municipality or district.

Make orders requiring the adjustment of the assessment base of any area.

Compel municipal and provincial assessors to produce for inspection all assessment rolls or any documents relating to assessments.

Apply the costs of any reassessment upon any municipality in which it is carried out.

## Maiden Speech Devoted To Own Riding

Cumbersome system of superannuation was called for in the Legislature yesterday by Walter Hogg (Cln., Cariboo), as he made his maiden speech during the debate on the budget.

The member confined most of his remarks, however, to problems of his own riding.

He told the House that large timber operators in his district were welcomed, but great care must be taken to ensure that a large proportion of the timber was not held in perpetuity by larger operators. The interests of the small company must be protected.

Calling the district north of Quesnel and into the Peace River "the greatest undeveloped empire on the North American continent," he called for extension of the P.G.E. Railway to Prince George and the Peace River.

Predatory animals were playing havoc with livestock and game animals in the district, Mr. Hogg said, and called for increases in bounties.

Something would have to be done about the school tax on land. Some ranchers were forced to pay thousands of dollars in taxes and at the same time pay for a teacher or send their children away to be educated.

"Some method must be worked out whereby everyone pays a fair share and every child gets an education," he declared, "and the system must be flexible so that the problems of the outlying districts can be worked out."

## Blistering Attack By C.C.F. Whip Hurled at Budget "Reckless Spending, Waste" Charges Voiced by Gargrave

In a blistering attack in the House yesterday, C.C.F. Whip Herbert Gargrave challenged Premier Johnson to go to the people on the sales tax issue and what he described as "this disgraceful budget."

"You didn't have the courage to use the by-elections a month ago as a sounding board," he declared.

"Not one decent, sound business-organization in the province supports the sales tax. If they knew the reckless way the Government is throwing money away they would be even more bitterly opposed to it."

The member for Mackenzie went through the blue book from cover to cover to show the House how expenditures for administrative purposes alone had multiplied in the past year.

"The Legislature is being asked to impose a sales tax to pay for the profligate spending, the wastefulness of this Government."

"It is a positive disgrace to ask for it when the Government themselves can't find any way to cut down on their own extravagant spending."

**"GOING HOG WILD"**

Turning to the private members' benches, he declared:

"You who sit here and let yourselves be bamboozled by Cabinet ministers are not fulfilling your responsibilities to the people who sent you here."

He asserted that the Government was going "hog wild" with public funds for the sole purpose of justifying imposition of a sales tax.

"I noted with alarm," he said, "the air of condescension of the Minister of Finance last week when he told the leader of the Opposition 'You are an electrician, I am a financier.'"

## Today In the Legislature

2:30 p.m.: Budget debate continues.

Speakers — Agricultural Minister Frank Putnam, Dr. R. R. Laird (Coalition, Similkameen), and A. J. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East).

Committees — Private bills, 10 a.m., Maple Room; Public Accounts and Printing, 2 p.m., No. 1 Committee Room.

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## Maclean Report Urges Sharp Drop In Taxable Share of Farm Property

All farm improvements up to a stated maximum, with the exception of residences, should be exempted from educational tax, the Maclean commission on school taxation recommended in a report tabled in the Legislature yesterday.

This would remove one of the major objections of farmers who complain that taxes on barns and other outbuildings is a tax on productive equipment.

The commission acknowledged that intention of the Cameron school legislation to equalize the burden of educational costs had not been realized. It might have been, however, if it had not been for inflation, the large school building programs which were undertaken and many of which were needed, in addition to the fact that revenues "were sadly inadequate" to meet the "unprecedented rise" in teachers' salaries.

Equality of financial burden could only be achieved, the report said, if assessments were on a uniform basis, and some of its major recommendations dealt with means of bringing this about.

"The question arises," it said, "as to whether this kind of property (personal real estate) is capable of bearing the present burden of taxes. If it is not, it will be necessary to remove some of the burden from land and improvements by increasing the Government's share in the educational program."

Weight of opinion, with which the commission said it agreed, was that land should continue to be taxed for schools, but to a lesser degree.

### RANCHERS' POSITION

Attention was drawn to the position of ranchers and others in remote districts who had been brought into school districts. They had to pay taxes but received no benefits in educational services. The commission recommended establishment of dormitories for those from scattered districts and payment of a boarding allowance for students. Ranch lands should be re-assessed.

The difference in methods of assessment in municipal and rural areas should be brought into line and the definition of farm lands should be changed so that only bona fide farms could obtain benefits. Fruit trees should be exempted from improvements taxes.

The commission was also critical of the general level of assessments in the province.

A campaign of education and consultation with assessors to bring various areas into line and to adopt uniform methods was suggested.

Present grants of \$16 to \$23 per pupil were too rigid to take care of varying costs, the commission contended, and should be based on current expenditures for the preceding year. In addition, grants per pupil, provided under another section of the act, should be increased by \$2 a year.

### INCREASED GRANTS

The cost to the Government of this and increasing grants per classroom from \$250 to \$500 is estimated at \$337,000. An administrative grant of \$500 per school, which the commission suggests, is estimated at \$308,000 and an in-

crease of \$200 in the annual grant per teacher would amount to \$892,000.

An increase from 60 to 70 per cent in the grant toward transporting pupils to and from schools was suggested at an estimated \$82,000.

Outside of the \$1,799,000 in aid listed, the commission recommended that grants should be made for dormitories in remote areas with a boarding allowance of \$10 per pupil.

E. T. Fairley, superintendent of education, had presented a brief suggesting the Government should assume a fixed percentage of school costs with the remainder to be raised by the districts through the application of a province-wide mill rate. The commission concluded that the scheme was worthy of consideration but involved an entirely new method of financing education.

Members included H. Alan Maclean, assistant deputy attorney-general; B. C. Bracewell, deputy minister of municipalities; R. R. F. Sewell, secretary of the Union of B.C. Municipalities; J. T. Clark, R. C. Grant and J. H. Stewart. Sittings were held throughout the province.

## Landlords Tenantless In Gesture of Protest

Landlords are keeping rooms and suites vacant in Victoria in many cases as a protest against "dictatorial rental legislation," a spokesman for the Landlords' Protective League said last night.

At least 35 rooms in the city are not being rented because of rental controls that are "one-sided and put the landlord in the position where he hasn't got the right to run his own business," the spokesman said.

Under existing domestic rental

legislation, the only way the landlord can have a tenant move is to have him declared obnoxious, for non-payment of rent or for destruction of property, it was explained.

In the case of non-payment of rent, the spokesman said the procedure takes a minimum of 45 days, and, as in the other two cases, the matter has to go to court, involving legal fees and sometimes witnesses.

"We think that landlords in general are the most stable citizens of Canada, and should have the power to run their own business without government interference."

## "Voice of Experience" Urged in Health Plan

Suggestion that representatives of the Medical Services Association and the Blue Cross, both organizations providing insurance on a non-profit basis, be included in a committee to study a health insurance scheme for British Columbia was given to the Legislature yesterday by Dr. F. W. Green, (Cln., Cranbrook).

No health insurance scheme would work unless it had the co-operation of the medical men, he contended, pointing out that the scheme in Britain was doomed to failure because of their opposition.

Health insurance was badly needed, but because of "sky high" costs it would prove expensive.

Medical faculty at the University of British Columbia was also badly needed, Dr. Green said, and the important thing at the moment was "to get something started."

He spoke on behalf of the British Columbia Turf Association in a plea for reduction of pari-mutuel taxes but indicated the Federal Government should be asked to give up something. Racing operators had an investment of \$1,000,000 in the province and spent \$211,000 for salaries and supplies in the province last year, but showed a loss over the past two years of \$11,000. The Government had legalized pari-mutuel betting, collected a tax, and should beware of "killing the goose that lays the golden egg."

Plan was under way, Dr. Green said, for setting up arthritis clinics on a basis similar to those provided for treatment and diagnosis of persons suffering from tuberculosis and venereal disease. He urged that some of the sales tax

money be devoted to this purpose.

He made a stout defence of the profits of the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, pointing out that the company had started with nothing but a hole in the ground into which they had poured millions of dollars. The company now paid millions in taxes, brought employment to thousands and had undertaken risks in development which no state enterprise could possibly justify.

Dr. Green called the sales tax an unpopular but bold step but asked if anyone had ever heard of

## Bill Would Help Deserted Wives

Good news for deserted wives in British Columbia was contained in an amendment to the Deserted Wives Maintenance Act introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

Taking into account the rising cost of living, it empowers magistrates to order payment of maintenance not exceeding \$30 a week, where desertion is proved.

Present maximum under the act is \$20.

## Points Value Of Boys' Work

Value of the boys club movement in providing outlets for excess energy and in moulding character was outlined to the Legislature's Social Welfare and Education Committee yesterday by Hugh McMillan, president of Vancouver Boys' Club Association.

He said there was very little juvenile delinquency today in those areas where clubs had been formed, because the clubs gave boys a place to go and an interest in constructive things, to keep them off the streets.

"In times like these there should be no hesitation about investment in boys," Mr. McMillan urged. "A little service to youth goes a long way. Youth work is a great need in the world today."

Mr. McMillan outlined the growth of Vancouver's boys' club movement from its Kiwanis beginnings in 1936 to its four-club organization today, with a total membership of 1,515, aided by seven full-time, six part-time and 78 volunteer workers.

Financed largely from city welfare funds, the association had the backing of 235 influential businessmen, he explained.

## Age May Without

Reluctance of milady her age has thrown wrench into new provincial Elections Act for reg voters in British Colum

And, as usual, it loo will have the last wor

Appearing before the mittee on the Province Act at the Legislatu G. M. Phillips, reg asked abolition of the try office and of the that a person must g date in making appli placed on the voters'

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1948

## Age May Be Kept Feminine Secret Without Losing B.C. Voting Rights

Reluctance of millady to disclose her age has thrown a monkey-wrench into new provisions of the Elections Act for registration of voters in British Columbia.

And, as usual, it looks as if she will have the last word.

Appearing before the special committee on the Provincial Elections Act at the Legislature yesterday, G. M. Phillips, registrar-general, asked abolition of the central registry office and of the requirement that a person must give his birth date in making application to be placed on the voters' list.

People, he said, and especially women, were refusing to give their birth dates. When told they could not vote unless the information was given, they became "very, very angry."

"It's terrible what I and my deputies have had to put up with," said Mr. Phillips. "The women particularly are angry about it."

He was gravely worried about the fact that many persons would thus be disfranchised, pointing out there were 700 such cases in Vancouver and registration was only one-quarter completed. There would probably be thousands more.

### UNWORKABLE

Central registry office, costing more than \$600 a month in salaries plus overhead, could not properly fulfil its function of eliminating double registrations unless the age of persons applying was given. He asked that it be abolished because of the expense, because it was unworkable owing to the objections of the public and because the present registration cards would probably be found illegal on appeal to the courts.

The committee agreed despite the objections of Kenneth Wiper, deputy registrar. Without the provisions of the act being considered for abolition, he said, the duplication of names and "deadwood" on the list would continue to pile up. There would be virtually no check on deaths and transfers from one district to another.

"Why worry about a noisy minority of less than one per cent when 37 per cent of the registered voters don't use their franchise?" he asked.

Perhaps with the ladies in mind, however, the committee under Thomas King (Coalition, Columbia) decided to support the suggestion of Mr. Phillips.

### Ramming It Through

Sources in a good position to know assert that the proposed provincial sales tax was caucused on Monday evening by members of the Coalition groups in the Legislature, with "less opposition" from those members than the Administration had anticipated. If that is true it means, of course, that the Government will ram the sales tax through the Legislature, using that Coalition support. Vague hints, meanwhile, are being thrown out that the municipalities will "like it when they see it," and so forth. It is very easily done, no doubt. It will be done, too, but it will not add to the stature of the Provincial Government.

To raid the municipalities of a cool \$8,000,000 of the \$12,000,000 a three per cent sales tax is stated officially as likely to produce, and to hand them the balance of \$4,000,000 as their share, is very cavalier treatment indeed. The municipalities had asked that they be covered on the costs of education. This will not begin to do that. It will merely impose one more tax within municipal areas, the main proceeds of which will go into provincial coffers.

A sales tax will fall on the lowest income groups disproportionately with others. It will make it harder for the pensioner, the veteran and his family, and for the city ratepayer in his turn. It will add to, and not detract from, a far too rapid advance in provincial expense, and whet the appetite of the British Columbia treasury for more. Provincial outlays have risen 300 per cent in the same period that British Columbia has added barely one-third to its population.

There was, and is, no genuine need for this extra bite out of the public's pocket to the tune of \$12,000,000. By conserving its own resources the Province could have helped the municipalities without fresh taxation of any kind. To ram the sales tax through now is to make a mistake which the Administration may pay for a year or so hence at the polls. The public may be long-suffering, but it does not forget.

### Three Loan Bills

Three loan bills mentioned in the budget address were brought down in the British Columbia Legislature this week. Two of them are for the amount of \$5,000,000 each, net after payment of loan expenses. Both these measures authorize the payment of interest rates up to 5 per cent, and both loans are for a period of 50 years unless earlier redeemed. The third loan is for the new Forest Development Fund, to raise \$2,500,000 on similar terms.

All three measures combined constitute new or revived loan authority to borrow \$12,500,000, or 40 per cent of the \$28,500,000 which the Province is planning to spend in the new fiscal year on capital outlays.

The "British Columbia Forest Development Fund Loan Act, 1948" has been explained by the Administration by stating that it is to create a revolving account, out of which new forest policies can be operated and independent timber operators helped. Into the fund would go other assets raised by the Province in forest appropriations. The loan authority is for \$2,500,000.

The "Pacific Great Eastern Construction Loan Act, 1928, Amendment 1948" is a revival of former loan authority under the original railway construction statute, and its increase by \$5,000,000. The Government have explained that \$800,000 of this sum will be spent on capital account on the P.G.E. Railway in the coming year. Meanwhile authority is being taken to borrow \$4,200,000 over and beyond that.

The "British Columbia Loan Act, 1948" is the second \$5,000,000 measure laid before the Legislature this week. It sets out that \$4,000,000 of the borrowings will be spent on capital account on roads, bridges, ferries and the like, and the remaining \$1,000,000 on the purchase of equipment and road machinery in that connection. The three measures together are equivalent to 10 per cent of the current net debt of British Columbia.

## Wismer Draws Gargrave Fire On Handling of Mine Dispute

Labor Minister Gordon Wismer's handling of conciliation measures in Vancouver Island's coal mines strike was called into question in the House yesterday by Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., Mackenzie).

He said it was time the Province had a new labor minister, because as attorney-general Mr. Wismer could not give enough time to the job.

"More than 1,000 miners are on strike, and the minister is sitting complacently in his office waiting for one or other party to come to him," Mr. Gargrave charged.

"I hope we are going to have a new minister of labor, even if it means an amendment to the Constitution Act."

The type of work Mr. Wismer

had to handle as attorney-general made it foreign for him to turn round and deal with labor relations.

### WISMER REPLIES

He said a board of industrial commissioners on the coal strike had presented a majority report two weeks ago, and asked what the minister had done since to bring the parties together.

Mr. Wismer replied that it was the duty of the minister under the act to give the parties an opportunity to settle their own differences. When the report was received it was sent to both parties.

"If I were minister," Mr. Gargrave retorted, "I would have had both parties here a week ago and made them sit here until something was done."

"If you can't bring about a settlement, then let the Government take over the coal mines and start production again."



## Today in the Legislature

2:30 p.m.—Speakers, Dr. R. R. Laird (Coalition, Similkameen); John McInnis (C.C.F., Fort George), and C. T. Beard (Coalition, Esquimalt).

Committees—Forestry committee at 10 a.m., Cedar Room.

## Plea's Wording Raises Sparks In Legislature

A C.C.F. attack on the wording of literature sent out to schools in support of the Canadian Appeal for Children drew spirited defence from Education Minister W. T. Straith in the Legislature yesterday.

A. T. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East) quoted at length from a printed circular painting a harrowing picture of hardships in Europe, and declared:

"I submit this isn't good for the morale of our children. There are other ways of spreading appeals through the community without blackening the minds of little children."

His criticism was directed at the Education Department, and it brought Mr. Straith to his feet to tell the House:

"The department does not encourage appeals in schools, but it has no jurisdiction over them. It refers them to local school boards."

"The paper just read was sponsored by the United Nations and the Dominion of Canada, and I have no hesitation in saying that I give it my blessing."

## Change Drops Nationality From Listings

Amending legislation introduced in the House Tuesday by Labor Minister Gordon Wismer removes from employers responsibility for listing their employees by nationalities in registers required by the Male and Female Minimum Wage Acts.

The acts as they now stand say the register must show names, nationalities, ages and residential addresses. Under Mr. Wismer's amendment, "occupations" will be substituted for "nationalities."

The minister also introduced an amendment to the Semi-Monthly Payment of Wages Act to make it applicable to piece-work.

Amendments to the Game Act brought in by Mr. Wismer as Attorney-General will include all types of game, instead of specified kinds, in prohibition of pit-lamping and hunting after dark.

Other bills introduced by the minister provide for extension of provisions of the Mortgagees' and Purchasers' Relief Act for another year, and routine changes in the Mechanics' Lien Act, Police and Prison Regulations Act and Jury Act.

## Putnam Describes Price-Fixing As Unfair to Nation's Farmers

Price-fixing and controls of farm products are "manifestly unfair and unsound" when no manufacturer or worker has pulled any punches in getting the last cent for produce which the farmer must buy, Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam declared in the Legislature yesterday.

Farming was not just an industry, the minister said; it was a way of life, the very foundation of the Canadian way of life, the source of our highest ideals.

"The basis of agriculture must be sound, for on that depends the greatness of our Dominion. The very essence of a sound agriculture is a free farmer, whose only hope of reward for long hours and hard work is a fair price for the product of his toil."

Something must be done to raise the standards of farm life, Mr. Putnam contended, if any young people were to be left in farming.

Estimated farm production for 1947 was \$122,000,000 as against imports of agricultural products valued in excess of \$50,000,000. Reviewing agricultural development, he recalled that in 1932 production had shrunk to \$34,300,000 and imports were \$10,300,000.

Noting that the Province had sometimes been criticized for its large agricultural imports, Mr. Putnam suggested that every encouragement be given to new settlers of the right background to increase production of feed grains and other products now being imported from the Prairies.

Only 2 per cent of British Columbia's 234,000,000 acres, or 4,700,000 are suitable for agriculture, and of the latter only 1,000,000 acres are under cultivation, said the minister.

Concluding a review of the special problems in various districts throughout the Province, Mr. Putnam noted that there was evidence of a great trek from Britain to British Columbia in which Vancouver Island was playing a large part. Hundreds of new holdings were being developed as part-time farming in conjunction with employment in logging and other trades.

### MAJOR INDUSTRY

Poultry production in the Province had become a major industry, Mr. Putnam noted, and would require the best possible assistance.

The general agricultural situation presented a picture of reasonable stability for the next few years and with present world conditions there was no reason to be worried about overproduction of essential foods.

Elaborating his argument that farmers were getting the thin end of the stick in controlled prices, Mr. Putnam noted that miners were asking for \$14 a day, the same as American miners were being paid. American miners, however, were paying 50 to 100 per cent more for butter, eggs, bread, bacon and beef than the Canadian miner was paying.

## Telegraph Firms Garner First Sales Tax "Profit"

The Provincial Government's retail sales tax proposal is proving a gold mine for telegraph companies.

Since Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb announced the new impost in his budget speech a week ago, there has been a daily procession of sessional attendants into the legislative chamber to distribute handfuls of telegrams to ministers and private members.

By far the greatest proportion of them contain protests against the new tax.

By last night it was estimated that more than 200 anti-sales tax wires had been handed to members of the House, from merchants' organizations, citizens' groups and individuals all over the Province.

### Post-Mortem

The Maclean report on the Cameron report on educational costs is a little like a post-mortem and it will have about the same effect. The report has been in the hands of the Provincial Government for two months, so that what has followed has superseded the main weight of the report itself. That argued that the Government should exercise more control over school costs, but as the Government have refused to assume the costs of education as requested by the municipalities the occasion for that control has lessened. On the contrary, if the municipalities are to continue to bear the heaviest part of the burden of educational financing, the City Councils should be given a good deal more discretion over what school budgets they will approve. They have virtually none now.

The undeniable difficulty of the situation is that the Province sets the curriculum and states what program the schools of British Columbia must carry out. As the cities have proved, they are carrying 61 per cent of the cost of that program now, to the Province's 39 per cent. A two-for-me-and-one-for-you provincial division of the proposed sales tax will not alter that disparity, but only increase it. Meanwhile not a few school budgets are going to arbitration now in British Columbia. That was all their respective councils could do with them. The awards of the arbitration panels, however, will be final, and in that it remains to be seen wherein the municipalities will be any better off.

It is beyond argument that school costs have risen in the last three years faster than the ability of British Columbia communities to pay them. If the Government do not think so they would do well to sit in one evening with any British Columbia school board while it is considering its 1948 budget. It was to cure this situation that the municipalities asked for more help. So far no real solution has come.

## Sales Tax Estimate

While the Greater Vancouver will receive more than estimated \$4,000,000 municipal sales tax for the year, Victoria and its municipalities will divvy up \$460,000 for the year if the tax receives the approval of the Legislature.

This was indicated in Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's statement to the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

and distributed to municipalities yesterday by R. R. secretary.

Mr. Sewell said he had been made by the Provincial Department for payment of palatial share of the this year.

"If the tax is imposed and arrangements made this year, the payment will be in the month period," he said. "It would be available for the municipalities."

There has been from Mr. Anscomb, however, when the bill of the tax revenue will be available.

With his letter, enclosed a list showing approximate percentage of share the revenue from tax to which each would be entitled.

### PERCENTAGE BASE

Victoria's share, school population of the total estimated 1946, would be approximately 32.4 per cent, or \$264,000 fiscal year, he said.

On the same basis, receive 2.99 per cent; Oak Bay, 1.3304 per cent; Esquimalt, .584 per cent; \$23,380.

Vancouver City's fiscal year would be \$1,640,000; Burnaby, \$1,640,000; West Vancouver, \$1,640,000; and North Vancouver, \$1,640,000.

Other Island cities percentage share are: Nanaimo, 8.880 per cent; Nanaimo, 8.880 per cent; North Cowichan, 3.150 per cent; Alberni, 3.150 per cent; Ladysmith, 2.606 per cent; Ladysmith, 2.606 per cent; and Cumberland, 2.606 per cent.

Larger centres of and their percent: New Westminster, 3.4160 per cent; Surrey, 3.4160 per cent; 2.3058 per cent; Coquitlam, 2.3058 per cent; Trail, 1.2230 per cent; Vernon, 1.2230 per cent; 1.1855 per cent; Princeton, 1.1855 per cent; and Kamloops, 1.1855 per cent.



THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1948

## Sales Tax Yield in Greater Victoria Estimated \$460,000 in Fiscal Year

While the Greater Vancouver area will receive more than half of the estimated \$4,000,000 municipal share of the Provincial Government's 3 per cent sales tax for the 1948-49 fiscal year, Victoria and its surrounding municipalities will divide an estimated \$460,000 for the same period if the tax receives the approval of the Legislature.

This was indicated in a letter from Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb to the Union of B.C. Municipalities and distributed to union members yesterday by R. R. F. Sewell, secretary.

Mr. Sewell said representations had been made by the U.B.C.M. to the Provincial Department of Finance for payment of the municipalities' share of the tax, if levied, this year.

"If the tax is imposed without delay and arrangement made for payments this year, in all probability the payment will cover a six-month period," he said. This would mean that approximately \$2,000,000 would be available for distribution to the municipalities.

There has been no indication from Mr. Anscomb, however, as to how or when the municipal share of the tax revenue will be distributed.

With his letter, Mr. Anscomb enclosed a list showing the approximate percentage of the municipal share the revenue from the sales tax to which each municipality would be entitled.

### PERCENTAGE BASIS

Victoria's share, based on the school population of 1947 added to the total estimated population in 1946, would be approximately 6.111 per cent, or \$264,000 for the current fiscal year, he said.

On the same basis, Saanich would receive 2.99 per cent, or \$119,600; Oak Bay, 1.3304 per cent, or \$53,200, and Esquimalt, .5845 per cent, or \$23,380.

Vancouver City's share for this fiscal year would be 41.0551 per cent, or \$1,640,000; Burnaby, 4.9727 per cent; West Vancouver, 1.3064 per cent, and North Vancouver, 1.0295 per cent.

Other Island centres and their percentage share are: Port Alberni, .8880 per cent; Nanaimo, .8304 per cent; North Cowichan, .6550 per cent; Duncan, .3683 per cent; Alberni, .3150 per cent; Courtenay, .2806 per cent; Ladysmith, .2466 per cent, and Cumberland, .1249 per cent.

Larger centres on the Mainland and their percentage share are: New Westminster, 4.0261 per cent; Surrey, 3.4160 per cent; Richmond, 2.3058 per cent; Chilliwack, 1.4087 per cent; Trail, 1.3005 per cent; Vernon, 1.2239 per cent; Kelowna, 1.1855 per cent; Penticton, 1.1685 per cent; Prince Rupert, 1.0189 per cent, and Kamloops, .9358 per cent.

## House Thrown Into Brief Confusion By Variance in Copies of Estimates

Confusion reigned for a few minutes in the House yesterday when Premier Byron Johnson and Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb found that their printed copies of estimates for the coming year didn't jibe—by a matter of \$300,000.

But they didn't discover the error until Opposition Leader Harold Winch had risen on a point of order to wave a blue book in his left hand showing \$1,100,000 assistance to rural areas for education costs, and another in his right showing only \$800,000.

"I contend that the House doesn't know what the estimates are, and until it does, it can't go on with 'his debate,'" Mr. Winch maintained.

The two Government leaders, who were embarrassed last Monday when C.C.F. Whip Herbert Gargrave drew attention to the fact that estimates provided two salaries for one cabinet member, put their heads together over their respective blue books and came up looking crestfallen to confess that they didn't agree.

"I ask you, how can we have two estimates of this nature before the Legislature?" demanded Mr. Winch.

"What kind of confusion has he (the finance minister) got into? I suggest he needs a refresher course in his business!"

"This debate is out of order until this is settled."

Mr. Speaker R. H. Carson ruled that the copy filed with the clerk of the House must be accepted as the official estimates.

### SUSPENSEFUL WAIT

"Every time we deal with estimates do we have to go to the clerk of the House for his official copy?" asked Mr. Gargrave.

Mr. Anscomb, looking somewhat put out, said it was quite obvious there had been a printing error. Only those books showing \$1,100,000 were correct.

The House waited in suspense while Clerk R. S. Yates hurried to his office to bring back the official copy. If it had shown \$800,000, rural areas would have got \$300,000 less than they had been promised, on Mr. Speaker's ruling.

But it didn't. On the clerk's return, Mr. Speaker informed the House the official estimates showed the \$1,100,000 figure used by Mr. Anscomb in his budget speech.

Mr. Winch wanted to know how the error had occurred. Mr. Anscomb offered to adjourn the House to find out.

Then Premier Johnson rose to suggest the debate should proceed, promising that a check would be made in the meantime and that steps would be taken to see that all members received correct copies of the estimates.

Later, as the House was rising, Mr. Anscomb informed members the error appeared in only a few copies of the blue book, was in the summary of expenditures only, and was not reflected in the general estimates.

## Committee Advised City's Bill Asks Only Extension of Power

Bill to allow Victoria to lease the City Hall site to a private company for erection of a \$3,000,000 hotel was presented to the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday by City Solicitor A. J. Patton.

He explained that the city already had power to grant a lease for 20 years and was merely seeking extension of the power for a 99-year lease.

The city intended to grant a fixed tax of \$80,000 a year, Mr. Patton told the committee, but the city stood to gain because present taxes would only amount to \$77,800.

When questioned as to what would happen if the city increased its mill rate or assessments, Mr. Patton pointed out this would probably be offset by a depreciation in the value of the structure.

Request from Vancouver for power to allow Hindus to vote in municipal elections brought a question from C.C.F. Leader Harold E. Winch as to why Chinese and other Canadian citizens were not also included.

### SEEK AMENDMENT

Ald. George C. Miller said Vancouver would handle its own affairs in its own way, while D. E. McTaggart, city solicitor, remarked that it was partly a matter of difficulty in preparing a list of Chinese voters, many of whom had similar names.

Vancouver asked an amendment to its charter to permit police to appeal from disciplinary action or dismissal to the Attorney-General. This was opposed by Fred Dougherty, Police Union spokesman, who pointed out two of the police commissioners were appointed by the Attorney-General and asked for an appeal to the City Council. Nineteen men were dismissed last year, he said, without any right of appeal.

It was agreed that he be granted time to consult the Police Union on a suggestion of A. R. MacDougall (Cln., Pt. Grey) that appeal should be made to a Supreme Court judge.

Vancouver asked to remove the \$500 licence fee ceiling to provide for an adequate tax on those who

would not be covered by the proposed business tax; authority to exempt certain classes of business from the business tax, and authority to impose either a licence fee or business tax, whichever is greater.

## U.K. Journey By Eyres Under Fire

Next month's trip to England for Trade and Industry Minister L. H. Eyres and his deputy, E. G. Rowbottom, to shepherd a party of British Columbia industrialists, was sniped at by Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., Mackenzie) in the House Tuesday.

Noting that the estimates provided for an increase of \$2,000 in the minister's vote, Mr. Gargrave wondered whether the increase was to take care of "the junket the minister and his deputy are going to take to England this year at the expense of the taxpayer."

The province already had a trade representative and an agent-general in London, Mr. Gargrave reminded the House, and added:

"If you are sending the minister for a holiday you ought to send him a lot farther."

"I want the people to know that the minister and his deputy are being sent at their expense and that they are going to have to pay a sales tax for this type of thing."



## Condemn Forest Licence Plan By Truck Loggers at Hearing

Condemning the forest management licence plan as unlikely to achieve over-all sustained yield, a Truck Loggers' Association delegation yesterday presented to the Legislature's forestry committee new proposals as an alternative to policy written into the Forest Act last year.

- In summary, the delegation suggested:
1. All Crown timber when mature be sold on a competitive bid basis, available to everybody.
  2. It should be sold in blocks not larger than one natural unit for logging purposes.
  3. Contracts should contain logging practice regulations to achieve reforestation by natural means as far as possible.
  4. Where replanting is necessary, purchasers of mature timber should be required to pay so much per thousand feet to the department, to be put into a fund specifically for replanting and not into general revenue.

### TOLD COMMITTEE

Clare Smith, association president, told the committee it was possible to count on the fingers of one hand the number of operators who approved of the management licence plan.

"Industry as a whole doesn't like it," he declared. Larger companies may not be opposed to the principle of forest management licences, but they don't like the act.

"There's too much ministerial control—which is unfortunate for the minister as well as the business."

Stressing the need for a fund for replanting, he pointed out that while natural reforestation was the cheapest and most satisfactory method, it was not always practical.

"Due to the topography of the country in the coastal area, clear cutting—taking off the entire crop—is a policy you can't get away from," he said. "Because of the steepness of the ground it is not possible to select certain trees. It's too expensive and causes damage to remaining timber."

Both he and W. C. Gibson, another association spokesman, assured the committee all operators, large and small, were alive to the importance of reforestation.

### BLAMES LEGISLATORS

Mr. Gibson declared blame for the "cut and get out" practice of past years belonged to past legislators, inasmuch as they had treated forest revenue as general revenue, and had not provided sufficient funds to build up a strong forest department.

"We are much opposed to the alienation of Crown timber lands in perpetuity," he said. Most of the 700 operators in Vancouver forest district were not in a position to take out forest management licences, and would not be satisfied to work for someone else.

The association's contention was that the whole coastal area should be treated as one forest management licence, remaining in the Crown and open to competition.

Dr. C. D. Orchard, deputy minister of forests and chief forester for the Province, informed the committee the Legislature consistently had been voting more money than the department could use each year for reforestation.

"Planting must be spread over the responsible parties," he explained. "The department can't do it all. It's not practical because of natural limitations."

"You've got to have long-term tenure to be able to leave seed blocks, so that you can come back later to salvage the timber in those blocks after regeneration has taken place."

## Doctor-Member Criticizes B.C. Hospitals

Hospital accommodation in British Columbia is in a "disgraceful state," Dr. R. R. Laird (Cln. Similkameen) told the Legislature yesterday. It was virtually impossible to get hospital beds for those who needed them, he said.

Before any hospitalization scheme could be brought in, the Government would have to make sure that beds could be provided so people could get what they paid for.

In its plans for establishing a medical faculty at the University of British Columbia, the Government should have enough courage to start by building a 500-bed hospital on the university campus and immediately appoint a dean of faculty so organization could get under way. The university hospital could be used to take care of indigents and old age pensioners, who cannot now be accommodated at larger hospitals because of the bed shortage.

Centralized homes for "senior" citizens, should be replaced by cottage-type homes spread throughout the province, Dr. Laird said, so that married couples could remain together near their lifelong friends.

### PRESENTS PLAN

Dr. Laird said he had recently presented an immigration plan for consideration of the Premier. British Columbia was capable of sustaining a population of 10,000,000, he contended, urging that the Government establish a plan to bring the right type of settlers to the province.

Turning to the Government's \$77,500,000 budget, Dr. Laird remarked that that was a lot of money to spend, but he agreed with it.

"My personal belief is that the future of this province is such that we can never retrench, we must go ahead."

He praised the Minister of Public Works for his extensive road-building program, because the day might come quickly when the road would not only be used by citizens but for transportation of military supplies in defence of the Pacific Coast.

## Praises for Trade Department Tendered From C.C.F. Member

Unexpected praise for the work of the Department of Trade and Industry was heard in the House yesterday—unexpected because it came from a C.C.F. member who confessed himself in disagreement with earlier Opposition critics.

John McInnis (C.C.F., Ft. George) declared the department was doing a very good job and added: "I differ from one of my colleagues that it is getting too much money. I think it should have more."

(Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F. whip, said Tuesday estimates for Trade and Industry Minister L. H. Eyres' department were too high.)

"Right now this is one of the most important departments of government," Mr. McInnis stated. "It has some very capable men assessing possibilities of establishing new industries vital to the development of the province."

He was not happy about the sales tax proposal, however; said it was not the right place to get extra money and would have a bad effect.

But if the Government were determined to impose it, to reduce the burden on those in low income brackets it should cut the proposed tax from three per cent to two and share the revenue equally with municipalities.

### ASKS TAXES CUT

He called for lightening of school tax burden on farmers, pointing out that it was difficult enough already to keep men on the land and that their tax burden must be reduced to the lowest possible minimum.

Dealing with problems of his own riding, Mr. McInnis said the problem of predatory animals was becoming greater every year. Wolves now were so plentiful that recently a truck ran down and killed four right on the highway.

Lands Minister E. T. Kenney: "Four-legged or two?"

"There are not many two-legged wolves around there, except at election time," retorted Mr. McInnis.

He called for a survey of flood conditions at Prince George, in co-operation with the city and Canadian National Railway; for general road improvements to correct past neglect and make good damage by greatly increased logging traffic, and to open up potential agricultural areas, and for construction of road access to Jasper and Mount Robson Parks.

### NEW PROVISIONS

New provisions for classification of motion pictures where such action is deemed necessary by the censor is contained in a bill to amend the Motion Pictures Act introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

Long sought by various welfare organizations, the amendment says the censor may classify any film as "adult entertainment" if he considers classification necessary.

It also gives the censor authority to require prominent display of the words "adult entertainment" in advertisements of classified pictures.

## Amending Bills Reach House

Five minor bills to amend existing legislation were introduced at the Legislature Wednesday.

An amendment to the B.C. Corporation Income Tax Act would provide changes to bring it into line with changes in Dominion statutes.

Farmers' Land Clearing Assistance Act amendment would provide that where land clearing is done by the Government the owner must file a lien with the land registry office so that if the land is sold, the purchaser will know a debt is owing to the Government.

Creameries and Dairies Regulation Act amendment would tighten controls in pasteurization plants for the prevention of disease.

Because measures are provided in other statutes, a bill to repeal the Codling Moth Control Act was introduced.

Purely administrative changes are provided in a bill to amend the Soldiers' Land Act.

## Snow Delays Tree Planting Program

BECAUSE of late snow, the British Columbia Forest Service will miss its target of 12,000,000 trees for this year's reforestation program on Vancouver Island.

Dr. C. D. Orchard, deputy minister of forests, told the Legislature's forestry committee yesterday that last week-end's snowfall had stopped work in two camps employing 150 men.

Planting is limited to two short seasons each year, one in Spring when snow has gone and frost is out of the ground, and the other, even shorter, in Autumn.

## Esquimaux Spending

Criticism of the "overspending" was, Legislature yesterday, Charles T. Beard (C) giving a further indication of the backbenchers about the fiscal policy.

"There is no argument," he said, "that the public face facts and the delegations who comment Buildings practice with a request which and more expenditure is hard to turn down but there is no doubt that the Government master the situation masters us."

The one advantage, he held, was the home to everyone doing costs of government.

"It seems to me got something by cannot let it go."

It was hypocritical, member said, to tirely for the increase.

The Province's conduct of business, said, but had anyone a firm being put on overcharging?

### POLITE TERM

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He thanked the Works and his done in his distribution material and paper but asked that be given to Forest roads to the wharf away by recent

Government called to Victoria the official operation in order to legislation and meet in January could get back to the Spring "when ice is coming"

Commending eral for "removal insurance companies financially stable that the miling to embark scheme of its own a feeling of security."

## Esquimalt Member Hits Spending by Government

Criticism of the Government for "overspending" was leveled in the Legislature yesterday by Cmdr. Charles T. Beard (Cdn., Esquimalt), giving a further indication that some of the backbenchers are not happy about the fiscal policy this year.

"There is no argument in stating," he said, "that the public is reluctant to face facts and the hundreds of delegations who come to the Parliament Buildings practically all come with a request which involves more and more expenditures. I know it is hard to turn down worthy causes, but there is no doubt in my mind that the Government had better master the situation before the situation masters us."

The one advantage of the sales tax, he held, was that it would bring home to everyone daily the pyramiding costs of government.

"It seems to me that we have got something by the tail and we cannot let it go."

It was hypocritical, the Esquimalt member said, to blame labor entirely for the increased cost of living.

The Province granted licences for the conduct of business, Cmdr. Beard said, but had anyone ever heard of a firm being put out of business for overcharging?

### POLITE TERM

"Overcharging," he said, "is a polite term for theft," and cited numerous cases to back up his contention.

"It is probably futile for me to ask for legislation to curb these practices as we are so wedded to the antiquated slogan of 'free enterprise' before we have too many discontented people who will, quite rightly, make every effort to put this seemingly helpless Government out of power."

Cmdr. Beard was firmly of the opinion that Government lacks maximum efficiency because only a few persons carried the whole burden. He suggested there should be at least two more Cabinet ministers and pointed out that several "have literally gone sick or died through overwork."

He thanked the Minister of Public Works and his staff for the work done in his district in the face of material and personnel shortages, but asked that immediate attention be given to Port Renfrew where roads to the wharf had been washed away by recent rains.

Government members should be called to Victoria one week before the official opening of the Legislature in order to discuss impending legislation and the House should meet in January so that members could get back to their jobs earlier in the Spring "when the whole province is coming to life."

Commending the Attorney-General for "removing" some health insurance companies who were not financially stable, he asked assurance that the minister was endeavoring to embark upon an insurance scheme of its own to give the people a feeling of security.

## Asserts Drink, Not Old Cars, Major Menace

It's not people with old cars who are the greatest menace on the highways but those who have "a few drinks under the belt," A. J. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East) declared in the Legislature Wednesday.

Discussing automobile insurance rates generally and increase in premiums on older cars in particular, Mr. Turner said:

"If you look at the papers you'll see that it's people in modern, high-powered cars who cause the greatest number of accidents."

He quoted Chief Walter Mulligan of Vancouver as authority for a statement that worst offenders were "repeaters."

"Most of our serious accidents are late at night or early in the morning, when normal carefulness gives way to recklessness," the Vancouver member maintained. "The trouble is people who feel reckless when they get a drink or two under their belts."

He called on the Government to step into the insurance field, to cut down present excessively high rates and at the same time create a new revenue source for itself.

"Insurance today is not an industry but a gamble, with the companies as bookmakers assured against any possibility of loss," he declared.

## Dangling the Money

Sensing the unpopularity of the sales tax, the Provincial Government appeared this week to be attempting to buttress their position with additional arguments. One Government spokesman said that the municipalities were "in excellent position," and by inference did not need help. Another said the municipalities would "like" the tax when they saw it. A third wrote to the municipalities dangling the money the tax is estimated to collect before their eyes. The municipalities know now where the money will come from, and that is from themselves.

If the Government's own estimation is correct, Vancouver citizens will contribute approximately \$4,920,000 on a yearly basis, of which they will receive back \$1,640,000. The four municipalities in the Greater Victoria area through their citizens will contribute \$1,379,400, and receive back \$459,800. The whole point is whose money is it that is being dangled in front of municipal eyes? It is the proceeds of fresh taxation to the tune of some \$12,000,000 a year if the Government's figures are correct, and this levy is to be raised chiefly within municipal limits. Of that \$12,000,000 the Province will take \$8,000,000.

Notwithstanding this, an effort is being made to talk the municipalities into the deal by stating that if no further objection is raised and if the new sales tax is applied at the beginning of the new fiscal year the municipalities would have \$2,000,000 to split for the six months' period before the end of the year. On the same basis, of course, the Provincial treasury would take \$4,000,000, and their citizens would be finding most of the \$6,000,000 involved.

Meanwhile it has not been shown that the Province needs any additional revenues, over what provincial taxpayers are handing to the treasury in a succession of collections 20 per cent more than declared budgeted needs.

## Provincial Junkets

If the Province of British Columbia is so pushed for revenues that it must exact an extra \$12,000,000 from the pockets of the people by way of a new sales tax, ministerial junkets to the United Kingdom certainly ought to be laid aside for this year.

The proposal that the Minister of Trade and Industry and his deputy minister be sent to Great Britain to "shepherd" a touring party of British Columbia industrialists, while all very nice in its way, seems to be wholly unnecessary. British Columbia industrialists, one expects, hardly need "shepherding." What they can do in the United Kingdom will be done anyway, and for the good of British Columbia.

To stage such a tour with dress-suit facings in a ministerial parade, with entourage, hardly squares with what the Government have said about the need for fresh taxation. The \$2,000 or more that would be involved would not be so damaging, perhaps, as the principle. Federal action has established trade delegations and representatives in the main countries of the world. Whatever the Province does in the same fashion is in one sense duplication.

There may be times when some special effort would be worth-while for special reasons. In this instance there seems little need to send a Cabinet Minister halfway round the world to "shepherd" anybody.



### Tuesday in the Legislature

3 p.m.—Budget debate continues.

Speakers—Public Works Minister E. C. Carson, E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby), and A. J. R. Ash (Coalition, Saanich).

Committees—Provincial Elections Act, No. 1 Committee Room, 9:30 a.m.

## New Version Of Mines Act Goes to House

British Columbia's rewritten Coal Mines Regulation Act and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act—product of almost a year's study by Government, industry and labor—reached the House Thursday.

Repealing the original acts and all their amendments, the new measures will become operative on June 1. The two bills were introduced by Mines Minister R. C. MacDonald and formally put through first reading. They will be debated on second reading later in the session.

Both bills in draft form were discussed with management and labor at public hearings in main centres of the Province last year, and since both sides reached agreement it is not anticipated the new acts will provoke any battles on the floor of the House.

Also introduced and given first reading were bills to:

Amend the adoption act, giving to all adopted children the same status for inheritance purposes as those enjoyed by natural children.

Amend the Apprenticeship Act to delete certain wartime provisions.

Amend the Magistrates' Act to increase from \$2.50 to \$3 fees payable to magistrates in cases under the Summary Convictions Act originating in unorganized territory, bringing it into line with the Criminal Code.

Routine administrative amendments to the Constitution Act also were presented.

## Biggest V.I. Road Job To Be Done During '48

The largest single highway construction project ever to be undertaken on Vancouver Island—the new 18-mile section of Island Highway between Duncan and Ladysmith—is to be pushed through during the coming construction season.

This was announced by Public Works Minister E. C. Carson in the House yesterday in a detailed description of provincial works for the year.

Whether the new highway will



HON. E. C. CARSON

take the east or west route will not be determined until the Highway Board completes studies in about two weeks' time. If it follows the east line, there will be little disruption of traffic, it is understood.

Intention is that all contracts for the 18-mile section will be let this year.

Nothing is planned this year for a new Island Highway outlet from Victoria or a faster link with Patricia Bay airport, other than continuation of surveys.

Referring to the Duncan-Ladysmith project, Mr. Carson said:

"With the completion of this project there will only remain the section between Qualicum and Cook's Creek and a short section at Mill Bay to complete the Island Highway from Langford Lake to Courtenay. The latter projects will be undertaken in 1949."

In the meantime, he said, surveys were being carried out to provide a new entrance into Victoria. Several routes were being investigated.

"No final decision has been made," the Minister stated. "However, the Highway Board hopes to be in a position to make a recommendation to me within the next three or four months."

### Today in the Legislature

Budget debate resumes at 2:30 p.m.

Speakers—T. A. Love (Coalition, Grand Forks—Greenwood), Arthur Ash (Coalition, Saanich) and E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby).

Committees: Municipal in the Cedar Room at 10 a.m.

Of improvements to the highway to Patricia Bay referred to by Premier Byron Johnson during the by-election campaign, Mr. Carson said only this:

"In conjunction with the Federal Government, surveys and investigations are being made."

Vancouver Island will get 41 miles of highway hard-surfaced out of the department's 465-mile paving program from the 3 per cent gasoline tax taken over from the Dominion last year. This allows for paving two important sections:

Red Gap to Qualicum and Union Bay, 21 miles.

Parksville to Cathedral Grove, 20 miles.

Much of the new bridge program for the Island this year is a carry-over from last year's appropriations. It provides for:

1. Replacement of Niagara Creek Bridge on Island Highway, \$50,000.

2. Three new bridges on West Coast Highway: Tugwell Creek, \$16,000; Muir Creek, \$16,000, and Sandstone Creek, \$15,000.

3. New bridge at River Bend, Alberni, \$45,000.

In common with the rest of the Province, Island roads will share in a replacement program affecting 80 smaller structures for which permanent culverts and fills will be substituted.

No new buildings are contemplated on the Island this year.

## Racial Issue Sidestepped By Committee

Decision on the inclusion of racial minorities on the provincial voters' list was sidestepped by the special committee on the Elections Act at the Legislature yesterday.

Question of whether Mennonites should be given the vote was introduced by Chairman Thomas King (Cln., Columbia).

C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch declared the committee had no right to discriminate against any racial minorities. If the Mennonites were given the vote, then all Canadian citizens should be included on the list, including Japanese and Doukhobors.

"There are Canadians and Canadians," said J. H. Cates (Cln., North Vancouver). "It depends on the way they live in this country. If they form little communities and are a law unto themselves, then they shouldn't be given the vote."

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F. whip, said that any future immigration policy should be designed to prevent any groups forming "watertight compartments."

The committee instructed that an amendment to the act be written to prevent independent candidates from using any portion of the names of political parties. This would prevent any candidate, for example, designating himself as an "independent C.C.F."

## Province's Sales Tax Bill Goes to House This Week

FINANCE Minister Herbert Anscomb will introduce the Government's new three per cent sales tax bill in the Legislature before the end of this week, it was learned yesterday.

The bill, likely to provoke the most bitter battle on the floor of the House this session, will not be brought in until the current budget debate is concluded. Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney is expected to close the debate tonight or tomorrow afternoon.

Written into the sales tax bill will be a schedule of goods to be exempted from the tax. Mr. Anscomb indicated in his budget speech that foods for "family consumption" will not be taxed.

It is understood, however, that there have been strong attempts in Coalition caucus meetings to have other essential articles freed from the impost.

## Johnson to Hear Budget Protests

PROTESTS against various sections of the Provincial Government budget will be aired at 1:30 p.m. this afternoon during a meeting between Premier Byron Johnson and 40 delegates from 14 branches of the Vancouver Island Ratepayers' Association. The association executive was unable to secure an audience with the Premier last week.

## Animal Diseases Act Streamlined

Streamlining of measures for the prevention of contagious diseases was provided by a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam.

Entitled "An Act to Prevent the Spread of Contagious Diseases Among Animals," the bill repeals previous legislation covering the same field.

Some diseases included in previous acts, but actually falling under Federal jurisdiction, have been removed.

## Highway Of Pro

British Columbia's program for the coming year provides for a total of \$18,600,000, Public Works Minister E. C. Carson announced at the Legislature yesterday.

Part of it, however, carry-over from last year's appropriations, expenditure blocked in many instances by inability to procure essential equipment.

Here in summary is disposition of funds at the department for the 1948-49:

1. \$7,000,000 for roads, bridges and structures—\$1,000 more than last year's greatest amount ever maintained, but no allowance of any additional cause of increased cost.
2. \$3,100,000 for 465 miles—of which represents unexpended present fiscal year.
3. \$5,000,000 for new highway, including between Duncan and Courtenay.
4. \$2,500,000 for new highway, including between Duncan and Courtenay.
5. \$1,000,000 for equipment.

Referring to the maintenance vote, phrased:

"It will not, under change materially, department to do as was accomplished year."

"As a matter of costs based on the days of employment year, plus the in bridge materials unaccount, will amount.

Projected 124 million and reconstruction for the motor trunk highways, mostly of continuing already started, between those costs.

Work planned for Provincial Highway, will leave reconstructed to from Vancouver. There were 251 constructed when the launched.

The Minister Highway Board that construction Southern Transway until the road was completed the Alberta board.

OTHER PROJECTIONS

Other road southern part outlined by Mr.

He told also, of fill of 400 be undertaken of Williams Lake, and im-

posed to the Northern Highway, chief Prince Rupert.



## Highway Maintenance Central Item Of Province Public Works Program

British Columbia's public works program for the coming year makes provision for a total expenditure of \$18,600,000, Public Works Minister E. C. Carson announced in the Legislature yesterday.

Part of it, however, represents a carry-over from last year's appropriations, expenditure of which was blocked in many instances by inability to procure essential materials and equipment.

Here in summary is the proposed disposition of funds available to the department for the fiscal year 1948-49:

1. \$7,000,000 for maintenance of roads, bridges and ferries—\$1,000,000 more than last year's vote and greatest amount ever allotted for maintenance, but not calculated to allow of any additional work, because of increased costs.
2. \$3,100,000 for paving—enough for 465 miles—of which \$600,000 represents unexpended balance from the present fiscal year.
3. \$5,000,000 for new construction from the Government's \$15,000,000 revenue surplus appropriation approved last session, for a three-year program. This will do 124 miles of new highway, including 18 miles between Duncan and Ladysmith.
4. \$2,500,000 for new bridges, carried over from last session's \$5,000,000 Loan Act.
5. \$1,000,000 for purchase of new construction and maintenance equipment.

Referring to the record \$7,000,000 maintenance vote, Mr. Carson emphasized:

"It will not, unless conditions change materially, enable the department to do as much work as was accomplished during the past year.

"As a matter of fact, increased costs based on the number of man days of employment during the past year, plus the increased costs of bridge materials under maintenance account, will amount to \$1,000,000."

Projected 124 miles of construction and reconstruction will be confined for the most part to main trunk highways, and will consist mostly of continuation of projects already started, or filling in gaps between those completed.

Work planned for Southern Trans-Provincial Highway, when completed, will leave only 65 miles to be reconstructed to complete the road from Vancouver to Grand Forks. There were 251 miles to be reconstructed when the 1945 program was launched.

The Minister said it was the Highway Board's recommendation that construction be continued on Southern Trans-Provincial Highway until the whole length of the road was completed and paved to the Alberta boundary.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

Other road programs for the southern part of the Interior were outlined by Mr. Carson in detail.

He told also of a provincial record fill of 400,000 cubic yards to be undertaken at Deep Creek, north of Williams Lake, on Cariboo Highway, and important improvements to the Northern Trans-Provincial Highway, chiefly in the vicinity of Prince Rupert and Terrace.

Touching on improvement of the Kingsway outlet from Vancouver on the past year's program, he said it had been impossible to proceed, due to delay in acquiring property, moving buildings and replacing water mains.

However, the Minister announced, preliminary matters were nearing completion and tenders would be called within ten days for the first unit of this improvement.

Plans for the project provide for four traffic lanes and two parking lanes, giving a 64-foot over-all width from curb to curb.

Detailing the 465-mile paving program from three per cent gasoline tax revenue, Mr. Carson said 252 miles would be modern hot plant mix paving, practically all of it on work constructed during the past two or three years. Surface treatment would be applied to various sections at present under reconstruction, preparatory to permanent paving in 1949.

Provision was made last year for new public buildings totaling \$7,000,000, in addition to \$5,000,000 already provided for the expanding needs of University of British Columbia.

### ONLY ESSENTIALS

Mr. Carson told the House, however, that while the need for carrying out both these programs was great, the Government had arranged for only those buildings that were absolutely essential, in order not to impinge on material shortages and to avoid retarding provision of housing so badly needed in all parts of the province.

He said bids on the proposed new biological science and pharmacy buildings at the university were called on plans laid down by the university, but exceeded funds available. The university accordingly was amending plans, and the project would be submitted to tender again in the near future.

In a review of the past year, Mr. Carson told of progress being hampered everywhere by difficulty in securing adequate equipment, shortages of construction material, shortage of manpower and difficulty in securing technical personnel.

Though there had been some easing in the lumber supply situation, costs were exorbitant when compared with the period prior to the war.

Shortage of steel had held up last year's announced bridge program, and this had been aggravated by strikes in British Columbia fabricating plants and by orders being diverted to other areas because of disturbances here.

Despite difficulties, however, the 214-mile program of road construction and reconstruction laid down last year was stretched to 294 miles.

## Peace River Member Alarmed By Rising Liquor Bill of B.C.

Alarm at British Columbia's mounting liquor bill, expected to run to \$57 a head this year for every man, woman and child in the Province, was voiced in the Legislature yesterday by J. H. Corsbie (C.C.F., Peace River).

"We must adopt a program that will not encourage drinking but cut it down, with elimination altogether as our ultimate goal," he declared.

"When one hears people grumbling about the price they have to pay for milk, one wonders where they get that much money for liquor."

Noting that liquor profits accounted for 17½ per cent of British Columbia's total estimated revenue for the coming year, Mr. Corsbie drew attention to a \$1,000,000 increase last year in costs of administration of departments that had to deal with the liquor problem, in courts, jails, asylums and hospitals.

"It should give everyone a great deal of thought. It is a problem that one day we will have to face," he warned.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

"We should step up our education program. I don't think the Minister of Education is going far enough. He should have more money for it."

"We should encourage sports and drama to give the younger people something to do and get them away from the use of liquor."

Joining in the Opposition attack on the budget sales tax proposals,

Mr. Corsbie warned that it would add to cost of living that was already "getting to a very serious stage." People all over the Province were opposed to it, and retailers regarded it as a nuisance and something that was going to hurt business.

"Even the Dunbar Liberals are opposed to it. One wonders who is really supporting it," Mr. Corsbie said.

### "SPENDING SPREE"

He charged disregard for economy in compilation of the budget and that the Government had gone on a spending spree to justify imposition of a new tax. There would be no need for it if the Government took a bigger return from the huge profits that were being made from the Province's resources.

The Peace River member also called on the Government to bring in a definite immigration policy to relieve overcrowding in Europe and fill up the big areas in the Province capable of producing food for a world in want.

Covering a wide field of subjects, Mr. Corsbie urged supervision over co-operative associations similar to that over credit unions; pressure on Ottawa for Dominion marketing legislation and movement of more grain westward through Pacific Coast ports; continued agitation for equalization of freight rates, particularly in view of this week's 21 per cent over-all increase, and collaboration between the departments of agriculture and the attorney-general in control of predatory animals.

## Building Cost Picture Outlined by Minister

Just what current labor and material price trends mean to British Columbia's roads and bridge hopes was told by Public Works Minister E. C. Carson in the House yesterday.

He said: Materials, men and equipment were lacking all last year and conditions show little sign of improvement.

Timber for larger structures is in short supply.

Mill prices of steel advanced approximately \$20 a ton last year and structural timber had almost doubled in price since the war.

Wage scale increased 25 per cent. A further advance in steel prices is forecast.

Gloomily, the minister said the effect of these increases is going to be that only a little more than half the structures will be built that had been planned from the \$5,000,000 allocated last session.

Yet wooden structures in the province generally are in such a condition that work cannot be postponed.

One of the department's major

problems is to keep replacements going at a pace that will avoid closing some of the major structures to traffic.

To give some idea of the increased cost of bridge construction, Mr. Carson told the House that when the Pattullo Bridge was built in 1936-37 the steel work was fabricated and erected, including concrete deck, for \$180 a ton. Today bids for similar types of construction approximated \$350 a ton.

## Issue oped mittee

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## Bill Week

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## Diseases outlined

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## Grumbles in Esquimalt Greet Sales Tax Share

Esquimalt Council members grumbled over their estimated share of the 3 per cent sales tax last night and voted to back the Union of B.C. Municipalities in efforts to get a "proper solution" to the tax question.

Reeve A. I. Thomas said that if the tax is begun soon this year and is collected for six months, revenue to municipalities is estimated at \$2,000,000. On the basis of the municipality's 5,343 population, he said Esquimalt would get .58 per cent of the total, or about \$11,000.

"It isn't much," commented Councillor G. R. Guillemaud.

"What is the Government's two-thirds share of the revenue going for?" asked Councillor Alex Spiers.

"Your guess is as good as mine," said Reeve Thomas. "The revenue should all be to take care of education and hospitalization costs."

A letter from the U.B.C.M. explaining details of the proposed tax was received and filed but Reeve Thomas moved that the council vote support in any action the Union might take.

## Speaker Rules Budget Debate Constitutional

Mr. Speaker R. H. Carson, in a written decision handed down in the House yesterday, ruled against the Opposition's earlier attempt to halt the budget debate on the ground that it was unconstitutional.

On a point of order a week ago, Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., Mackenzie) submitted the debate was in contravention of the Constitution Act because the act provided for ten Cabinet ministers to receive salaries, and printed estimates before the House provided salaries for 11.

Mr. Speaker ruled that estimates submitted by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb were for consideration by the House in committee of supply; that it was fully competent to amend them by way of reduction, and that the debate, therefore, was constitutional and in order.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch challenged the ruling, on the ground that the House was not then in committee of supply and the Government had no power to bring in estimates contravening a statute of the Legislature.

The House sustained the chair, and Mr. Winch did not force a division.

## No Aid to B.C.'s Cities For Keeping Up Roads

Cities, small or large, will not receive any additional monetary assistance from the Province this year towards improvement and maintenance of arterial highways.

The Goldenberg Commission of 1946 recommended that the Provincial Government should participate in highway works in cities not exceeding 15,000 population, and make special grants to cities above that figure for traffic arteries.

Last session Public Works Minister E. C. Carson informed the Legislature his department intended to have recommendations to implement the commission's findings ready for consideration by the Government during the present session.

He told the House yesterday, however:

"Unfortunately, due to the tremendous amount of work presently being undertaken by the department and a shortage of staff competent to undertake a complete study in a matter of this importance, the highway board has not yet been able to place a recommendation before the Government.

"Not only should this study be continued with respect to the recommendations of the commissioner, but also, in my opinion, the whole matter of classified highways presently operative in municipalities should be reviewed in the light of present conditions.

"It is my contention that our modern program of highway construction is designed and carried out to move motorized traffic expeditiously to destinations.

"In certain areas ribbon and business development is detracting from the usefulness and original purpose of our present highway design. In other words, our modern highways in certain sections are merely another street, with hindrances to the free flow of motor traffic."

## Views Vary On Road Plan

Improvements to the Island Highway, announced by Works Minister E. C. Carson in the Legislature yesterday, will have a "decided effect not only on the tourist industry of the Island, but on island transportation generally," George I. Warren, commissioner of the Victoria and Island Publicity Bureau, said last night.

Ald. Dr. J. D. Hunter, chairman of the City Council public works committee, expressed disappointment that the Government did not see its way clear to provide financial assistance this year to the municipalities towards improvement and maintenance of arterial highways.

Reeve E. C. Warren of Saanich also expressed disappointment.

"We were expecting further monies from the Provincial Government to continue work on Glenford Avenue and we certainly regret this action," stated the reeve.

## Public Works Program

To those who are mesmerized by millions, a Provincial Department of Public Works program running to \$18,600,000 in the coming fiscal year will, no doubt, be encouraging. There are, however, some strange omissions in the program. The promised start this year on a new outlet to the Island Highway from Victoria is to be deferred, as is construction to put through the fast-traffic highway to Patricia Bay airport. In spite of the Goldenberg recommendations, not one extra dollar appears in the votes for arterial roads within municipal boundaries.

There is no doubt that the money will be spent, and that 124 miles of construction and 465 miles of paving, some new bridges and other improvements, will all have their effect on the communications system of the province.

The main distribution of the outlay is stated as follows: The sum of \$7,000,000 is earmarked for the maintenance of roads, bridges and ferries, being the ordinary form of repairs that the Public Works Department would in any year have to carry out, only this year it is costing more than ever. New construction of 124 miles, including 18 miles on Vancouver Island, will cost \$5,000,000. Paving and hard-surfacing on 465 miles will account for \$3,000,000. There remain \$2,500,000 for new bridges, including several small ones on Vancouver Island; and \$1,000,000 for the purchase of new road maintenance and construction equipment and machinery. A portion of the total sum remains as a balance unexpended from the authorization of last year.

On Vancouver Island, Hon. E. C. Carson, Minister of Public Works, told the House that it was proposed to complete an 18-mile section of the Island Highway between Duncan and Ladysmith; to continue "surveys" on the Victoria outlet of the Island Highway and on the Patricia Bay trunk road; to complete in all 41 miles of hard-surfacing on the Island, including Parksville-Cathedral Grove, and Red Gap to Qualicum and Union Bay sections. Bridge replacement is intended at Niagara Creek; at Tugwell, Muir and Sandstone Creeks on the West Coast, and at River Bend in the Albernis. There should be the earliest possible start with Island Highway projects.

## Plans For B Of Ho

## Details D As Pearse

Measures for of hospital insurance moved ahead here.

Though it was a Legislature and Provincial Government staffs, Province George S. Pearson the day in conference of the Hospitals and Medical Association.

No official announcement made after the meeting understood Mr. Pearson completed a draft promised in name of the Throne Speech and Byron Johnson in his.

Probability is the session bill will not of the House in session. It will be a thorough going caucus before it is sent to the Legislature.

Details of the plan worked out are being

## Overhaul On Utility

Overhaul of legislation last year imposing tax on the gross revenue of companies in lieu of pole lines and other buildings and other was indicated yesterday.

Appearing before committee of the Sewell, secretary of the British Columbia pointed out there equalities in the municipalities gained others showed up.

Reeve A. B. Carson said taxes on basis brought his annually, whereas would bring only Electric, he explained the old system of per cent of the budget.

M. D. Hamilton B.C. Telephone the tax would another 30 per cent edged that there in resulting municipalities which straightened out.

W. C. Mainwaring

# Plans Move Ahead For B.C. System Of Hospitalization

## Details Draw Nearer Completion As Pearson Confers With Experts

Measures for establishment of a Province-wide plan of hospital insurance on a contributory basis this year moved ahead here yesterday.

Though it was a holiday for the Legislature and Provincial Government staffs, Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson spent much of the day in conference with heads of the Hospitals Association and Medical Association.

No official announcement was made after the meetings, but it is understood Mr. Pearson has almost completed a draft of the scheme promised in name only by the Throne Speech and later by Premier Byron Johnson in his policy speech.

Probability is that the hospitalization bill will not reach the floor of the House until late in the session. It will have to be given a thorough going-over in Coalition caucus before it is ready for presentation to the Legislature.

Details of the plan that is being worked out are being kept secret

in the meantime, but from reliable sources it is understood the scheme is being formulated to:

1. Bring hospitalization "within the reach" of all residents of the Province, as promised by Premier Johnson.
2. Provide advantages similar to those enjoyed by workers now contributing to the Blue Cross group system.
3. Avoid interference with bona fide hospitalization organizations providing coverage at reasonable terms.

Full-scale health insurance, which would cover medical as well as hospitalization costs, will not be introduced this year.

Pending completion of the scheme now being crystallized, Government officials remain silent as to how collections will be handled.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1948

# Overhaul of Legislation On Utility Tax Indicated

Overhaul of legislation passed last year imposing a 3 per cent tax on the gross revenue of utility companies in lieu of fixed taxes on pole lines and ordinary taxes on buildings and other improvements was indicated yesterday.

Appearing before the municipal committee of the House, R. R. F. Sewell, secretary of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, pointed out there were gross inequalities in the present law. Some municipalities gained, he said, but others showed substantial losses.

Reeve A. B. Catherwood of Mission said taxes on the previous basis brought his district \$118,000 annually, whereas the new tax would bring only \$1,100. The B.C. Electric, he explained had, under the old system of taxation, paid 76 per cent of the entire district budget.

M. D. Hamilton, president of the B.C. Telephone Co., claimed that the tax would cost his company another 30 per cent, but acknowledged that there were inequalities in resulting payments to municipalities which would have to be straightened out.

W. C. Mainwaring, B.C. Electric

vice-president, said under the 3 per cent tax his company's total tax on the 3 per cent basis would have been \$187,000, or \$107,000 less than under previous legislation. The company had agreed, however, that no municipality would be paid less than it had received previously, pending revisions in the legislation. This would cost the company \$351,000, or \$57,000 more than under previous laws.

No one appeared to explain the position of Victoria, which has contended that the tax penalized Victoria in favor of the surrounding municipalities. Victoria, it is stated, must receive revenue on the same basis as the surrounding areas, but must grant exemptions on buildings, nearly all of which are within the city.

A special subcommittee, including A. C. Hope (Cln., Delta), C. W. Morrow (Cln., North Okanagan) and C.C.F. Whip Herbert Gargrave, was appointed to prepare amendments to the legislation. They will meet with representatives of the utility companies and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1948

# Saanich Member Urges Shared Irrigation Plan

Development of an irrigation scheme for Saanich with the costs being shared equally by the Federal and Provincial Governments and landowners was called for in the Legislature yesterday by Arthur J. R. Ash (Cln., Saanich).

Making his maiden speech to the house, Mr. Ash drew attention to the fact that the voting population of his constituency had increased by 30 per cent since 1945. For years, however, farmers and residents had suffered because of the lack of water.

"With the steady growth of population in Saanich and its nearness to the City of Victoria, it seems to me the conditions existing in Saanich are beyond all comprehension. Year in and year out the people have had to suffer for the want of this very necessary utility. Now the time has come when our people expect, and should receive, a promise from the Government of what it intends to do about it."

## STUDY POSSIBILITIES

He suggested a committee should be set up to examine the most feasible plan for an irrigation project for the Saanich peninsula. Any such plan would be expensive, Mr. Ash acknowledged, but it would pay for itself in vastly increased agricultural productivity.

It was time the Government realized the potentialities of the peninsula, he contended. Agriculture could only be expanded if water was provided, he said, "and I submit this Government can and must do something for this important area."

Mr. Ash said he would support a provincial health insurance scheme but hoped the Government would not be rushed into an "immature scheme." Primarily, he said, it was a Federal responsibility, and unless the Federal Government took action it would be showing a "shocking

disregard for public opinion and national welfare."

Any health scheme, he warned, must be based on obtaining the co-operation of medical men, nurses, dentists, hospital administrators and druggists, and numerous other personnel without whose co-operation no scheme could properly function.

Mr. Ash wanted greater attention paid to attracting tourists from Eastern Canada, contending that there were thousands in the habit of going to Florida because they were not aware of the mild climate of Vancouver Island. Further development of the Marine Drive, a major tourist attraction, should be undertaken.

British Columbia should do something on its own regarding immigration. More people in British Columbia would bring an extension of industry under the present system of free enterprise, he said.

## Today in the Legislature

2:30 p.m.: Budget debate concludes.

Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney will be the only speaker before the motion for committee of supply is put to the House.

Committees — Standing Orders and Private Bills, 10 a.m., Maple Room.

## Another Tax Grab?

If Premier Johnson was interpreted rightly in his statement concerning the federal amusement tax yesterday, the Provincial Government plan to take over this impost also if the Dominion lets it go. That is what was done with the wartime gasoline tax which Ottawa controlled. The war ended, the Dominion abolished the tax it had evoked, and the Province sequestered it. So a wartime levy became a peacetime one in British Columbia. If that is about to happen all over again with the amusement tax when will the war really end for the taxpayer? When will emergency imposts be repealed and their drain on the public be worked out? The British Columbia Legislature will be watched by the public now to see what action is taken with this suggested amusement tax grab. The Province already collects a 5 per cent levy in that field.

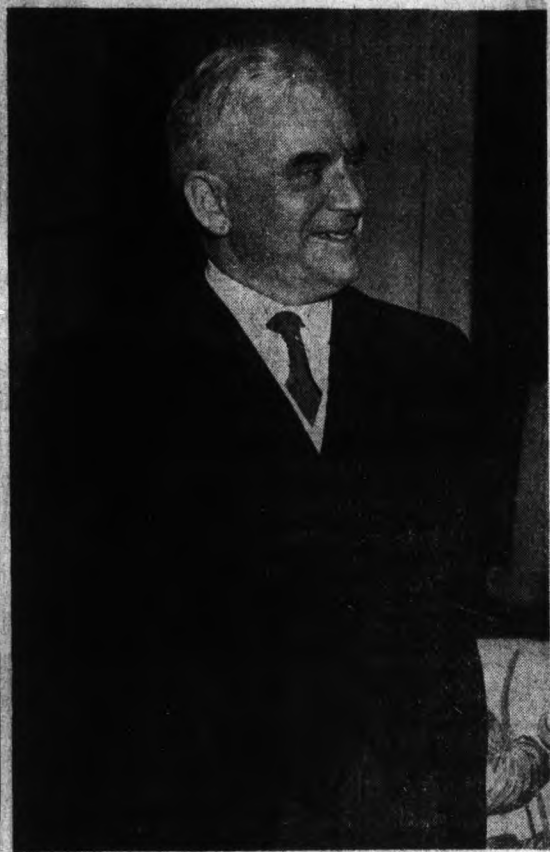


**M A R**

**1948**

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1948

## First Session As Premier



Premier Byron Johnson, 57-year-old native son of Victoria, smilingly this afternoon began his arduous duties as government leader for the session of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly, which is expected to continue for the next eight weeks. The session which opened today is the first since Mr. Johnson became Premier 10 weeks ago.

## New Speaker Of Legislature



Mr. Speaker Robert Henry Carson, elder brother of Works Minister E. C. Carson, this afternoon was elected Speaker of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly. The member for Kamloops, who will preside over the 48-member Legislature, succeeds Mr. Justice Norman W. Whittaker, K.C., who last fall was appointed to the B.C. Supreme Court bench after serving for 10 years as Speaker of the Legislature.



Fifty youthful ratings of the Royal Canadian Navy from H.M.C.S. Naden, commanded by Lt.-Cmdr. (G.) Ted Shaw, R.C.N., formed one of the two guards of honor for Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks for opening of the B.C. Legislature this afternoon.



## Throne Speech Points To Busy Session Of House

Text of the Speech from the Throne read by Lieutenant-Governor Banks at the opening of the B.C. Legislature this afternoon follows:

In welcoming you to the third session of the 21st Parliament of British Columbia, I do so with the sincere hope that the business of my government will continue to prosper under the new leadership brought about since last year met.

Retirement of Mr. John Hart from the position of Prime Minister, I am sure, is regretted by all. His unselfish devotion to the public service during a period of 22 years is unequalled in the history of British Columbia. The continued confidence of the people which he has enjoyed is in itself a tribute to his integrity and an indication of the high esteem in which he is held. I feel sure that I express the sentiments of my people in wishing him every enjoyment of those years of leisure to which he is justly entitled. His successor, undoubtedly is inspired by the same unselfish motives, and I wish him every success in the new responsibilities he has assumed.

During the past year, Her Royal Highness, the Princess Elizabeth was united in marriage with His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. This event was received with heartfelt joy. My government, on behalf of the people, extended warm felicitations to the happy couple, accompanied by an appropriate gift as a token of our affection and an expression of our good wishes.

Since last year met, we have lost two members of the Legislature, one through elevation in the public service and the other by death.

The appointment of Hon. N. W. Whittaker, K.C., former Speaker of the Legislature, to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, is indeed a fitting tribute to him as a jurist. His impartiality in ruling on many important questions coming before this Assembly won for him the admiration of all.

The passing of Mr. Louis LeBourdais has removed from our midst a member who was held in high esteem by his colleagues. We extend to his family our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

It was my pleasure recently to appoint a new Minister of the Crown in the person of the Hon. W. T. Straith, K.C., who succeeds Dr. G. M. Weir as Minister of Education. I am confident that Mr. Straith will discharge his important duties with the same depth of understanding that marked the administration of his predecessor.

I am advised by my government that two new members have been elected to the Legislature and I take this opportunity of congratulating Arthur Ash and Walter Hogg, upon their being chosen as representatives of the Saanich and Cariboo constituencies, respectively.

The convening of this Legislature marks the anniversary of an important historic event. It is fifty years ago that the present Parliament Buildings were officially opened. Much has been accomplished since that date, and I am confident that the passage of another 50 years will witness development far surpassing anything experienced in the history of the province.

It is with gratification that I note the representations made to the Dominion Government recently in connection with the establishment of an even greater measure of social security than my people now enjoy. The encouraging reception accorded the plea of my government I am sure has been most welcome to my people.

The serious condition of the hospital situation is engaging the attention of my government, and proposals are being studied with a view to finding a solution to this problem.

Careful study has been given to a number of provincial-municipal problems as well as the rising cost of social security and other important public services. My government is aware of the situation created thereby and propose to place before you measures designed to alleviate this situation.

It is the intention of my government to submit for your approval legislation revising and amending our labor laws, thereby bringing into effect further improvements in employer-employee relations which is so desirable.

Further benefits will be extended through increases in certain allowances granted those coming within the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Important amendments to the Forest Act will be submitted thereby improving the economy of this important industry and widening the scope of the sustained yield program.

Ample provision will be made for the further improvement of our main highways and the completion of major public works projects already undertaken.

Amending legislation governing agricultural matters will be submitted with a view to improving this important basic industry.

You will be asked to give approval to legislation, the main purpose of which will be to introduce a new method of admission to our mental hospitals and to provide a clinic for treatment of patients who may be saved thereby from the stigma of being committed to a mental institution. Other legislation dealing with welfare matters will be placed before you.

You will be advised of the steps taken to provide new technical personnel and facilities for the B.C. Scientific and Industrial Research Council in order to deal with problems relating to industrial chemistry, physics, applied

biology, mining and other important fields of research.

Establishment of a new biological laboratory to develop our fishing industry, I am sure will commend itself to you.

Amendments to existing legislation governing the mining industry, will be submitted.

The development of hydro-electric power for the interior of the province as well as on Vancouver Island is progressing favorably.

The public accounts will be presented and estimates for the ensuing year will be submitted.

Legislation affecting many branches of public service of a character designed to improve existing acts will be placed before you.

I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may rest upon your labors.

## Government House Costs B.C. \$36,399

Cost to the provincial government of maintaining Government House during the 12 months ended last March 31 was \$36,399.

The light bill was \$2,144 while the water bill, paid to the city, was \$691. Fuel cost \$2,922. Repairs cost \$5,629, while expenses including furniture and supplies cost \$5,517. Maintaining the gardens, including salaries, was \$17,485.

The telephone bill was \$721.

## Liquor Sales In B.C. Climb To Unprecedented \$47,961,515

British Columbians spent more on liquor during the Liquor Control Board fiscal year ended last March 31 than any other year in history and statement of the board for the first six months of the year to end next March 31 indicated the liquor bill of the province would be still higher.

Sales for the fiscal year ended last March 31 totaled \$47,961,515, an increase of \$9,218,059 over the previous period. During that year the net profit totaled \$14,634,291.

For the sixth-month period ended last Sept. 30, sales to the public totaled \$26,257,720. Net profit for that period was \$7,531,030, comparing with \$6,343,205 for the six-month period ended Sept. 30, 1946.

During 1946-47 British Columbians spent \$28,594,839 on wines

and spirits and \$19,366,674 on malt liquors. During the previous fiscal year \$21,198,130 was spent on wines and spirits and \$17,564,324 on malt liquors.

Of the total liquor bill for 1946-47, \$8,552,501 went to the federal government in duty, excise and sales taxes.

Permits issued during that period to individuals totaled 349,169, compared with 549,913 during the previous fiscal year.

Summary of prosecutions under the Government Liquor Act showed a total of 7,793 for the fiscal year 1946-47. Of this total 2,957 persons received suspended sentence, 122 charges were dismissed, 1,428 went to jail and 2,719 paid fines. Bail was estreated for the remaining 567. Fines totaled \$135,785 while the estreated bail totaled \$12,635.

## 2 Victoria Liquor Stores Did \$3,908,891 Business In Year

Victoria's two liquor stores did a total business of \$3,908,891 during the 12 months ended last March 31.

The Esquimalt liquor store sold \$891,239 worth of liquor and beer.

In Victoria the Johnson Street store did \$2,015,374 worth of business—more than any other store in this area. The Humbolt Street store sold stock worth \$1,893,516.

The store at 230 Hastings Street East in Vancouver did the largest liquor business in the province of any store selling directly to the public. Its total sales were \$4,571,117. British Columbians also bought \$407,045 worth of liquor by mail.

Sales of other stores on Van-

couver Island for the period were as follows: Port Alberni \$731,612, Zeballos \$61,030, Courtenay \$349,415, Cumberland \$155,545, Campbell River \$250,080, Parksville \$76,140, Qualicum \$85,927, Duncan \$539,211, Ladysmith \$331,560, Nanaimo \$893,125, Sidney \$181,148.

Four hundred and fifty persons in Victoria were charged under the Liquor Act and of these 10 received suspended sentence, one was dismissed, 169 were sent to jail, 11 were fined, and 159 forfeited bail. Fines totaled \$6,400 and bail estreated \$4,125.

Net profit realized in the sale of liquor in Victoria and Esquimalt stores totaled \$1,452,677.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1948

# Vital Legislation Forecast As Session Opens

## Greater Social Security, Hospital Aid Indicated In Speech From Throne

Blue-jacketed members of the Royal Canadian Navy and scarlet-coated members of The Canadian Scottish Regiment presented arms, army and navy bands played the National Anthem and cannon boomed a 15-gun salute. In bright sunshine before the massive grey pile of the Parliament Buildings here the ceremonial opening of the third session of British Columbia's 21st Legislative Assembly began at 3 this afternoon.

The Speech from the Throne indicated vital legislation on a wide variety of subjects would be considered at this session. A greater measure of social security than now enjoyed was forecast.

It hinted that relief may be forthcoming for British Columbia's hospitals which have been faced with skyrocketing costs since the end of the war.

Further benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act were forecast.

"The government is also planning to introduce a new method of admission to mental hospitals and to provide a clinic for treatment of patients who may be saved from the stigma of being committed to a mental institution," the Throne Speech said.

## To Help Fish Industry

Plans for a new biological laboratory to develop B.C.'s fishing industry, and overhauling of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1947, and the legislation governing the mining industry were also promised.

"Ample provision will be made for the further improvement of our main highways and the completion of major public works projects already undertaken," said the Speech.

Hon. Charles A. Banks in the civil uniform of the Lieutenant-Governor, arrived before the Legislative Assembly buildings promptly at 3 with his three aide de camps, representing the three armed services of the nation, and his private secretary.

After stepping from his car, officers in charge of the two guards, 50 members of the 1st Battalion, The Canadian Scottish Regiment, and 50 new ratings from H.M.C.S. Naden, gave the order: "Royal salute, present arms."

With the completion of the present arms, three bands, a pipe band of the Scottish, and army and navy brass bands, struck up the National Anthem. As the strains of the sixth bar died away the cannon boomed out the salute, fired in blank across the Inner Harbor by members of the 5th B. C. Coast Brigade, which had drawn up four 25-pounders on Belleville Street.

The Lieutenant-Governor's aides, Cmdr. Hew Paterson, Lieut.-Col. Brooke Stephenson, and Wing-Commander D. D. Campbell, preceded him and His Honor was followed by his private secretary, Capt. J. G. Cromack. The party proceeded to the executive chamber.

In the Legislative Chamber, where several hundred guests had assembled prior to the ceremony before the Parliament Buildings, the word of the arrival of the Lieutenant-Governor was finally heard as the deputy sergeant-at-arms called out in a loud voice: "Make way for His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor."

The procession of His Honor proceeded through the great brass gates, across the foyer and into the House, all guests and members rising. The Lieutenant-Governor proceeded to the Speaker's dias and commanded the members and guests to be seated.

Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson then said:

"Members of the Legislative Assembly: I am commanded by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to announce that His Honor does not see fit to declare the cause of his summoning you at this time, and will not do so until you have chosen a Speaker to preside over your honorable body. His Honor hopes to be enabled to declare, during the afternoon, his reasons for calling you together."

## New Speaker Takes Office

His Honor then retired, accompanied by his aides.

Premier Johnson then rose, making the motion "that Robert Henry Carson, Esquire, member for Kamloops electoral district, do take the Speaker's chair, and preside over the meetings of this assembly."

The motion was put to the House by R. S. S. Yates. Mr. Carson was led to the speaker's throne by the premier.

Shortly afterward the Lieutenant-Governor returned and formally opened the session by reading the Speech from the Throne.

The session opened, His Honor left the House, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms with the mace under his arm and followed by his escort and personal retinue.

Prayers then were read and the first piece of legislation introduced by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer and put through first reading. The motion giving the debate on the Speech from the Throne "precedence over all other business, except introduction of bills, until disposed of" was made by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb and seconded by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney.

Mr. Pearson and Education Minister W. T. Straith made the motion calling for the votes and proceedings of the House to be published.

Mr. Johnson and Works Minister E. C. Carson moved that eight select standing committees of the House be appointed and that the committee to select the committees be composed of: J. L. Webster, Coalition, Rossland-Trail, chairman; Dr. J. J. Gillis, Coalition, Yale; W. A. C. Ben-

nett, Coalition, South Okanagan; H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox, and Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

Reports of the various departments of government then were presented and then the House, in a standing silent vote, expressed approval to the motion, put by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Winch.

"That this House express its sincere regret at the death of Louis LeBourdais, for many years a member of this Assembly for the electoral district of Cariboo, and that the clerk do convey to Mrs. LeBourdais and her family the condolences and sincere sympathy of the Legislative Assembly."

Mr. Johnson then adjourned the House until 3 Wednesday afternoon, when Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Victoria Coalition member, will move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and Air Vice Marshal L. F. Stevenson, Coalition member for Vancouver-Point Grey, will second the motion.

The debate on the Speech from the Throne is expected to take about 10 days or two weeks. On Thursday Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch will open his attack on the government, by leading off the opposition members in the debate.

In charge of the guards of honor for the opening ceremony were Lt.-Cmdr. (G) Ted Shaw, R.C.N., with Lieut. W. A. Manfield, his second in command, and Maj. H. S. C. Archbald, with Capt. C. Milton as second in command. The naval band was directed by Lt.-Cmdr. (SB) H. G. Cuthbert.

Carrying the Scottish's regimental colors was S. E. Park.

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## Spring Styles Predominate At House Opening

High fashion in all its variations of style and color vied with traditional pomp and ceremony at the opening of the 21st Legislature of British Columbia in the Parliament Buildings, this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Because of a recent injury, Mrs. Charles A. Banks was unable to attend so Mrs. Byron Johnson, wife of the new Premier, making her initial appearance as first lady in parliamentary circles, led the procession of wives and daughters of cabinet ministers, private members and other official guests.

Mrs. Johnson chose a crepe afternoon gown in hyacinth purple tones, featuring the very new draped sash effect over the hips. With this she wore sable furs and a very becoming model hat of matching purple, blue and green satin ribbons.

She was accompanied by her son, Byron Jr., who came from the University of British Columbia for the occasion, and her sister, Mrs. B. D. Thorne, who was smartly gowned in a black satin dressmaker suit with black hat and accessories and brown fur coat.

Mrs. Lillian Russell of Vancouver, sister of the Premier, her daughter, Miss Joan Russell, and the Premier's sister-in-law, Mrs. J. V. Johnson, were also seated with Mrs. Johnson.

## NAVY BLUE POPULAR

Navy blue was chosen by Mrs. Gordon Wismer, wife of the Attorney-General of British Columbia.

Her new longer length afternoon dress of fine crepe was styled with a pencil-slim skirt enhanced with draped panels of navy taffeta from hem to waistline. With this was worn sable furs, and a New York model hat of navy straw with high rolled brim and matching quill trim.

Mrs. Wismer was accompanied by her house guest, Mrs. E. Wynne Jones, Mrs. G. Kissick, and Mrs. Howard Forrester, all of Vancouver.

Mrs. E. T. Kenney, wife of the Minister of Lands and Forests, also chose navy blue in the chic bolero style with vestee of shell pink eyelet embroidery, matching navy hat and brown squirrel topcoat.

Black crepe trimmed with wide bands of black taffeta, a small black hat with touches of gold, and black seal coat, was the choice of Mrs. Herbert Anson, wife of the Minister of Finance.

Mrs. Frank Putnam wore a smart suit dress in wine shade with touches of robin's egg blue, and an attractive hat formed of robin's egg blue and wine feathers with matching ribbons. She topped her ensemble with the fashion's newest note for spring, the three-quarter length cape in ever popular black.

Mrs. Putnam was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. G. G. McKenzie of Vancouver, who made an attractive picture in her model Bengal dressmaker suit of navy blue with fine white straw off-the-face sailor, trimmed with rosettes of navy tulle. Shoes of new leaf-green color added a colorful ensemble note.

Mrs. R. C. MacDonald, wife of the Minister of Mines and Municipal Affairs, wore a navy blue crepe dress, matching navy hat and fur topcoat.



Mrs. E. C. Carson, wife of the Minister of Public Works, graciously posed for the photographer in the afternoon dress of fine black faille which she wore to the opening of the Legislature this afternoon. The collar is of rose pink with sequins and the flared cuffs are lined with the same rose silk and sequins. With this, Mrs. Carson chose a brimmed black off-the-face felt hat with wide black satin ribbon trim, and brown squirrel topcoat. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McMillan of Nanaimo and Mrs. Bruce Hutchison, Victoria, accompanied her to the ceremonies.

Accompanying Mrs. MacDonald was her daughter-in-law, Mrs. E. MacDonald, who wore black crepe trimmed with a large draped black satin bow at the waistline. A pleated black satin hat in the new side effect, gold toned topcoat with blonde fox fur collar completed the ensemble.

## MODISH BLACK

Black crepe was also the choice of Mrs. L. C. Eyres. Her gown featured the new-for-spring bustled peplum in matching taffeta. She wore a small black off-the-face sailor wreathed with pink poppies and a brown squirrel coat.

A fine wool beige dressmaker suit featuring the charmingly chic ballerina skirt and short fitted jacket with a large brown corded silk beret and brown accessories, was worn by Mrs. W. T. Straith. Miss Mary Straith, who accompanied her mother, wore a powder blue dress with black hat and accessories.

Cloud grey crepe with beaded embroidery trim was the choice of Mrs. R. H. Carson, with a black straw hat trimmed with pink and a brown squirrel coat. Her daughter, Miss Betty Carson, wore a dress in deep violet shade, grey topcoat and small hat made of pink and violet shaded roses,

while her daughter-in-law, Mrs. D. J. Carson of New Westminster, chose a two-piece suit model of moire silk with winter white hat trimmed with a black feather chou and a muskrat topcoat.

Also seated with Mrs. Robert Carson were Mr. and Mrs. K. B. Casselman of Vancouver.

The two women members of the Legislature, Mrs. Nancy Hodges of Victoria and Mrs. Tilly Rolston of Vancouver, were seated close together on the floor of the House. Mrs. Hodges had chosen a fine off-the-face hat caught with a feather ornament and black accessories. Mrs. Rolston wore a smartly-styled black suit with the new longer length skirt and nip-in waistline, a black lace hat trimmed with a large lace bow and black accessories.

## GREY AND PINK

Mrs. Gordon McG. Sloan, wearing a modish moonlight grey dress with silver fox cape and model grey hat trimmed with a wreath of soft pink flowers under the off-the-face brim, was accompanied by her attractive new daughter-in-law, Mrs. David Sloan, wearing an English Piccadilly model black barathra cloth suit with silver fox furs and black hat trimmed with osprey tips.

The United States Consul at Victoria, Leo J. Callanan, was accompanied by Mrs. Callanan, who wore an extremely modish black ensemble. Seated with them was the new Consul-General for British Columbia, George D. Andrews and Mrs. Andrews who came from Vancouver for the ceremony.

Mrs. John Hart, entering the House for the first time in many years as the wife of a private member chose an aqua blue crepe dress, brown topcoat, brown beret styled hat with feather trim and brown accessories.

Mrs. Percy E. George, wife of Victoria's mayor, wore a dress of rich American Beauty rose tone, matching hat with white feather trim and black sealskin coat.

Mrs. G. R. Pearkes was gowned in a navy redingote dress, with Stetson navy felt hat and silver fox furs.

Hon. and Mrs. Eric Hamber were seated on the floor of the House, the latter gowned in a black dress, smartly styled, a black felt off-the-face hat and sable furs. Mrs. W. C. Nichol wore a dark bottle green suit with small overcheck of golden brown and matching hat.

Mrs. Henry Hall, wife of Magistrate Hall was wearing a black ensemble. Mrs. R. A. Wootton, wife of the Reeve of Oak Bay, also chose black — a suit trimmed with Persian lamb, a black felt sailor with pink ostrich tips.

A light blue afternoon dress featuring the new side drape, brown hat and accessories and brown fur coat was worn by Mrs. G. R. Easter. Mrs. Hugh McLeod was wearing a navy blue dress with pale pink applique trim, navy hat trimmed with pink and a bride's blue topcoat trimmed with Persian lamb.

Mrs. J. R. Johns chose pale yellow for her dress, blue topcoat and hat and silver fox furs.

## SPRING BEIGE

Mrs. J. L. Gates was wearing a beige suit with blue fox cape and beige felt hat. She was accompanied by Mrs. W. J. Patterson of Regina, wearing a black satin dress, black Persian lamb coat and black hat with plaid trim.

Mrs. E. V. Finland was seated with her guest, Mrs. A. H. Hull of Qualicum Beach. Mrs. Finland wore an afternoon dress of orange amber shade, matching Lady Beatrice model hat, cobra skit accessories and mink coat. Mrs. Hull was gowned in pearl grey with blue grey fox fur and accessories.

Mrs. D. N. Grubb wore a black soft wool dressmaker suit, black hat and black wool topcoat; Mrs. J. W. Brown a grey dress, black seal coat, black hat and gold accessories; Mrs. J. B. Munro a two-piece black crepe dress trimmed with black grosgrain ribbon, with black hat and brown fur coat; Mrs. A. H. Cox, navy blue trimmed with pink, a navy blue hat and sealskin coat.

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## Victoria Member Replies To Speech From Throne



Mrs. Nancy Hodges, M.L.A., for the second time in provincial annals, will move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne at Wednesday's session of the provincial Parliament. At the opening of the 1941 session, when Mrs. Hodges replied to the Speech from the Throne, it was the first time a woman had been chosen for that honor in British Columbia.

## Net Revenue Surplus In 1947 Largest In History Of B.C.

British Columbia government during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1947, enjoyed the largest net revenue surplus in the history of the province.

This was shown this afternoon by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb when he tabled the public accounts of the government at the opening of the legislative assembly. The public accounts showed that current income for the fiscal year totaled \$56,817,945, exceeding current expenditures of \$46,315,294 by \$10,502,651.

But the statistics released by the finance minister showed that the provincial government during that year dipped deeply into its revenue surplus account, spending \$4,652,490 altogether.

The balance sheet for the province showed provincial assets amounting to \$332,109,651, an increase of \$17,061,770 over assets at the same time during the previous year. On the other hand liabilities increased by \$9,889,297 to \$257,059,092.

The surplus by way of excess assets over liabilities rose from \$67,878,078 to \$75,050,558 or by \$7,172,480, the accounts showed.

Mr. Anscomb noted that all but \$4,305,000 of the revenue surplus account had been definitely committed. But actual expenditures of those commitments left un-

spent at March 31, 1947, \$27,844,352.

During the year the province spent \$15,019,142 from capital borrowings, including almost \$5,000,000 for highways and \$7,611,350 for the B.C. Power Commission.

Expenditures from the revenue surplus account during the year included \$238,864 for increases in cost-of-living bonuses for old-age pensions; \$75,000 as a grant for construction of emergency accommodation at the University of B.C.; \$1,000,000 to offset in part shortages in the provincial sinking fund account, \$109,930 for grants in aid of mining roads and trails, and \$2,074,522 for roads, bridges, ferries, paving, garages, machinery and gravel crushing.

The balance sheet listed assets as including \$20,205,430 invested for redemption of B.C. stock and debentures, \$20,182,913 for buildings and furnishings, \$85,089,500 for highways, \$7,021,979 for bridges, \$10,694 for wharves, and \$1,097,673 for ferries and ferry landings.

Assets listed under projects, loans and advances included \$105,733,676 advanced to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company, \$2,273,325 for properties acquired under the Soldiers' Land Act, 1918; \$9,161,350 to the B.C. Power Commission; \$4,976,735 for the Land Settlement Board, \$2,

184,937 for the University Endowment Lands Administration Account, \$1,449,376 for conservation fund.

## Parliament Buildings Maintenance Bill \$218,191 For Year

Maintenance of the Parliament Buildings and grounds here during the 1946-47 fiscal year cost the provincial government a total of \$218,191, public accounts tabled in the B.C. Legislature this afternoon showed.

Salaries of the heating plant employees, mechanical staff, janitors, watchmen and ushers, along with the head gardener and assistant gardener totaled \$83,398.

Operation of the heating plant cost \$22,622 but \$6,566 of this was charge against the King's Printer. Fuel and sundry wages cost \$20,817.

The power bill was \$19,872, while the water bill amounted to \$2,046. Telephones cost \$18,338.

The remainder of the total was made up of wages for gardeners and cost of supplies for the gardeners and supplies for janitors, incidental items and repairs.



## Control of 'Pulps', Comics Asked By Victoria M.L.A.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Victoria Coalition government member, called on the B.C. government this afternoon to enact legislation to control the distribution of magazines and comics and to revise the whole system of pensions and allowances paid by various government agencies.

Moving the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and thus leading off the Throne Speech debate which is expected to occupy the provincial Legislative Assembly for the next 10 days or two weeks, Mrs. Hodges said she hoped that the regulatory legislation would have sufficient teeth in it to restrict not only the sale of any magazines and comics of an undesirable nature published in the United States or any other foreign country, but that it would also restrict the publication and sale in British Columbia of any Canadian material of objectionable and harmful character.

Mrs. Hodges also called on the provincial government to enact legislation during the session which opened Tuesday to protect the rights of women deserted by their husbands and she also expressed hope that the government would take into consideration either the implementation of the health insurance scheme which has been on the provincial statute books for more than a decade or launch some kindred system to meet the growing demand for contributory hospital and medical services.

For years, said Mrs. Hodges, Parent-Teacher Associations and other organizations throughout the province have been campaigning for the removal from newsstands of undesirable magazines and comics of low standards, particularly those dealing with sordid and revolting crimes, which were detrimental to the early education of youth.

### WISMER ENCOURAGES

She said that Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer, while fully in sympathy with their cause, was hampered in taking action by the fact that such matters came under the joint jurisdiction of the federal and provincial authorities. She said that a delegation last November had received very encouraging reception from Mr. Wismer, who then was also acting education minister. He had led the delegation to hope that legislation such as they sought might be submitted at this session now that the power of banning undesirable literature had been delegated to the provinces.

The Victoria member recalled that now the federal government had imposed a ban on certain publications coming into Canada from the U.S. as part of its emergency measures to conserve foreign exchange. To many organizations this banning of the so-called "pulp" magazines and comics came as good news, for it was estimated that the flood of such reading matter into Canada amounted to approximately \$2,000,000 worth per year, she said.

But, said Mrs. Hodges, that elation was shortlived when it became evident that the ban might result in bringing a new group of undesirable Canadian "pulp" and comics on the market which is what happened in 1940, when a similar ban was imposed against imports of that nature.

Mrs. Hodges suggested that the time was ripe for a thorough revision of the whole system of payments in allowances and pensions so that they may be standardized, removing present inequalities and injustices. Her plea came after she had cited an example of the smallness of some payments made by the Workmen's Compensation Board. The Speech from the Throne, she recalled, had made a brief allusion concerning the proposed extension of further benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Mrs. Hodges noted that the widow of a man earning perhaps \$150 a month, might suddenly find herself forced to live on an allowance of \$40 per month, plus an extra \$10 a month for each child under 16—with a maximum of \$80 a month. She is expected to accept as payment for the loss of that husband in industry, the paltry sum of \$40 a month or at most \$80, for the support of herself and her family, she said.

### NO FREE HOSPITAL CARE

At the same time the provincial government paid \$42.50 a month for a mother with one child who qualifies under the Mothers' Allowance plan—plus \$7.50 per month for each additional dependent, but there is no maximum under this scheme. Mrs. Hodges noted also that the widow receiving Workmen's Compensation Board benefits was not even eligible for the free hospitalization and other benefits which the province extended to those who came under social welfare schemes.

This just doesn't make sense, she said, expressing hope that the Legislature would take steps to remedy the anomaly when the House considers the proposed changes in the Workmen's Compensation Act, particularly in view of the appalling number of fatal accidents which have happened in industry in the last year or two.

Mrs. Hodges said that she felt sure the optimistic note sounded in the Speech from the Throne in connection with the representations made by Premier Byron Johnson to the Dominion government and the suggestion that his visit to Ottawa may result in the early implementation of some of the Green Book proposals, particularly those dealing with greater measures of social security, were welcome.

### HELP FOR AGED AND BLIND

She congratulated the government for continuing in the forefront in its treatment of the aged and blind, giving the highest pension in Canada as well as free hospitalization, medical service and other bene-

fits. But she said there still remained the fact that a contributory scheme, with a removal of the means test and the lowering of the age limit, was what was most needed throughout the Dominion.

The government was urged to introduce early in the session the legislation designed to remedy the growing problem of rising social security costs in relation to provincial-municipal problems. She also expressed pleasure that the government had again recognized that B.C. hospitals had come to a most crucial stage in their financial structure. While hospitals had raised their rates in an effort to make ends meet, their solvency was threatened until more substantial help was forthcoming from some source or another.

Mrs. Hodges suggested, however, that while hospitals were facing a grave crisis, many potential patients were facing an even graver one, saying that rising costs of sickness hit hardest the so-called white collar worker, whose wages had not risen to a degree commensurate with those in industry, and older persons subsisting on fixed incomes which were getting smaller as living costs rose.

The suspension of health associations, said Mrs. Hodges, recalling the announcement of Mr. Wismer on Monday that three more associations had halted operations, emphasizes more forcibly than anything the imperative need for some sound and stable system which will afford the people the protection they seek and to which they are entitled.

### ONLY PROVINCE WITHOUT

Despite the advanced views on social legislation, B.C. was the only province that has not yet provided dower rights for women. This meant that in B.C. a husband may sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of the home without the consent of the wife, unless he has registered it as a homestead.

Provincial statistics, said Mrs. Hodges showed an alarming percentage of husbands in B.C. had deserted their wives and homes and Mr. Wismer had promised to take into consideration the revision of B.C. laws concerning the property rights of women.

She said she hoped an opportunity would be provided for the House to consider this question as the women's organizations of the province were pressing for correction of some of the inequalities imposed on married women under the present statutes.

Concluding she warned that it was the responsibility not only of every legislator but also of every person in Canada during the grave and portentous happenings on the other side of the world, to see to it that democracy should not become static or stagnant but should keep up a living, vital dynamic march toward the goal of human happiness and well-being, in the fullest and widest sense of the term.



MRS. NANCY HODGES

## Dignity Of House Disturbed By Mace

The opening of the British Columbia Legislature here Tuesday, usually timed to the second and carried out with dignity and mechanical smoothness, was marred when the mace, symbol of authority, fell from the table before the Speaker's Throne into the floor of the House.

In the memory of present members of the House it was the first time such a thing had happened.

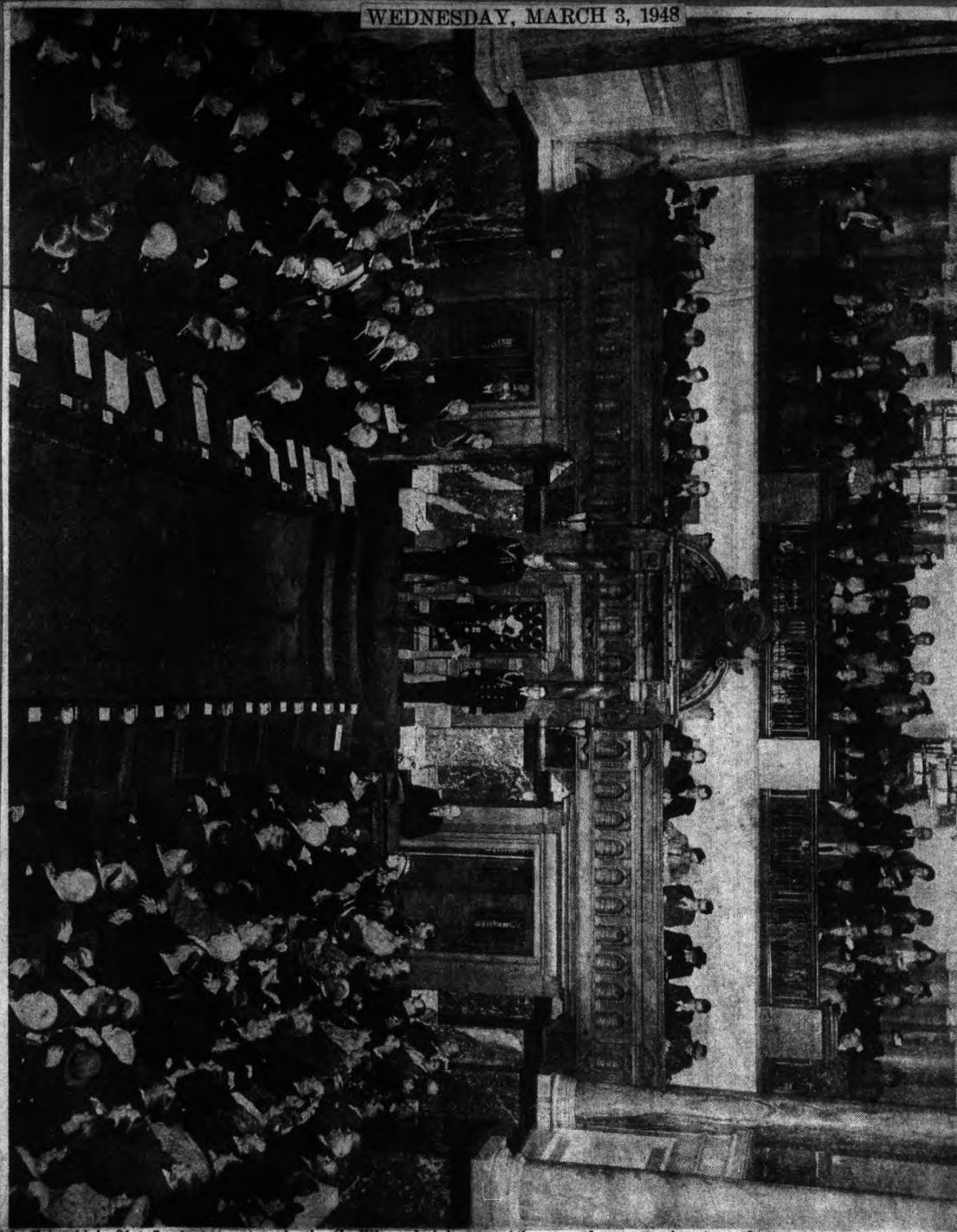
The Sergeant-at-Arms, Capt. W. R. Webster, retrieved the mace swiftly and with as much dignity as possible. He placed it on the hooks below the top of the table, where it remained during the proceedings. Normally the mace rests on a cushion on the table while the speaker is in his chair.

Eyewitnesses gave conflicting reports on what started the mace rolling off its cushion to the floor. It all happened after Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks had left the chamber. The new Speaker, R. H. Carson, was presiding over the House and it may have been that he bumped the small table or touched the cushion on which the mace rested.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1948

# New Session Begins With Traditional Pomp and Circumstance



British Columbia's 21st Legislative Assembly formally began its third session Tuesday afternoon in the marble-pillared, purple-carpeted assembly chamber shown above. Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks has just arrived and is seated on the Speaker's throne facing the camera. On his right is Lt.-Col. Brooke Stephenson, while on his left is Cmdr. Hew Paterson, both aides. His third aide is Wing Cmdr. D. D. Campbell, on Col. Stephenson's right. Capt. J. G. Cromack, private secretary to His Honor, is standing beside Wing Cmdr. Campbell. Capt. Cromack is holding the Speech from the Throne which the Lieutenant-Governor read a few minutes later. Capt. W. R. Webster, Sergeant-at-Arms, is at the table near the door on the right. The mace is on hooks just below the top of the table.

At the first desk on the left closest to the Speaker's throne is Premier Byron Johnson. His

partner in the Coalition administration, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, is on his right. Provincial Secretary and Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson is next. He is standing, instructing the House that it must name a Speaker before it proceeds further with its business. Next to Mr. Pearson is Attorney-General and Labor Minister Gordon S. Wismer. Other ministers moving toward the camera are Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney, Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam, Municipal Affairs and Mines Minister R. C. MacDonald, Works Minister E. C. Carson and Trade and Industry Minister L. H. Eyres. Education Minister W. T. Strath was next to Mr. Eyres but not shown in the picture. Behind Mr. Johnson are three members of the B.C. Supreme Court bench, Mr. Justice A. D. Macfarlane, Mr. Justice H. S. Wood and Mr. Justice W. N. Whittaker. Next in

the second row moving toward the camera is John Hart, M.L.A., former Premier. Other M.L.A.'s are in the second row.

In the third row closest to the door are the enrobed members of the clergy and the university: Bishop H. E. Sexton, Anglican Bishop of British Columbia, who later read prayers; Bishop J. H. Hill, Roman Catholic Bishop of Victoria; Hon. Eric Hamber, former Lieutenant-Governor, now chancellor of the University of British Columbia, and Dr. Norman Mackenzie, president of U.B.C.

Further along in the third row is T. D. Pattullo, former Premier of the province.

On the right side of the House at the desks are the opposition. Closest to the Speaker is Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch. His father, E. E. Winch, M.L.A. for

Burnaby, is on his left. Ranking officers of the navy, army and air force are close by the door behind the Opposition. Directly above the Speaker's throne are members of the press, while guests in the Speaker's gallery are shown back further still.



Y. HODGES

## House By Mace

of the British nature here Tuesday to the second with dignity and smoothness, was the mace, symbol of the House. It was such a thing had

at-Arms, Capt. R., retrieved the mace with as much dignity. He placed it below the top of the speaker's throne. Normally on a cushion on the speaker is in

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## READY FOR BUSINESS

ALTHOUGH AMPLE EVIDENCE EXISTS to indicate that the session of the Legislature just beginning will be marked by the discussion of policies indissolubly linked with the changing conditions of the times—with important new legislation and substantial amendments to existing acts—the Speech from the Throne with which the Lieutenant-Governor formally set the deliberations in motion yesterday was, as is usually the case, more significant for what it did not contain than for a particularized forecast. Nor could it be otherwise. All that a government can include in such documents under our parliamentary system is the outline of such measures as it proposes to initiate on its own account and such readjustments to the statutes as experience by trial and error may determine. And it is highly probable that not a few controversial issues to which no reference was made by His Honor may assume legislative shape before the session reaches the Easter recess.

Foremost on the agenda will be the important question of finance—how the province stands at this juncture, what old obligations demand satisfaction, what new expenditures are deemed necessary, and, last but not least, how to provide for them and at the same time avoid further invasions of the average individual's purse. Gratuitous advice in advance of the financial statement from the Minister of Finance would be presumptuous and a waste of time and space. The public knows without further reminder that the period of spurious prosperity, not uncommon in wartime and during the early processes of readjustment, is now making way for the stern realities of what we are compelled to call an uneasy peace. This is in no way a concession to the theory of the inevitability of war. On the contrary, however, it is essential for all freedom-loving peoples to be on their guard—which means that one of the best bulwarks against the machinations of the aggressor from within as well as from without is the provision of that measure of economic stability which contributes largely to local, provincial and national contentment.

Inherent in this philosophy is the mutuality of co-operation and understanding between governments and the governed. This is not possible so long as any substantial element of the people remains fixed in its idea that provincial or national treasuries are out to collect the last red cent from the taxpayer and hang on to it from a sheer desire to build up surpluses to which to point with pride when occasion seems to warrant. It nevertheless appears to have become a fetish with some to believe that guardians of the public till are perpetually sitting beside a magic spring from which they can cause illimitable dollars to flow at will. Every intelligent citizen knows this is pure fantasy; governments can spend only what they collect; but, by that token, a people demanding this and that can have it so long as they are prepared to pay for it. There is no other way. At this juncture, therefore, it is their business to decide what they want and what they will do without.

It will be noted with satisfaction that the government intends to ask the Legislature to canvass the province's social security structure in its various aspects with a view to overdue improvements; that the increasingly-serious hospital problem shall be examined in its multiple financial implications in the hope that substantial amelioration shall be forthcoming; that allowances coming within the scope of the Workmen's

Compensation Act are categorically forecast in the Speech from the Throne; and that the hardy perennial of provincial-municipal relations will be subjected to more practical and sympathetic treatment than has been the case in former years—despite various forms of "new deals." The foregoing matters form but a few items on the bill of legislative fare which the Lieutenant-Governor turned over to the lawmakers for their consideration. It will doubtless grow in volume and variety as the session proceeds.

## "MR. SPEAKER" CARSON

THE EXPEDITIOUS MANNER IN which he discharged his duties when called upon to deputise for Hon. Norman Whittaker, from 1937 to 1941, no less than his personal popularity and probity, has obviously justified the translation of Mr. R. H. Carson, Coalition Liberal of Kamloops, from his role of deputy to that of Mr. Speaker at the current session of British Columbia's Legislature. He comes to his new post with particular qualifications. His understanding of procedure, gleaned from long experience in the House, and the high regard in which he is held by his fellow legislators, equip him well for the responsibilities of his new office.

No one who has sat on the floor of the House or in the galleries can doubt the sincerity with which Mr. Carson has worked for the benefit of his province, nor the breadth of knowledge—not only of his own cattle and orchard country, but of the remainder of British Columbia—which he has brought into play to advance the welfare of the public. The distinction accorded him through his elevation to the Speaker's chair reflects some appreciation of that service.

## Gasoline Hits Tax Legislation

A warning from the Tax Commission was turning given in the Wednesday session of the Legislature. Vice-Marshal of the Coalition Liberal Party, Point Grey, any further increase of gasoline tax would have a period only, would have a marketing commission and a national refinery.

"And I want to see an endeavor to get liquid fuel to compete with the competitive Vice-Marshal represents a conservative view of the situation. He

address in from the Tax Commission.

"If we do not make an effort to get business into the province, it will never be as good as it was. He warned. Columbia is an attractive province, proving the cabins, the developing areas, and extend roads to the province.

## SCORES OF

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## Gasoline Shortage Hits Tourist Trade, Legislature Told

A warning that British Columbia's current shortage of gasoline was turning away tourists was given in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday afternoon by Air Vice-Marshal L. F. Stevenson, Coalition member for Vancouver-Point Grey, who suggested that any further increase in the price of gasoline be made for a limited period only, so that oil companies would have time to cut their marketing costs and install additional refining facilities.

"And I would like to suggest an endeavor be made to get the liquid fuel business into a more competitive position," said Air Vice-Marshal Stevenson, who represents the Progressive Conservative wing of the administration. He was seconding the

address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

"If we do not make a real effort to get and hold the tourist business it will be lost to us forever as others are not idle," he warned. He said that British Columbia must be made more attractive to tourists, by improving the quality of tourist cabins, hotels and restaurants, developing fishing and hunting areas, and by continuing to extend roads into the parks of the province.

### SCORES COMMUNISM

Air Vice-Marshal Stevenson covered many of the problems now facing the provincial government in his address and lashed out against Communism, saying these forces were "again out in the open spreading their venomous idealism in far too many channels of our social and industrial life."

He said that the Canadian Legion had been quick to see the subtle tenacles of Communism writhing in its direction and that if common sense and loyal attention to public affairs falls elsewhere he looked to the Legion and the army, navy and air force veterans' organization as the power to set the people straight.

The member noted that on the one side leaders of certain well-paid groups were clamoring for higher wages and shorter hours and longer holidays, while on the other the Housewives League "or others of that Communistic ilk were screaming for lower living costs and prices."

"The joker is of course that those upon the stage whose views appear to be so utterly opposed are comrades, not interested in welfare but in power for themselves and servitude for others," he said.

He suggested that perhaps the Canadian leaders were partially responsible since Canada lacked national spirit, had no single national language and no national flag, and thus residents of Canada had looked elsewhere for leadership.

While not mentioning Russia by name, Air Vice-Marshal Stevenson said he did not think that any fair-minded person had any doubt as to why peace was a long way off, and urged mem-

bers to recall 1942 and 1943 when "we shared our scarce and precious war materials with a country hard-pressed and almost beaten—a country which now shouts defiance at those who gave her the very shirts off their backs, a country which now defeats almost universal effort to bring the world back into a fit condition in which to live."

### AGAINST MILK BOOST

The speaker urged the government to explore every possible measure to prevent the increase in the price of milk, and suggested that the government remove its ban on credit sales of milk since they "had not proved too successful."

He said that the mines of the province must have more assistance and suggested that royalties on timber should be based on a sliding scale geared to retail lumber prices.

"Despite the highest wages in the land, the lumber and pulp industry is producing profit from our forests at a rate which well may indicate that the province has underestimated the value of its forest resources," he said.

"The government should examine this matter carefully with a view to adjusting our royalties before too many long-term management licences are granted."

Air Vice-Marshal Stevenson also suggested that fish prices on the local market were too high and British Columbians, vociferous in their complaints of the high cost of meat, should eat more fish.

A national contributory pension plan, he suggested, was imperative and inevitable, but if not undertaken quickly the province should proceed with some plan to relieve the situation.

## Policy Indication Expected In Johnson Speech Tomorrow

Premier Byron Johnson, in his first speech in the B.C. Legislature since he assumed the leadership of the Liberal-Progressive Conservative Coalition administration, tomorrow afternoon will outline policies on many of the problems now confronting the Provincial government.

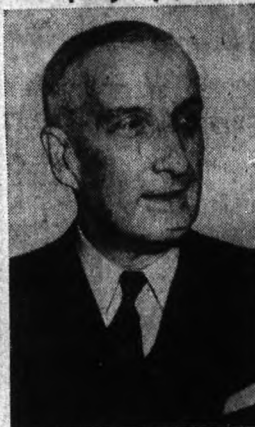
The speech, commonly known as the "policy" speech, will take about an hour to deliver. Mr. Johnson is scheduled to begin speaking at 3 in the afternoon. He is the sole speaker scheduled for the Legislature Friday.

While brief details of some of the government's legislative program have been given in the Speech from the Throne, read by Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks on the opening day of the House Tuesday, Mr. Johnson is expected to expand this program and make several important announcements concerning government policy on topics not men-

tioned in the Speech from the Throne.

With the session tomorrow in its fourth day, the "policy" speech will come much earlier in the debate on the Speech from the Throne than is usual. The budget address, which Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb will deliver in about two weeks, and the "policy" speech of the Premier are the most important normally given at a session of the provincial Legislature.

## Thomas Love To Act As Deputy Speaker



Thomas Love, Conservative Coalition member for Grand Forks-Greenwood, again at the current session of the B.C. Legislature will act as Deputy Speaker.

The House elected him Wednesday afternoon on motion of Premier Byron Johnson, seconded by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

The Deputy Speaker presides over the House in the absence of the Speaker and while the House is in committee. A considerable portion of the work of the lawmakers is done in committee of the whole, including passage of bills before third reading and consideration of the budget estimates.



# Premier Hints New Tax Levies Planned For B.C.

Premier Byron Johnson this afternoon gave a broad hint in the Provincial Legislature that British Columbians will have to dig deeper into their pockets to finance the rising costs of government.

While indicating new taxes were in store the Premier gave no indication in his "policy" speech as to what these taxes would be, although there has been much talk at the Parliament Buildings since the opening of the current session last Tuesday that the government will levy a sales tax.

The "policy" speech—the first speech of Mr. Johnson in the Legislature since he assumed the premiership of the province—gave numerous facts showing that the provincial government, while enjoying increased revenues was unable to finance with its current revenues the even more swiftly rising costs of government—particularly social services.

"The province has been caught between rising costs, due to expansion of public services, particularly social services and education, and the spiral of inflation that has depreciated the purchasing power of the dollar," he said.

Later he reported:

"Under the circumstances, I am sure the members will realize why the government is deeply concerned over the present financial position and why it is necessary that our revenues should be increased if we are to maintain our public services, particularly those affecting social welfare, education, municipalities and public works, at the high standard the public has insisted upon."

That the government proposes to introduce a hospitalization scheme—indicated in the Speech from the Throne—was further indicated when Mr. Johnson said:

"The government has been engaged in a study of this problem and proposes to submit to the House, for consideration, measures designed to bring hospitalization within the financial reach of the people."

## ASKED OTTAWA ACTION

The Premier said he had asked Ottawa, while awaiting all provinces to sign Dominion-Provincial tax agreements—action it holds as necessary before implementing the Green Book social security measures—to:

1. Bear the larger share of the cost of old age pensions.
2. Implement a system of compulsory contributory superannuation.
3. Give financial assistance in the construction of hospitals.
4. Join with the province in implementing a system of health insurance.

"I am encouraged to believe that something would be done in connection with these proposals," he said. "Our present tax agreement can only be made fair to British Columbia if this is done."

"If these measures are not forthcoming, then the province will be compelled to meet the more emergent problems by implementing restricted schemes of its own. I, therefore, propose to

make the necessary arrangement to propose British Columbia's case to be presented to Ottawa for implementation of social security measures. It is obvious that any further advances in social welfare must be on a national basis."

## DELAY BUILDINGS

Speaking of school problems in relation to provincial-municipal finance, Mr. Johnson called on municipalities to forestall, until more competitive bidding and more reasonable quotations can be obtained, all construction but "emergent building necessities."

Mr. Johnson assured that further assistance would be given municipalities, without indicating what it would be, but warned: "In giving them this assurance, however, let me say that the aid will be considered final."

## III M.L.A.'s Replaced

The B.C. Legislature Thursday named two new members to the committee to name lawmakers to the eight select standing committees of the House.

To replace J. L. Webster, Coalitionist for Rossland-Trail, and Dr. J. J. Gillis, Coalition, Yale, both of whom are ill, the House, on motion of Premier Byron Johnson, seconded by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, named C. W. Morrow, Coalition, North Okanagan, and A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey.

Mr. Morrow will act as chairman of the committee in place of Mr. Webster.

## 3 To Speak Monday In B.C. Legislature

The debate on the Speech from the Throne will continue next week in the B.C. Legislature with three speakers scheduled to give addresses on Monday.

It is expected that this debate will wind up about the middle of the following week and Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb will present his budget about Thursday.

Speakers for Monday are A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey; E. F. Rowland, C.C.F., Omineca; and A. C. Hope, Coalition, Delta. The House will open the Monday sitting at 3 in the afternoon, but is expected to begin sittings at 2.30 on Tuesday.

# \$10,000,000 Hospitalization Plan Advocated By Winch

The C.C.F.'s plans for an over-all hospitalization scheme, to be paid for at the rate of \$10 per adult person and costing altogether more than \$10,000,000, and for the province to take over the entire cost of education with the levying of new taxes on big industrial undertakings, were presented to the B.C. Legislature Wednesday by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

In a two-hour address—the first attack by the C.C.F. on the government since the session opened Tuesday—Mr. Winch struck out at the government, charging it had demonstrated indecision, inaction, uncertainty and a self-hypnotic reliance on invulnerability. He also charged that during the past two or three months, since Premier Byron Johnson had taken over from former Premier John Hart, an "iron curtain" had been thrown around activities of the government.

He claimed that while the province's position had been painted in rosy colors during the last days of Mr. Hart as Premier, the government today was faring, according to the press and statements of government members, what the C.C.F. had predicted was inevitable—shortages of revenue.

## ROUGH AND READY PLAN

Mr. Winch admitted his hospitalization scheme was a "rough and ready plan which I think is mighty close to what the government can do if it has the intestinal fortitude to do it."

He worked it out as follows:

There are 722,000 persons over 18 in B.C. (other than those covered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Indians) and if they each paid \$10 a year this would provide \$7,220,000. Add to this the sums municipalities and the province already pay to hospitals and it is swollen to \$10,220,000.

With 158,000 persons admitted to hospital last year and 200,000 estimated under a hospitalization scheme (based on the increases occasioned in Saskatchewan) and with the average stay at 10.5 days and the average cost at \$50 per patient (Saskatchewan figures it at \$42) that would bring the total annual cost to about \$10,000,000. The province would have to find \$800,000 to cover the estimated 8 per cent (Saskatchewan's experience) for administration.

Hospitalization, said Mr. Winch, must have priority and the provincial government must act during the current session. He said a hospitalization scheme would solve the current problems of hospitals and could be tied in with any Ottawa scheme if and when it were implemented.

He suggested the provincial government was evading the issue of school costs through Royal Commissions and lack of courage.

The C.C.F. plan was to set up a provincial assessment board, with assessors responsible to this board, while taking over the full costs of schools, including present school indebtedness and interest charges.

The increased school costs, Mr. Winch suggested, should be financed by a flat mill rate assessment applicable throughout the province, and additional cost to be raised by taxation of such enterprises as Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. of Canada Ltd., which realized a net profit of \$23,000,000 last year; H. R. MacMillan Export Co. Ltd., which reported a net profit last year of \$7,000,000, and Canadian Western Lumber Co. Ltd., which had reported a profit for 1947 of \$9,000,000. All these companies, he said, secured their profits through the application of labor on the province's resources.

"These sources of revenue are there if you go after them in the interests of the people and not in the interests of protecting profits," he said.

## 'WE TOLD YOU SO'

To the Speech from the Throne announcements that changes would be made in the labor laws, in Workmen's Compensation Act, the Forest Act and in the policy of admitting patients to mental hospitals, Mr. Winch replied: "We told you so." He said the C.C.F. had long advocated changes in these laws.

While not mentioning Japanese Canadians specifically the Leader of the Opposition called on the government to remove the "remnants of Fascism" in racial intolerance and discrimination. He said there had been a remarkable change in public opinion in the province and called for a removal of this blot on the province and the elimination of provisions which make first and second-class citizens.

He charged that the government had been derelict in its duty in allowing the Doukhobor problem to continue so long, and read from two letters which he said were being distributed among Doukhobors, one signed by J. J. Verigin, the other, "sincerely, your resurrected brother in Christ, Jesus." One letter called on Doukhobors to join a new organization at \$17 per year assessment, the other to renounce their allegiance to Canada and abide by the laws of God rather than man-made laws.

Mr. Winch criticized strenuously what he called the "iron curtain" which had been thrown around, particularly the gasoline question. He claimed that he and the public were entitled to study the reports of the Coal and Petroleum Control Board to the government.

He noted that the government has to go to Ontario to study accounts of Imperial Oil's operations in B.C., that 70 per cent of Imperial Oil was owned by Standard Oil of New Jersey, now being investigated by the United States for price fixing, while another Standard company supplied Imperial with crude and gasoline in California.

# John Effect

Premier Byron Johnson's policy speech in the Legislature this afternoon, telling of the government's financial position, gave repeated assurance that the province's financial position was sound, telling how the government's budgeting was working well, and how the government's financial position was sound.

The Dominion agreement with the Legislature, Johnson said, considered fair treatment of proposals of Book and was a definite agreement negotiated.

"The commitment is of today due to in the cost continued. federal autonomy implemented proposals place a very difficult position."

(The federal government held that in the Greek Book effected under the Dominion-Provincial Quebec and sign these

"Upon the special service costs had risen as also the recipients, the agreement considered justances," he said.

## PENSION

In 1945 proposals estimated 16,670 old-age pensions were paid and 21,305 nearly 25,000 he said.

An estimate has been made each province is able for who has larger pay immediate for pension of the new assumed five months really British the true

The Province rapid rise sons received—unemployment proximate from 194 rose by 2 is expected 2,000 million fiscal year

"Cost risen from 1948-49," he said. "In 1945-46 \$3,400,000 allowance



## Johnson Says Ottawa Tax Deal Without Effecting Social Security Plans Unfair

Premier Byron Johnson, in his policy speech to the B.C. Legislature this afternoon, spent almost half his speaking time in telling of the provincial government's financial problems. He gave repeated references to the province's financial dilemma, telling how costs of Provincial government services were skyrocketing while government revenues were failing to keep pace.

The Dominion-Provincial tax agreement which was hailed in the Legislature last year, Mr. Johnson said, "could not be considered fair without the implementation of the social security proposals outlined in the Green Book and which, as I see it, were a definite part of a complete agreement which was to be negotiated."

"The completion of this agreement is of utmost importance today due to the very rapid rise in the cost of social services," he continued. "The fact that the federal authorities have not implemented the Green Book proposals places this government in a very difficult situation."

(The federal government has held that implementation of the Green Book proposals cannot be effected until all provinces of the Dominion have signed Dominion-Provincial tax agreements. Quebec and Ontario have yet to sign these agreements.)

"Upon examination of our social services, I found that the costs had risen to such a degree, as also had the number of recipients, that the existing tax agreement could not be considered just under the circumstances," he said.

### PENSION COSTS RISE

In 1945 when the Green Book proposals were presented it was estimated that B.C. would have 16,670 old-age pensioners in 1948. There were 17,768 last October and 21,305 now and there will be nearly 25,000 by the year's end, he said.

An extremely heavy burden has been placed on B.C. because each province is solely responsible for each old-age pensioner who has lived in the province the larger part of the three years immediately prior to applying for pension. He said 20 per cent of the new old-age pension cases assumed by B.C. during the last five months of 1947 were not really British Columbia cases in the true sense of the word.

The Premier found a similarly rapid rise in the number of persons receiving social allowances—unemployables. Rising by approximately 1,000 cases a year from 1943 to 1945, the case load rose by 2,000 during 1946-47 and is expected to rise by nearly 2,000 more during the present fiscal year.

"Cost of old-age pensions has risen from \$1,900,000 in 1945-46 to an estimated \$5,000,000 in 1948-49," he said. "Social allowances have risen from \$1,700,000 in 1945-46 to nearly an estimated \$3,400,000 in 1948-49. Mothers' allowances have remained static

averaging annually between \$480,000 and \$500,000. In short, the cost of these three pensions alone has risen from \$4,100,000 in 1945-46 to an estimated \$8,900,000 in 1948-49 or by more than 100 per cent."

Mr. Johnson said that the cost of social services in B.C. had risen from \$1.60 per capita in 1944-45 to \$2.07 in 1946-47, compared with 56 to 76 cents for Saskatchewan.

At the same time hospitalization costs had risen and the Dominion government had failed to assume full responsibility for unemployment.

### 100 PER CENT ALTOGETHER

"In reviewing all social services including both health and welfare, it was found that costs had risen from \$9,300,000 in 1945-46 to an estimated \$19,346,000 for 1948-49 or an increase of approximately \$10,000,000 or more than 100 per cent," he said. "I do not think that anyone would suggest that curtailment of expenditures should take place in our social services."

He said it seemed to him reasonable that the Dominion government, drawing \$139,958,000 from income, corporation and succession duty tax fields in B.C. during the year ended March 31, 1947, and paying back to B.C. approximately \$23,000,000 or only 16 per cent, should implement the Green Book social security proposals, if only partially.

Mr. Johnson said that it now costs an ordinary patient \$180 per month to be in a hospital exclusive of special treatment, and government assistance to hospitals had increased by 100 per cent from 1945-46 to 1947-48. He suggested the following courses of action:

1. The revenue sources of hospitals be pooled to provide adequate services for the money available.

2. Administration of hospitals be more strict to ensure that the maximum of service being obtained for the money expended.

Mr. Johnson then turned to municipal finance problems and the assistance the province had given municipalities. Latest representations resolved to the fact that the Provincial government was asked to assume 60 per cent of the cost of education instead of the present 40 per cent. The municipalities suggested a sales tax be levied.

"There is one thing that is certain," he said. "A basis must be found whereby municipalities can operate without constantly appealing to the province for financial aid, just as there must be some settlement between the Dominion and the province so that our economy may be sound."

"The government feels that the municipalities should fulfill their end of the undertakings as outlined in the Goldenberg report. In addition thereto, the government is prepared to submit to the Legislature measures for granting still further assistance."

### UP \$19,000,000

The Premier said that whereas Provincial government actual expenditures during the fiscal year 1946-47 amounted to \$46,300,000, it was estimated expenditures for the fiscal year to end this month would total \$65,644,000.

"Every indication points to further substantial increase in expenditures during the coming fiscal year," he said.

Yet very little remained in the province's surplus revenue account, which on March 31, 1947, had had poured into it \$41,935,374 and with the estimated surplus this year of \$356,000 would be brought to \$42,291,374. Appropriations from this account have diminished the amount until now there remains only \$4,661,374, nearly all of which has been committed for school construction.

"This means that there is little or no reserve left with which to meet the abnormal economic conditions now confronting the province," he said.

He outlined how the money had been spent and said:

"It, therefore, is apparent that the surplus account was used to finance many capital undertakings as well as expenditures which normally would have been financed by consolidated revenue."

### PROBLEMS SURMOUNTABLE

Mr. Johnson said that he did not wish to leave the impression that the difficulties faced by the Provincial government were insurmountable. The inflationary period was imposing burdens on all governing bodies as well as business and these could only be met by increasing revenue on the one hand and restraint in expenditures on the other.

He said there were many indications B.C. was entering a period of unprecedented development—the population had increased by 95,000 in the past two years, and payrolls had probably increased by \$20,000,000 or more during 1947.

"By improving the trunk highways, giving access to the rich resources of the Peace River district and in many other ways, the government is fostering development of our resources which will be reflected in business and a continuance in the growth of our province," he said. "This general improvement in our economy will be the means of improving our financial position in the years to come so that we can, to an even greater degree, pass on to our citizens not only a larger measure of social security but wider fields of endeavor and opportunities that have been theirs in the past."

## Rate Reductions For Island Power Planned By April 1

Indications that electric power rates will be slashed by next April 1 in areas on Vancouver Island served by the B.C. Power Commission were given in the Provincial Legislature today by Premier Byron Johnson.

Reporting that rates reductions ranging from 30 to 50 per cent had already been effected in 11 of the 18 districts of the commission, the Premier said the commission now was engaged in rate studies on Vancouver Island "and expects to introduce new rates in the Alberni area; the Nanaimo-Duncan area and other districts supplied by the new John Hart hydro-electric development at Campbell River."

Mr. Johnson said that the load of the Nanaimo-Duncan area would be transferred to the Campbell River plant March 7.

Tenders for the already announced Whatshan power development of the commission said Mr. Johnson, will close April 15. This project will supply the Thompson River and North Okanagan districts.

He said it was reassuring to learn that the commission has been able to pay out of operating revenue the full interest on all capital advances invested in operating plant, full sinking fund requirements, adequate reserves, all administrative and operating expenses and yet has set aside in nine months of this fiscal year \$186,000 as a rate stabilization reserve.

Indications of rate reductions for the various operations of the commission, including those on Vancouver Island, have been given since the commission took over these various operations.

## Few Hints of Changes In B.C. Labor Code

Little indication of what British Columbians could expect in the way of new labor legislation was given by Premier Johnson today in his "policy" speech to the B.C. Legislature.

The Premier, however, said the principles of the B.C. labor code, the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1947, were good, "particularly the section dealing with the holding of a secret ballot in connection with strike votes. A secret ballot ensures that everyone will have the right to express his opinion without any intimidation or pressure being brought to bear upon him."

Admitting there was room for improvement of the act, the Premier said that the government proposed to open it up "with a view to removing certain difficulties that have made its operation somewhat cumbersome." He said the amendments to be submitted the House would be based largely on the recommendations of the Labor Relations Board.



## 1 Company To Lose More Than \$100,000 If Gas Not Boosted

One B.C. oil company will sustain a loss of \$108,241 in 1948 if there is no change in its volume of business and gasoline imports from 1947, but since the demand for gasoline is increasing it will probably lose more.

That is unless the Provincial government increases retail gasoline prices still further.

This was pointed out by Premier Byron Johnson in the Legislature this afternoon. The estimate was made by George A. Touche and Company, chartered accountants investigating oil companies for the Coal and Petroleum Control Board.

Reviewing the whole gasoline price question, the Premier said that the government felt that it had gone as far as it could possibly go for the moment.

"However, it wishes to give every assurance that the public's interest will be protected with respect to the price," he said. "It is the desire of the government that the oil companies should enjoy a reasonable profit but not an excessive one. At the same time, the government is desirous that the public should be supplied with an adequate quantity of gasoline. . . .

"I think that the members will agree that the government has made every effort to make a thorough examination into this question and that they can be assured nothing will be done until such time as the Coal and Petroleum Control Board is satisfied that the companies operating in this province have done everything in their power to maintain the price of gasoline at the lowest possible level conducive to a reasonable operating profit."

Mr. Johnson said the government would press for the expansion of refining facilities in B.C. "so as ultimately to overcome the existing inequalities which make the fixing of gasoline prices so difficult a problem."

## BREAD LINES AND LIQUOR

AS FAR BACK AS THE SESSION OF the Legislature in 1944, and again a year later, Mr. Winch and his C.C.F. colleagues were telling the Coalition administration and the public of the province in general that unemployment and something akin to a bread-line economic condition were just about round the mythical corner. This was the type of warning argument intended to impress the electorate with the oppositionists' contention that nothing was being done of a practical nature to anticipate the impact of the aftermath of the Second World War. And they selected the drabdest of rhetorical colors to paint their verbal picture of pending gloom.

Their lugubrious artistry, of course, was far from original; its impression on the minds of the electors fell far short of what Mr. Winch and his friends hoped for and expected. For when the new Parliament met early in 1946—with the guns of battle silent in the major warring theatres—the official opposition found itself reduced to a membership of 10 instead of the 16 upon whom it had been able to count since 1941. Six of the C.C.F.'s most able debaters, three men and three women, got "left at the post" in the province's first postwar general election. Thereby hangs a tale—or, to return to the metaphor, the remains of the gloomy picture to which we have referred.

We hark back to this bit of British Columbia's fairly recent political history merely to hang another tale which, while having no direct relationship to the unpopularity of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation's philosophy, has a distinct bearing upon the doleful panorama which Mr. Winch and his fellow oppositionists declared they could see in all its sinister design blackening the horizon a year or so earlier. To lend emphasis to the point, we propose to cite a few brief statistics which an important branch of the provincial service has just made public, namely, the details of sales of alcoholic beverages to the same British Columbians whom the Leader of the Opposition and his cohorts had virtually consigned to the bread line in 1944 and 1945. In the fiscal year of 1946-1947, for instance, the "poor" citizens of the province were able to find for liquor \$47,961,515, or an increase of no less than \$9,218,059 over the preceding 12 months. Let it be clearly understood that this is nothing over which to crow, especially in the moral sense. But we are not dealing, for the purpose of this argument, in morals; nor are we contesting the right of the individual to do what he or she likes with his or her own money.

There is nevertheless a moral: Liquor vendors do not take I.O.U.'s; they are only interested in the actual legal tender of the day. And nearly \$48,000,000 is a lot of money. Moreover, at the end of the first six months of the current fiscal year, according to the official figures, sales had amounted to \$26,257,720—indicating fairly convincingly that the complete 1947-1948 business period will reveal still larger revenues for the Liquor Control Board. Will Mr. Winch still persist that this outlay indicates a public troubled with a bread-line complex?

## OFF THE CUFF

IT HAS LONG BEEN A PARLIAMENTARY tradition that the speeches of members must be delivered without the aid of a manuscript, although notes to help the orator's memory are permitted. An exception is made, of course, in the case of addresses such as the budget speech, in which the immense amount of statistical material could not possibly be delivered in an extemporary manner. The truth, however, is that the tradition has been more honored in the breach than in the observance in Canadian federal and provincial legislative halls. There has been a growing practice of reading speeches in all types of debate, with a consequent loss of force in the address and an increasing doubt that the flowing phrases are in reality the product of the member who gives them voice.

Impatience with the reading habit has led two British Columbia members to march in protest from the House of Commons, asserting that Speaker Gaspard Fauteux "refused" to enforce the rule. Their action will arouse a certain amount of sympathy in members who must listen to interminable speeches read in a monotone, but there will be opposition from those who find it necessary to depend on "notes" which are voluminous to the point of becoming full texts. As the present session of the British Columbia Legislature gets under way, members may recollect with benefit to themselves and their listeners that while a lengthy prepared speech, read in its entirety, may look better in Hansard, a short one, delivered with the sincerity of unassisted oratory, will make a better impression on legislative members and public, and earn the member on the floor the reputation of being a thinker rather than a mere reader.

## MR. JOHN

NOTWITHSTANDING the unpalatable bound to be regardless of taxation the special times, Mr. ment on the Legislature he has even from all In no pa matters, with which of office bears an amount of sample of encourag for the a sides. A speech" expected fold pote his imple strong pu Columbia

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# MR. JOHNSON'S 'POLICY SPEECH'

NOTWITHSTANDING SOME OF THE unpalatable financial facts which he was bound to reveal in specific detail, and regardless of the prospect of some new forms of taxation that may be necessary to meet the special circumstances of these troublous times, Mr. Johnson presented a candid statement on the state of the province to the Legislature yesterday afternoon of which he has every right to be proud, and for which he should receive generous acclaim from all fair-minded British Columbians. In no particular did the Premier mince matters, and the volume of the material with which he dealt—after only two months of office marked by several interruptions—bears ample witness to the enormous amount of work he has put in. This first sample of his industry, moreover, is an encouraging augury for his own future and for the administration over which he presides. And if some parts of his "policy speech" may have disappointed those who expected more, his references to the manifold potentialities of his native province, his implied clarion call for a long pull and a strong pull to greater effort by all British Columbians should not fall on deaf ears.

AFTER THE MUNICIPALITIES, SOCIAL reformers, and the general public have digested Mr. Johnson's "story of the surpluses" they will assuredly realize how rapidly even a huge credit balance has a knack of vanishing when the financial demands—irrespective of their merit—are even partially satisfied. Not enough space is at our command here to recite the progressive whittling away process in detail. Suffice it to say that an over-all surplus of \$42,291,274, as of the end of this month, will have dwindled to the insignificant sum of \$300,000 when all commitments have been met. In other words, little or nothing is left in the reserve till "with which to meet the abnormal economic conditions now confronting the province."

One does not require to be an economist or even an amateur mathematician to deduce from the foregoing the reason why Mr. Johnson warned the House that the Minister of Finance will be obliged to budget for higher expenditures for the fiscal year beginning next April 1. For what amount Mr. Anscomb will ask remains to be seen. Some idea of the size of it, however, will be obtained from the fact that while the actual expenditures for the 1946-1947 fiscal year accounted for \$46,300,000, it is fully expected that when the books are closed for the 1947-1948 business period at the end of this month the actual outlay will reach approximately \$65,644,000—or an increase of \$19,344,000 in the course of one year! And, as already noted, no surplus will be available for transference to the 1948-1949 account.

In the light of the above, therefore, it is easy to understand why the Premier alluded to "the abnormal economic conditions now confronting the province" and tempered his promise of further assistance to the municipalities, to the social services, and to the hospitals with that measure of prudence which the stern reality of all the circumstances so patently emphasizes. Mr. Johnson very properly pointed to the indisputable fact that the province—like all other agencies which serve the people—is caught between the Scylla of the high cost of government and the Charybdis of increased demands on the treasury. Hence, if his administration is to meet requests which all pleaders assure him are the minimum they require to retain their solvency, the budget which Mr. Anscomb will present in due course inevitably will beat all records

for the size of the appropriations for which he will ask. What form of new taxation will be essential in such circumstances must remain in abeyance for the moment.

IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT MR. JOHNSON had to be explicit in his reference to the possible or potential future of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. He emphasized two important points in connection with this provincially-owned line. One was that further negotiations could not be resumed until the return to his office in Montreal of Mr. W. M. Neal, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company; the other was that the government, in view of the fact that previous surveys "have been too hurried and revisions omitted" which would have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars, does not intend to make the same mistakes again. Thus the Premier informed the House that "it is our desire to obviate belated revisions."

It was Mr. Hart's desire, as it is that of his successor, to try to interest the two great transcontinental railway systems and the Dominion government in a four-way agreement under the provisions of which the P.G.E. could be completed, extended, and contiguous territory developed. Progress toward this objective has been neither rapid nor easy. Mr. Hart has used every weapon in his arsenal of persuasion to convince the executives of the C.N.R., the C.P.R., and the Prime Minister of Canada that by acquiescing in British Columbia's

plan for this important provincial line they would be investing in the future prosperity, not only of this province, but also, by a similar token, in the well-being of the country as a whole. Mr. Johnson realizes that this contention still holds good; he can be depended upon to give Mr. Hart all the assistance he may require when he takes up the thread of discussion where he left off last year.

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1948

## Interior Members Speak On Tuesday

Four up-country members of the Legislature will participate in the debate on the Speech from the Throne in the Provincial Parliament Tuesday.

They are William J. Smith, Coalition, Atlin; J. H. Corsbie, C.C.F., Peace River; A. B. Ritchie, Coalition, Salmon Arm, and William H. Brett, C.C.F., Prince Rupert.

The Throne Speech debate will continue throughout this week.

The Legislative standing committees are expected to hold their organization meetings later this week, getting down to business the following week.

## Committees Named Of B.C. Legislature

Standing committees for the current session of the provincial Legislature were set up by the House Friday afternoon.

The list is as follows, with the first name lawmaker being the chairman:

Standing orders and private bills—C. W. Morrow, Coalition, North Okanagan; D. C. Brown, Coalition, Burrard; A. J. McDonnell, Coalition, Vancouver centre; James Mowat, Coalition, Alberni; J. H. Cates, Coalition, North Vancouver; Mrs. T. J. Rolston, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey; A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey; H. E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, and Randolph Harding, C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan.

Public accounts and printing—W. A. C. Bennett, Coalition, South Okanagan; Thomas King, Coalition, Columbia; Mr. McDonnell; Mr. MacDougall; Thomas Love, Coalition, Grand Forks-Greenwood; H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox; Mr. Morrow, Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Columbia; J. H. Crosbie, C.C.F., Peace River, and H. E. Winch.

Agriculture—Mr. King; A. C. Hope, Coalition, Delta; Mr. Morrow; L. F. Stevenson, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey; A. B. Ritchie, Coalition, Salmon Arm; Dr. F. W. Green, Coalition, Cranbrook; C. T. Beard, Coalition, Esquimalt; Mr. Bennett; Mr. Crosbie; E. F. Rowland, C.C.F., Omineca; Mr. Harding, and John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George.

Mining and railways—Mr. Love; W. J. Johnson, Coalition, Revelstoke; W. D. Smith, Coalition, Atlin; J. L. Webster, Coalition, Rossland-Trail; Dr. J. J. Gillis, Coalition, Yale; Mr. Mowat; Mr. Welch; Dr. R. R. Laird, Coalition, Similkameen; Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie; Smauel Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle; Mr. Crosbie, and Mr. Rowland.

Forestry and Fisheries—Mr. Welch; Mr. Cates; Mr. Stevenson; Dr. Green; Mr. Ritchie; Mr. Mowat; Mr. Beard; Mr. King; Mr. Bennett; Mr. Gargrave; W. H. Brett, C.C.F., Prince Rupert, and Mr. McInnis.

Municipal affairs—Mr. Hope; Mr. Cates; Mr. Brown; Mr. Love; Mr. Morrow; Mr. Ritchie; Mr. Bennett; Mrs. Rolston; W. J. Johnson; Mr. Guthrie; Mr. Turner, and Mr. Gargrave.

Labor—Dr. Gillis; W. J. Johnson; Mr. Smith; Mr. Stevenson; Mr. MacDougall; Mr. Webster; Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition, Victoria; Mr. Welch; Mr. Hope; Mr. Uphill; Mr. Gargrave; Mr. Turner; E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, and Mr. Guthrie.

Social welfare and education—Mrs. Rolston; Mrs. Hodges; Mr. Mowat; Dr. Gillis; Dr. Green; Dr. Laird; Mr. Smith; E. E. Winch; Mr. Harding, and Mr. McInnis.



## Retail Sales Tax Fairest Way, Says Point Grey M.L.A.

First mention of a provincially imposed retail sales tax to help meet soaring Provincial government expenditures was made in the Provincial Legislature Monday afternoon by A. R. MacDougall, Coalition member for Vancouver-Point Grey.

Last Friday Premier Byron Johnson had warned that the province would have to find new sources of revenue to meet skyrocketing costs of government, but he did not mention the retail sales tax, which has been advocated by the Union of B.C. Municipalities and talked of considerably outside of the Legislature since the House convened last Tuesday.

And during the same sitting of the House, A. C. Hope, Coalition member for Delta, while not mentioning the retail sales tax, struck out against the business tax, advocated by H. Carl Goldenberg, Royal Commission on provincial-municipal financial relations. The Legislature last year approved legislation giving municipalities power to levy a business tax but the municipalities offered the retail sales tax as an alternative.

Mr. MacDougall, a member of the Progressive Conservative faction of the Coalition administration, said that he hoped the new source of revenue would take the form of a retail sales tax, which would bring in expanding revenue based on increased population and the prosperity of the whole province.

### OPPOSITION FORESEEN

"I know that there has been and probably will be considerable opposition voiced to the imposition of a retail sales tax," he continued. "A great deal of it comes from the very sources who are constantly badgering the government for increased social service and social assistance grants."

"If the money is not there how do these people think it is to be found? Admittedly it must be found and the only question is what is the fairest and most likely way in which to find it."

He said 26 states of the U.S. and one province impose retail sales taxes now, and the imposition was not resented and provided indispensable revenues.

"I venture to suggest that if the tax is imposed and yields a satisfactory amount, and other existing taxes do not increase, the people of this province within a year or two of its imposition will be well satisfied and would not wish to drop the tax and revert to any other form of taxation," he said, adding that he was not impressed with the argument that a tax of this nature fell more heavily on the man of small income than on the affluent.

### NO GRADUATED TAX

"And I do not think it necessary or practical to graduate the rate of tax or the prices of

groceries according to the incomes of the buyer," he continued. "... A tax of this sort should be welcome by property taxpayers, farmers and home owners, and those who wish to become home owners, the group which pays a major part of the cost of government. These people should realize that a retail sales tax more equitably spreads the tax burden within that group than does a property tax."

Mr. Hope said that while a business tax would be of great value for Vancouver, Victoria and other urban areas, it "wouldn't amount to very much in the rural municipalities." He said that trade license fees in his area ranged from \$15 to \$30 per year while a business tax at 10 per cent of the rental value of premises occupied by businesses would provide about \$18 a year per business more. "It would only mean \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year more," he said.

## Anscomb Next Week Will Tell Of Aid For Municipalities

A three-man delegation of the Union of B.C. Municipalities today was given the assurance of the provincial cabinet that the provincial government's plans to help out municipalities would be announced next week by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his budget address in the B.C. Legislature.

The delegation had sought some undertaking from the provincial cabinet on what the assistance would be, but again failed to get it. Previously the union officials had attempted a showdown with the cabinet on what it was going to do to aid the municipalities.

The delegation held firm that the province should impose a retail sales tax, the greater part of 2 per cent of it going to the municipalities to help relieve rising costs of education and social services. The cabinet declined to indicate whether or not the sales tax would be imposed.

Members of the delegation were Mayor W. M. Mott of New Westminster, president of the U.B.C.M., Mayor Percy George of Victoria, first vice-president, and R. R. F. Sewell, secretary-treasurer of the U.B.C.M.

## Province Rent Control Advocated By Winch

Provincial legislation to control rents will be urged by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, who has given notice of a resolution calling for this legislation.

Mr. Winch said in the notice of his resolution that "commercial tenants reasonably expect to have legislation protection from extortionate rental increases" and Federal Finance Minister Abbott had indicated that the provinces can take care of the commercial field now.

## Omineca Member Criticizes Roads

E. F. Rowland, C.C.F., Omineca, charged in the B.C. Legislature Monday that money for roads was not being spent wisely or fairly in his district.

He told how one of the best sections of road in an area had been made into a mudhole, unpassable by motor vehicles other than jeeps, how works department crews continued to spend a greater part of their time filling potholes with gravel, only to have the potholes there again the next day, how a short railway to portage boats between two lakes had to be rebuilt because the car was a different gauge from the tracks, and how Provincial government equipment was used on side roads leading to sawmills when the main roads were in greater need of attention.

Mr. Rowland said there were 1,200 miles of roads in his constituency and they were getting in a little poorer condition each year.

At the same time the C.C.F. member called on the government to include machinery for breaking land with its land-clearing teams, claiming that the farmers in his riding had been unable to use much of the recently cleared land because there was no equipment available to break it.

## Another Advocate For Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes were again advocated in the B.C. Legislature Monday as a source of revenue to help finance hospitals. The demand came from E. F. Rowland, C.C.F., Omineca.

Mr. Rowland told of the difficulties of keeping a 20-bed hospital going in his constituency and said that invariably discussions on how to raise money for the hospital came around to sweepstakes.

He recalled that 10 years ago the House had unanimously endorsed a resolution approving sweepstakes for financing hospitals and asked that a statement be given by the government on what representations had been made to the federal government on the question and what reply had been received.

Mr. Rowland said he was all in favor of sweepstakes for hospitals until a hospitalization scheme was undertaken.

## Interior Members Speak Wednesday

Members from the interior will again hold the spotlight in the provincial Legislature here Wednesday.

Continuing the debate on the Speech from the Throne will be C. W. Morrow, Coalition, North Okanagan; John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George, and W. J. Johnson, Coalition, Revelstoke.

## Winch Motion Will Open Debate On Japs

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch has laid the groundwork for a full-fledged debate in the B.C. Legislature on the question of rights of Japanese-Canadians.

The C.C.F. leader has given notice that he will move a resolution "that this House is of the opinion that no discrimination should be recognized by the government, either in law or contract, against any Canadian citizen because of color, religion or land of racial origin."

Some time ago the government announced that the question of banning Japanese-Canadians from working on Crown timber lands, done through contract, would be placed before the Legislature. The ban, in effect since 1902, was superseded by federal government order during the war and was to be reimposed this year by the Provincial government.

## Auto Insurance Cut Due, Says Member

The B.C. Legislature Monday heard suggestions that insurance companies, because of the province's highway responsibility plan which came into effect March 1, had done a tremendous business and it was time they reduced their rates.

The suggestion came from A. C. Hope, Coalition, Delta, who said Saskatchewan might have something in its government-operated insurance business, for the rate was \$6 compared to \$12 or \$23 here.

"Someone ought to tip someone off," he said. "If they can't bring their rates down, I'd be one to suggest other changes."

## To See Submissions

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, who since Premier Byron Johnson announced the three-cent boost in gasoline prices last January has been trying to secure the submissions of the oil companies to the Coal and Petroleum Control Board and the submissions of the board to the government, Monday told the B.C. Legislature the Premier was going to let him see them.

Mr. Winch had filed notice of a motion calling on the government to make a return. He asked that it be withdrawn, because he had secured the assurance of the Premier.

## Financial For

A. C. Hope said that the province's expenditure for the past year had been \$100,000,000 more than the revenue.

He said that the province had a deficit of \$100,000,000 and that the government was spending more than it was receiving.

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## Motion Will Debate On Japs

Leader Harold E. said the groundwork for the debate in the House on the question of Japanese-Canadians. The leader has given the House to understand that he will move a resolution at this House is of that no discrimination be recognized by the government, either in law or in fact, against any Canadian on the basis of color, religion or racial origin.

After the government had tabled the question of Japanese-Canadians from Crown timber lands, a contract, would be the Legislature. The effect since 1902, when the federal government during the war had reimposed this Provincial govern-

## Insurance Cut By Member

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## Submissions

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had filed notice of a motion on the government turn. He asked that it be withdrawn, because he had assurance of the

## Financial Yardstick Needed For Cities, Members Claim

A. C. Hope, who has had 15 years' experience in municipal affairs in the Fraser Valley, suggested Monday that the time had arrived not for the municipalities, as Premier Byron Johnson had suggested, but for the Provincial government to put its house in order.

Mr. Hope spoke in the Legislature during the Throne Speech debate and referred to the statement of the Premier last Friday.

A Coalition government member for Delta, Mr. Hope said the only part of the Goldenberg recommendations not implemented by the municipalities was the business tax proposal. Yet the province had not implemented the section dealing with maintenance by the province of arterial highways in municipalities and he believed it was unlikely the province would do anything about the highways this year.

He said some taxpayers in unorganized sections of the province had claimed that their tax bills had risen 600 per cent, yet he had found they had only risen to \$10 or \$15.

While municipal taxes had risen by \$5,000,000 in the past 20 years and Provincial government grants had risen by approximately a like amount, taxes collected in unorganized areas had fallen from \$3,261,700 in 1926 to \$2,800,000 in 1946.

Mr. Hope suggested that if the Provincial government had followed the advice of the Union of B.C. Municipalities five years ago they would not have the current

problem of school taxes. He advocated that no more commissions be appointed, but rather committees of the union and members of the municipal affairs department, and that the School Act and the Municipal Acts should be redrafted, not by a commission but by a committee.

A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, said "there must be an immediate adjustment between the federal, provincial and municipal entities in the Canadian body politic." He said if there is going to be finality between the province and the municipalities, assistance given municipalities must be based on some yardstick which will enable those municipalities reasonably to anticipate an expanding source of revenue as the province itself grows and prospers.

## Says Price Control Lifting Might Solve Gas Problem

The suggestion that perhaps the simplest and happiest solution to British Columbia's gasoline problem was the removal of price controls, was made here Monday by A. R. MacDougall, Coalition member of the Legislature for Vancouver-Point Grey.

A Vancouver barrister, Mr. MacDougall, during the Throne Speech debate in the Provincial Legislature, said he had not made up his mind, but if he had anything to do with the decision he would be sorely tempted at least to toy with the idea of removing all controls and restoring the sale of gasoline to the principle of allowing competition to set the price.

"It so happens that there are many oil companies operating in this province," he said, "so there is nothing in the nature of a monopoly. That being so, the situation should correct itself besides extracting the Coal and Petroleum Control Board from the invidious position of having to decide what margin of profit

is proper, not only for the industry as a whole, but for that company or the other, because there is a wide discrepancy between their operations."

Mr. MacDougall said he was aware this might lead to a combine but that could be dealt with under federal laws. He suggested that the operations of the Coal and Petroleum Control Board be suspended, and the cabinet be given power to reinstate the board at any time when it was necessary in the interests of the public.

"This I know, and know full well," he said, "and that is that the problem is an important one if tourists are not to be driven from the state and if the provincial exchequer is not to lose from the situation with which we are now confronted."

## One Woman's Day

By NANCY HODGES

### TALK AND TIME

WELL, HERE WE ARE back in session again and the annual talk-fest has started. During the next few weeks, members will present their views on a variety of subjects ranging from cabbages to kings, with an occasional excursion into the field of shoes, ships and sealing-wax.

I always find it interesting to watch the galleries, especially in the early days of the Legislature when public interest is still fresh.

Although the acoustics of the Chamber have been much improved since the installation of the loud-speaker system, it still hasn't done away with the difficulty of hearing those who wander from the "mike," or who speak too quickly.

### MURMURS AND MUMBLING

WITH THE RESULT THAT old gentlemen—and old ladies, too—can be seen cupping their ears in an effort to hear the murmurs from below.

Failing to do so, they sometimes stalk out indignantly, feeling done out of their rights as a voter by such mumblings, as one elderly galleryite expressed it the other day.

But the debate is yet only in its opening stages—that is, if one can really call it a debate. When I recall the days of the Oliver regime and "Honest John's" heated arguments with leader of the Opposition Bowser, it seems that the days of real debate are dead.

Instead of fire and crossfire, exchange and banter, repartee and reproaches, today's debates—with occasional exceptions—devolve into a succession of speeches. And I am fully conscious of my own shortcomings!

### ELSEWHERE AS WELL

THE SAME CRITICISM, it is true, applies to other parliamentary bodies. Two members—or more—may deal with the same subject, each stating his—or her—case with complete disregard of what the other has said.

This robs debate of the discussion which is one of the most stimulating and enlightening features. It is by the interplay of ideas, the pooling or divergent opinions, that democracy best functions.

When debate degenerates into a mere parade of prepared speeches it tends to lose its vitality, and instead of proceeding apace, slows down to what Macbeth describes:

"Creeps in this petty pace from day to day until the last syllable of recorded time."

### TIME AND TIDE

SPEAKING OF RECORDED TIME, reminds me of another weakness of present-day parliamentary debate as practised in this province—and elsewhere.

That is the growing tendency to lengthy speeches. From time to time the matter of a time limit has been broached, but nothing has been done about it. Presumably everyone thinks the implied criticism refers only to the mythical George.

In the British House of Commons, the matter has been solved by allocating a certain number of days to each debate. That time is then divided among the various parties, with the result that the whole discussion is got rid of in three or four days, leaving time for the real business.

### WOT, 40 MINUTES!

IN OTTAWA, MEMBERS are limited to 40 minutes. But there is nothing to prevent our local legislators going on for hours. Some of them do! And I am not speaking of ministers who should have that privilege.

Being a woman, I am naturally given to brevity! That's why I think there is sound sense in what the Peterboro (Ont.) Examiner said a few years ago:

"We do not think that they know how long 40 minutes is. An act of Hamlet or King Lear can be played in 40 minutes. All but a very few of the world's great symphonies can be played within 40 minutes. Mr. Churchill or Mr. Roosevelt could review several months of war in 40 minutes. But a member of the legislature feels himself cramped if he is allowed only 40 minutes to express himself on a matter of provincial importance."



## Members Tell Legislature Of North Country's Wealth

The B.C. Legislature Tuesday afternoon got its fill on the wonders, needs and problems of the great north country. As well as one other backbencher, the House heard J. H. Corsbie, C.C.F., Peace River; W. D. Smith, Coalition, Atlin, and W. H. Brett, C.C.F., Prince Rupert.

In the longest of the three speeches, all made during the Throne Speech debate, Mr. Corsbie argued that Peace River coal resources should be developed to help make Canada more self-sustaining in coal needs. While admitting Pennsylvania could probably supply Ontario's coal needs more cheaply than the Peace River district, the youthful member suggested the Peace River should supply Seattle and other U.S. industrial cities of the west.

"This would mean a saving of many millions of dollars spent on American imports in one year, which is well worth thinking about," he said.

"We have the coal, lots of it. It is just as good as any that can be found elsewhere and is just as close and in lots of cases closer to American markets than most other deposits of good coal."

He suggested also that the oil resources of the Peace River district should be developed to help relieve Canada of its huge bill for gasoline from U.S.

Mr. Corsbie said that a lot of British Columbians seem to think that all B.C. consists of was a few big cities, Vancouver Island and the Fraser Valley while Prince George was actually just about the centre of the province and many of the world's great industrial cities were located on the same or a more northerly latitude than Dawson Creek. He named Glasgow, Edinburgh, Oslo, Stockholm, Leningrad, Moscow, Riga, Dvinsk.

"Thus in respect of the rest of the world we are far from being what you might call the far north," he said. "There is also no reason why the northern half of the province cannot become an industrial area with a population comparable to other places on the same latitude in the world."

### WORST ROADS THERE

Mr. Corsbie claimed that the roads of his constituency were the worst of the province and called on the Provincial government to build a road to connect with the Alberta road to the B.C. boundary. He noted that there was a 15-mile stretch of dirt road which persons using the Alaska Highway would have to travel.

He also protested the recent rise in the cost of gasoline; spoke out against the sales tax proposed to increase Provincial government revenues; expressed disappointment that no more definite information was given in the Throne Speech about hospitalization, and suggested that while hospitalization was of prime importance, health insurance would go much further.

Mr. Smith said the people of his constituency would gratefully welcome health insurance and

hospitalization, and told of the cost of these services in his constituency. To get specialized care it was necessary to go to Whitehorse and Vancouver.

He criticized the raising of trophy fees for big game, since some hunters in the Cassiar district of his riding had no warning of it until they came back from the hunt.

In the westerly route for another Alaska Highway, Mr. Smith saw the answer for dreams of tourists since they would then be able to make a circular route north over the westerly route and return by the present Alaska Highway.

### PRESSING NEED

"In view of the present world situation, this road and feeder branches into the Alaska border is of pressing need," he said, adding that it would open up the Ground Hog coalfield and thousands of acres of first-class agricultural land, and large sections of heavy timber.

He said many citizens of Atlin also felt that the B.C. government should proceed with the construction of the B.C. part of a highway to link Atlin and the Alaska Highway at Jake's Corner, in the Yukon.

He told of mining development in the Alice Arm area, saying mining there had taken "on a new lease of life with the better price for metals."

Mr. Brett urged the B.C. Power Commission to take over the Northern B.C. Power Company so that consumers "could be given the kind of service they are looking for and, at the same time, have the satisfaction of knowing that the profits from the operation were being used for the benefit of the people of the province instead of going to the shareholders in eastern Canada and the United States." He said there was also a demand for an extension of services not now receiving power.

He also asked the government to see if it could do something about the high rates airline companies charge for mercy flights in that area.

"The charge for such a service seems to be out of all proportion to the distance and time involved," he said, adding that it appeared there was nothing local authorities or the companies could do as the rates were set by the air transport board.

## 18,200 Horsepower In Nanaimo River

Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney, replying to a question of Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, told the B.C. Legislature Tuesday that the estimated amount of power available in the Nanaimo River was 18,200 horsepower.

He said the water rights of the river had been granted for waterworks purposes to the Corporation of the City of Nanaimo and Granby Consolidated Smelting and Power Company Limited,

## Member Complains Of 'Watered Liquor'

Ever try a "Kennedy's popsicle?" According to W. D. Smith, Coalition member of the Legislature for the northern Atlin constituency, it's all right.

Mr. Smith Tuesday afternoon told the House that while the hardy, hard-drinking residents of the Atlin district resented having to pay \$150 to \$160 per ton freight on watered liquor, the extreme cold last winter brought to light the fact that no longer can a lonely trapper or prospector carry a bottle of liquor on the trail from which to have a "nip" at the end of a hard day.

"The alcohol content is so low that the stuff freezes, breaks the bottle and is lost," he said.

He then told how one fellow fortunately found his frozen bottle before the contents had thawed. He removed all the broken glass and then licked the frozen liquor, "to his complete enjoyment." He called it "Kennedy's popsicle," after the chairman of the B.C. Liquor Control Board, who supports the contention that British Columbians should drink 70 under proof liquors.

"It would seem," said Mr. Smith, "that if the Liquor Control Board is going to continue to supply this sub-standard grade of liquor, they had better put some anti-freeze in it."

He noted that the federal government, which supplies liquor in the Yukon territory, recognized the freezing difficulty for they stocked 35 over-proof rum.

He also pointed out that an agreement between the U.S. and Canada that liquor will not be shipped in sealed mail sacks across each other's territory hit the Atlin riding hard for there was no express service and most of the district was situated behind the Alaska panhandle.

## Wants Ottawa To Form Coast Guard

W. H. Brett, C.C.F., Prince Rupert, Tuesday in the B.C. Legislature called on the Provincial government to press for the establishment by the federal government of a coast guard service.

"I fully realize that this is a federal responsibility," he said, "but it is not good enough for us to sit back placidly and say it is up to the federal government, and it is not up to us to do anything about it. We must press upon Ottawa the seriousness of the situation."

"It is a sad commentary, indeed, on our present line of reasoning to hear a minister of the federal cabinet say that the cost of such a service would be out of proportion to the need and to realize that the value of human lives is being commuted in terms of dollars and cents."

He suggested that if the cost of the service is such an important factor, surely some scheme could be worked out in conjunction with the navy or the fisheries department.

## Member Voices Plea For Small Loggers

British Columbia's small logging and sawmill operators "are out on a limb and the Forest Act is cutting it off," A. B. Ritchie, Coalition government member for Salmon Arm, told the B.C. Legislature Tuesday.

He called on Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney to introduce amendments to the Forest Act to assure the small mill operator and truck logger he will be able to carry on.

"When they are through cutting on their present sales they have had it," he said, adding they were doing a good job clearing up isolated patches of matured timber with which large operators would not be bothered.

Mr. Ritchie foresaw a two-fold purpose for irrigation projects in his district. He said that they could give water to the lands that require it and help stop the flooding of the lower Fraser River which had caused much damage at times. He suggested the projects should be undertaken by the federal government under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act.

He contended that automobile insurance rates were too high and that the farmer who travels only 2,000 miles a year pays far too much.

The government was asked to give consideration to providing cost-of-living bonuses for those receiving mothers' allowances and other social allowances.

Speaking of education costs he said "the municipalities are carrying the straw that broke the camel's back." He told how in one of the municipalities in his constituency school taxes had risen from \$14,000 in 1946 to \$34,000 in 1948, "and I don't think the councils have any intention of passing them."

## Bill To Increase Fees Of Witnesses

Amendments to the Summary Convictions Act, introduced in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday provide for a doubling of witness fees and increasing the allowance for witnesses and interpreters traveling to a trial.

The legislation was introduced by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer and provides for witnesses to receive \$3 for each day attending trial and to receive 20 cents per mile for mileage traveled to trial. The previous mileage charge was \$15.

While the \$2.50 per half day fee is continued for interpreters the mileage allowance is increased the same as for witnesses and interpreters will in the future be able to charge for actual living expenses when away from ordinary place of residence. These expenses can now exceed \$5 per day.

## Voices Plea Loggers

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## Suggests Study Of Milk Distribution

J. H. Corsbie, C.C.F., Peace River, told the B.C. Legislature Tuesday that milk prices should go no higher, yet some way must be found so that the farmer is able to carry on his operations in an economically sound manner.

"The conclusion that one would come to is that if all distribution was carried out by one agency, more money could be returned to the producer," he said. "This would come about by the elimination of a considerable amount of duplication that exists today."

Mr. Corsbie offered the following suggestions:

1. Set up a dairy pool as a central distribution agency.
2. Enlarge the milk board to distribute milk or encourage municipalities to do the distributing.
3. Get a free freight policy on feed.

The speaker saw little likelihood of the government taking action on either suggestions 1 or 2 and therefore offered number 3, along with the suggestion that a thorough investigation of distribution costs should be made by the government aimed at reducing them.

## Mrs. Rolston Speaks In House Thursday

Mrs. Tilly Rolston, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, will adjourn the debate on the Speech from the Throne in the B.C. Legislature this afternoon and will be the first of three speakers to participate in the debate Thursday.

Also speaking will be A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, and H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox.

The debate on the Speech from the Throne is expected to continue until Wednesday or Thursday of next week. It will be followed by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's budget address.

## Member Asks Inquiry Into Gas Companies' Overhead

An investigation of the overhead expenses of some B.C. oil companies was urged in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday by W. J. Johnson, Coalition, Revelstoke.

"We have been told that the oil companies have furnished evidence that some are doing business at a loss," he said. "I am of the opinion that in many instances the overhead is too high for what business is done, and this should be investigated."

While endorsing the government's highway responsibility plan, saying it would give protection against reckless and drunken drivers, he suggested that British Columbians were paying too much for too little protection.

Mr. Johnson recommended to the government the amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act suggested by the railway brotherhoods, and told the government that good roads, sufficient gasoline, good camps or other suitable accommodation with good meals at reasonable prices, coupled with courteous service, were necessary to increase the tourist trade. Send the tourists away satisfied and you have good advertisers, he said.

## Sees Prince George As Largest City Of Interior B.C.

John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George, thinks that Prince George will become the largest city of the interior and Wednesday in the B.C. Legislature he told the Provincial government what it should do to make this possible.

Like many another up-country member who has taken part to date in the debate on the Speech from the Throne, Mr. McInnis told of the highway needs of his constituency.

With 4,000 cars of lumber shipped out of Prince George, and most of it hauled to railhead over the highways, more money was needed to maintain these roads, he said. Trucks now were carrying heavier loads than intended when the roads were built.

He expressed dissatisfaction that no work had been done last year on the road from Sinclair Mills to McBride. This road, he pointed out would permit tourists at Jasper to go through to Prince George and Prince Rupert.

Mr. McInnis devoted the bulk of his address to an analysis of the capitalistic system and what he called democratic Socialism, claiming that the march throughout the world was away from capitalism. He read of a report on cartels, and said if members read this report they would never again speak of free enterprise.

He did, however, say that greater recognition should be given to teachers and nurses. Some teachers were instructing

classes 50 to 75 per cent larger than the recognized standard.

He claimed that there was no need for the government supervised secret ballot for strike votes, suggesting the votes taken in many of the unions were just as honest as those taken by the government in elections.

## Province Accused Of Unloading Tax On Municipalities

C. W. Morrow, Coalition, North Vancouver, told the B.C. Legislature Wednesday that the municipalities were shouldering the burden for the provincial government's school tax relief for unorganized territories.

"The municipalities find they cannot collect for school purposes in the unorganized districts on the basis of 1946 assessments and the government refuses to allow the municipalities to make any change in their mode of financing to help the situation," he said. "This means in effect that the cities not the government are giving the relief to the unorganized districts."

The member noted that taxes in Vernon were twice those of Oak Bay.

He reiterated his plea made last year for the Provincial government to pay magistrate's salaries and urged that a super-annuation scheme for magistrates be instituted.

Urging the government to irrigate 2,000 acres in the Vernon area, he said it would be a calamity to allow this and other great areas to dry up when they could be brought into service for people in Europe, hungry for fruits and vegetables.

Again he asked the government to build a road to Silver Star Park, 13 miles from Vernon. He mentioned the value of the park for skiing and as a tourist attraction.

Commending the increased expenditures for the Game Branch, he said it would be necessary to spend even larger sums to maintain game birds and fish in the future.

The member expressed disappointment that no mention had been made in the Speech from the Throne concerning a medical school at the University of B.C. He recommended that the government give the matter earnest consideration with the aim that an announcement would be forthcoming from the university before the House prorogues.

## Says Medical Men Overload Hospitals To Lighten Visits

W. J. Johnson, Coalition, Revelstoke, complained in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday that doctors were sending too many patients with minor ailments to Queen Victoria Hospital in Revelstoke.

A veteran of years of service as an engineer aboard C.P.R. mainline trains and a member of that hospital's board of directors, Mr. Johnson told of the difficulties of the C.P.R. Employees' Medical Association and of the hospital. He suggested that doctors were keeping patients in the hospital because it was easier for the doctor to visit them there than in their homes.

Likewise, too many patients consider that they are not getting a proper return on their investment in the health scheme unless they receive greater value in hospital care than their contributions.

Difficulties of the hospital at Vernon were explained by C. W.

Morrow, Coalition, North Okanagan, who charged that while the government would contribute only one-third of the cost of a new hospital there, two-thirds of the patients in the hospital came from unorganized territory. Mr. Morrow suggested that amendments should be made to the Health Act to permit voters in a large health area, rather than in Vernon city, to vote on the capital cost of the hospital.

Mr. Morrow spoke out against a compulsory hospitalization scheme and urged the government to try a scheme such as the Blue Cross with payments of say \$1 per month for single men over 18 years and \$1.50 per month for married men. He would put those who did not come under such a scheme in a position similar to those of drivers who carried no automobile insurance.

The member suggested half the people of the province would avail themselves of such a service but "you can't force people to take out hospital insurance." He asked members to recall what happened to the Jimmy Jones tax and the government that instituted it.

## Wisner To Wind Up Debate On Tuesday

Attorney-General and Labor Minister Gordon S. Wisner will wind up the debate on the Speech from the Throne in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday night, if current plans are followed, and Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb will present his budget to the House Wednesday afternoon.

Friday afternoon four speakers are scheduled to participate in the Throne Speech debate. They are J. H. Cates, Coalition, North Vancouver; Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie; Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, and Randolph Harding, C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan.



## FOR PROTECTION AT SEA

WITH THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED in the Legislature relative to the lack of protection afforded fishermen and other marine workers through the absence of a coast guard service on this coast, all British Columbians will agree. The toll exacted by the storms of the last few months is such that the deficiency has been disclosed in harsh terms. Some more effective rescue facilities than now exist are urgently required.

This does not imply that a coast guard could prevent every accident which occurs when seas run high. But it is intended to suggest that the men who contribute to the economic welfare of Canada in the fishing industry deserve more safeguards than they are now afforded.

The argument has been advanced in Ottawa that creation of a coast guard would be prohibitively expensive. The point is not without weight. On the other hand, could not existing marine services be extended to afford a higher degree of protection than now exists? As we have noted before in these columns, the fisheries branch is expanding, has several excellent craft and is staffed by capable men. Any representations British Columbia's legislators may make to the Dominion Government to improve life-saving and rescue equipment on such vessels would be deeply appreciated by the seaboard residents of this province.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1948

## Page Boys Relieved Of School Duties



Sgt. Rodney Hafer, chief of the nine page boys who run messages during the current session of the Provincial Legislative Assembly, shows Fred Barry the proper angle to wear his hat. The nine boys, of more than average standing in their classes, are freed of school chores during the meeting of the Legislature. They are expected to make up for their absence during the succeeding weeks of school.

## C.C.F. Member Flays Responsibility Plan For Autos In B.C.

British Columbia insurance companies will get a boost of about \$4,000,000 worth of business this year without any appreciable extra outlay through the government's highway responsibility plan, A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, told the B.C. Legislature Thursday.

His criticism of the plan brought a mild exchange from the government benches.

The fact that Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer had made arrangements with the insurance companies to meet any awards from the unsatisfied judgment fund, "indicates that they both must have felt guilty about foisting this whole costly monstrosity on the motorists," he said.

"I consider the whole thing is fraudulent," said Mr. Turner of the unsatisfied judgment fund, claiming that it only applied in the case of bodily injuries or death and then only if the claim exceeded \$100, and only after the injured person had gone through the courts.

Mr. Wismer asked Mr. Turner how else but through the courts would awards be made. Mr. Turner said he wasn't sure.

Mr. Turner went on to say that he understood only two awards had been made from the fund so far in Manitoba.

Mr. Wismer suggested that was because every one was covered with insurance.

Mr. Turner replied that 91 per cent of the possible victims were not covered.

"Are you serious?" asked Mr. Wismer.

"Yes."

"I'd like to see the figures," said Mr. Wismer, pointing out that the scheme was not a compensation scheme.

Mr. Turner said he was aware of this but what B.C. needed was a compensation scheme such as that operated by the Saskatchewan government.

"Insurance is one business which should rightfully be a public enterprise," he continued. "Insurance is not an industry; it produces no wealth."

"It is a huge system of gambling made safe and profitable for the bookmaker by the experience of the past. . . . It is parasitical."

He suggested the government should go into the fire and automobile insurance business.

"What about life?" asked Mr. Wismer.

Mr. Turner thought life insurance was a federal matter.

"What about the shoe business," asked A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver - Point Grey, alluding to Saskatchewan's undertaking.

"We'll come around to that when the government gets the boot," cracked back Mr. Turner.

He went on to say that the trail being blazed by Saskatchewan would be a challenge to the insurance companies and B.C. should go into the insurance business instead of talking about a sales tax and business tax to increase its revenue.

Turning to labor questions, Mr. Turner charged that while the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1947, had been advocated as a promoter of industrial peace, it had actually produced the greatest industrial disharmony.

"It is a serious matter," he said. "The I.C.A. Act is a tough baby."

He warned that the psychological factor must be considered, and advocated that the government supervised secret ballot be withdrawn.

## Urges Early Start On Medical School

Mrs. Tilly Rolston, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, suggested that British Columbia, in failing to build a medical school, was sponging on other medical schools.

She urged that some kind of medical school be started this year, as there were 150 to 200 students now in second-year medical studies.

"I'm worried about these boys and girls," she said. "If nothing is done this year they will possibly leave their chosen field."

Mrs. Rolston said that B.C. medical students were being trained in medical schools in eastern universities, U.S., and even Chinese universities. She questioned how a health insurance scheme could be carried out without these young people as doctors.

Mrs. Rolston's plea for a medical school was seconded by H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox, who said he was hoping against hope that Education Minister W. T. Straith would have an announcement to make on the subject.

Mrs. Rolston also pleaded that the Provincial government institute an immigration policy, saying that she thought the government should look to the United Kingdom for its immigrants and get its policy under way immediately.

## Logging Operators' Aid Suggested In Highway Planning

A plan to have logging interests on the northern half of the island assist in building the extension of the Island Highway from Campbell River or Sayward to Port Hardy was presented to the B.C. Legislature Thursday by H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox.

Mr. Welch suggested the works department put location crews in the area to map out the road, and then make arrangements with the loggers operating in the area to put their roads, wherever possible, on the site of the new location.

"In this way I am sure that the public works department would be able to complete a road from Victoria to Quatsino Sound in the not too distant future," he said.

## Economic Mrs.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1948

## First Legislative Committee Holds Meeting



The municipal affairs committee became the first of the Legislature's nine standing committees to get under way during the current session. On Thursday afternoon the committee met and named A. J. Hope, Coalition, Delta, chairman, and Thomas Love, Coalition, Grand Forks-Greenwood, secretary, and arranged to meet the executive of the Union of B.C. Municipalities next Thursday morning. Left to right: Seated—W. J. Johnson, Coalition, Revelstoke; Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle; Mr. Hope, D. C. Brown, Coalition, Vancouver-Burrard; standing—W. A. C. Bennett, Coalition, South Okanagan; W. H. Brett, C.C.F., Prince Rupert; A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East; C. W. Morrow, Coalition, North Okanagan; Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, and Mr. Love.

## Economically Unsound, Says Mrs. Tilly Rolston Of Sales Tax

The B.C. Legislature, which Monday heard strong arguments in favor of a retail sales tax to swell the provincial coffers, Thursday heard this form of taxation roundly condemned as unsound economically and politically.

Support for the sales tax came from A. R. MacDougall, Coalition government member from Vancouver-Point Grey. Condemning the tax with all stops out was Mrs. Tilly Rolston, also a government member for Vancouver-Point Grey. Both are Progressive Conservatives.

Economically, said Mrs. Rolston, the retail sales tax hits the low-income groups, the homes where there are families. Politically, she continued, any government commits suicide which puts it in.

"It's an unsound tax," said Mrs. Rolston. "The larger family pays the piper."

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Coalition, Yale, said Mrs. Rolston wasn't the only one who thought so.

"You can't sugar-coat this bill," said Mrs. Rolston. "Alberta had it for 10 years. Surely we can balance our budget here without the aid of this nuisance tax."

"Would you have a graduated tax?" she asked. "What about the tourist trade. Will the nuisance tax endear B.C. to the hearts of tourists?"

Mrs. Rolston said she had estimated that old-age pensioners would pay \$1.35 of their \$40 pension in the tax.

"I am speaking today to give

a woman's advice to this government should it be considering imposing such a tax—stop, look and listen, because you'll hear from the women of this province in no uncertain manner.

"I'm opposed 100 per cent," she said.

Mrs. Rolston suggested B.C. should review the Dominion-provincial tax agreement, get more money out of the forests.

## Governor Gives Assent To First Act

Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks this afternoon came to the Legislative Assembly to give royal assent to a bill which was rushed through the Legislature Thursday afternoon.

Because of a technicality it is necessary that the bill become law today. The bill is entitled "An Act to Validate the 1947 Annual Election for the Village of Osoyoos." Without the validation the village commissioners would be unable to carry on.

Preamble of the act points out that on Dec. 11, 1947, the electors of the village elected three qualified persons as commissioners, but under the provisions of the Village Municipalities Act the election was invalid in that only one commissioner may be elected at any annual election after the first annual election.

Since then the three commissioners have acted as the governing board for the village.

The act declares the three men to be the commissioners of the village, and deems that they were elected for three, two and one-year terms.

The legislation is the first put through during the current session.

## Agriculture Committee Elects King Chairman

Tom King, Coalition, Columbia, today was elected chairman of the legislative committee on agriculture. Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Coalition, Esquimalt, was selected secretary.

## Ottawa Neglectful Welch Tells House

A get tough attitude with Ottawa was advocated for B.C. by H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox, Thursday, who said in the B.C. Legislature "we are being altogether too polite with Ottawa."

Mr. Welch was referring to the failure of Ottawa to implement its Green Book proposals in connection with its Dominion-provincial tax agreements.

"It is my impression," he said "that we are being altogether too polite to Ottawa. As a business man it strikes me that a contract is a contract on both sides, and my understanding is that as a reward for the province vacating the income tax field the federal government would undertake a very much greater amount of social assistance and hospitals."

He said that B.C. should tell Ottawa in no uncertain terms that it expects them to fulfill their commitments forthwith.

## Brown, Winch Senior To Speak On Monday

Only two speakers are scheduled to take part in the debate on the Speech from the Throne on Monday afternoon in the B.C. Legislature.

They are both mainland members, D. C. Brown, Coalition, Vancouver-Burrard, and E. E. Winch, father of the C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, who represents Burnaby.

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## Logger-M.L.A. Suggests Tax For Sustaining Forest Yield

The only logger-member of the B.C. Legislature Thursday severely criticized British Columbia's sustained yield forestry program, saying that the law in its present form "is not in the best interests of the people of the province of British Columbia, nor the best interests of this government."

The indictment was made by Herbert J. Welch, Coalition, Comox, who suggested that sustained yield forestry should be undertaken by the government, with mature timber being sold to the logging concerns.

Mr. Welch, who operates a logging concern on 17,000 acres of up-Island land, admitted at the outset that what he was advocating was a direct reversal of his statements to the B.C. Legislature last year when laws to provide for sustained yield forestry were passed.

"I must raise my voice against the policy of alienating the public inheritance in perpetuity by the sole decision of a minister of the Crown to selected concerns," he said, adding that he did not like the word perpetuity.

"That is too long a time," he said. "Is it right that this Legislature grant by selection to any one person or persons the right to the use of the growing lands of the province of British Columbia in perpetuity?" he asked. "I feel that it is not."

### REFLECT ON GOVERNMENT

He said that the lands and forests minister would be forced to make decisions beyond the wisdom of Solomon, and that no matter to what one citizen or company he grants a management license there will be a great many citizens who are going to be dissatisfied. He added that the department would certainly become highly bureaucratic, and that doubt and criticism of the department's actions would reflect against the government.

Mr. Welch agreed that perpetual yield was necessary, but he said he believed that the people who should be responsible, financially and by logging method, for the restocking of the forests were those who harvest the original crop.

He said that every logger, large and small, working on Crown lands, should as a part of the cost of his product pay a sum to the Crown to provide for the restocking of Crown lands where natural restocking is not achieved. He added that he believed natural restocking can be assured by reasonable regulation of logging with regard to leaving seed trees, and said that he was proud that not one of the acres of his tract that has been logged has not been restocked naturally.

"Most loggers recognize this responsibility and are perfectly ready and willing to undertake it," he said.

"I believe that all young growing timber on Crown lands should remain in the Crown, and be sold on maturity to the highest bidder, as mature timber now is," he continued. "I believe further that all industry, new and old, should be encouraged by be-

ing guaranteed by the Crown the continuity of the principle of competitive bidding for new materials."

He suggested that by arbitrary grant of a perpetual yield contract a company might use this contract to finance its development, and such a contract might have a very definite monetary value. He said he did not believe that public domain should be used for the financing of private industry.

### 25c TAX URGED

As a guarantee of reforestation on all lands logged hereafter, Mr. Welch suggested that all loggers pay into a reforestation fund, to be operated by the forestry department. He suggested a levy of 25 cents per 1,000 f.b.m. and said this would bring an income of about \$1,000,000.

"It is my belief that should the policy of forest management by and within the Crown be adopted, then the forest service would be able sooner than otherwise, to initiate an overall sustained yield program," he said. "Should this involve a regulation of cut it would appear that it might thereby encourage greater utilization of the forest crop. This would be especially true in good times when prices are high and demand great."

If the government were committed in the application for a sustained yield forestry unit for the proposed pulp mill at Duncan Bay, north of Campbell River, "it may be advisable to grant one or two more, but there, I respectfully submit, it should stop, until such time as its effect on the economy of the province has been carefully studied."

## Monthly Sweepstake Urged By Uphill Before Sales Tax

The House Friday heard Tom Uphill, lone Labor member from Fernie, who probably has the ability to provoke more laughs and smiles than any other member, but always throws in some Uphill wisdom.

The oldest member—he will be 74 next June—who has also spent more time in the Legislature than any other member—he was first elected in 1920 and has won every election since—started his 25 minutes' address in a serious vein, calling on the government to increase the pensions for the aged, for retired civil servants, for widows of men killed in industrial accidents, and for those receiving other social allowances.

As in previous years Mr. Uphill recommended sweepstakes to the government, suggesting them as an alternative to the proposed sales tax to help finance the government.

### SUGGESTS THREE-MAN BOARD

Mr. Uphill went further than in previous years, however, suggesting a three-man board to administer the sweepstakes. His selection: Eamon de Valera, former premier of Eire; John Hart, former premier of B.C., and C. F. Moriarty, Victoria correspondent for the Canadian Press.

Furthermore, Mr. Uphill suggested, if Ottawa wouldn't amend its laws concerning sweepstakes, British Columbia should proceed with its plan anyway, for "I'm sure they would close their eyes."

A sweepstake a month was urged by Mr. Uphill, and he thought millions would be secured through sale of tickets in the U.S.

Removal of the government

supervised strike vote clause in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1947, was also recommended by Mr. Uphill. He warned that there was no way to stop strikes and unions resented the supervision just as much as the government caucus would resent it if Harold Pritchett or Harvey Murphy supervised their votes. Mr. Pritchett is district president of the International Woodworkers of America and Mr. Murphy is regional director of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

Not long afterwards he admitted he "had run out of gas" and sat down.

## Education Seen As Solution To Doukhobor Problem

Randolph Harding, C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan, told the B.C. Legislature Friday that any solution to British Columbia's vexing Doukhobor problem must of necessity come along educational lines.

Outlining the problem of the Doukhobors from 1654, when the introduction of a new prayer book in Russia created a religious controversy out of which the Doukhobor sects arose, Mr. Harding claimed that 1947 had been the worst year in B.C. history for parades and burnings, and claimed that many persons of the southern interior of the province lived in constant fear of losing their homes "for one never knows from day to day if our schools, bridges, ferries, will be there on the morrow."

Recommending education as necessary to the solution of the problem, Mr. Harding said he believed also in a strict enforcement of Canadian laws and that he believed nothing could be accomplished by relaxing regulations in favor of any minority group.

Speaking of the proposed reclamation project at Duck Lake in the southern interior, Mr. Harding said the area was the finest resting and feeding ground for ducks and geese in the whole province and that many hundreds of migratory water fowl used the area for a refuge during the migratory period.

Opposition to its drainage was province wide, he said, and came from game clubs, the game department in the U.S. and from other organized groups throughout the country.

"Drainage of the lake would cause the water-fowl to converge on other feeding grounds where they would be more easily hunted," he said.

## Three Members Give Views On Keeping Milk Price Down

Members of three parties of the House told the Provincial government Friday how to keep milk prices down.

J. H. Cates, Coalition, North Vancouver, suggested a subsidy, saying a further increase in the price of milk might result in increased costs for health services. Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, said surely if the Dominion government could continue to subsidize the steel industry it could continue to subsidize feed grains. Tom Uphill, lone Labor member, suggested distribution costs should be slashed by the government taking over the retailing of milk.

Mr. Cates reasoned as follows: A rise in the price of milk would result in a reduction of consumption, which would result in less milk for children, which would result in poorer health of children, which would result in increased costs for health services.

"We can't afford to see the farmer lose either," he went on

to say, "otherwise there would be a falling off of production."

Mr. Cates suggested the subsidy should only be for a temporary period—until costs came down to the point where the farmers could make money.

Mr. Guthrie spoke of the problem of the farmer, saying he didn't know of a single young man on a farm between Cobble Hill and Nanaimo.

"I think I can tell the House how we can get cheaper milk," he said, recommending the subsidy on feed grains and recalling that these subsidies had been withdrawn soon after the end of the war while the subsidy on steel continued.

Mr. Guthrie also recalled that one-third of the people of Canada were engaged in farming while receiving but one-sixth of the national income.

Mr. Uphill, reporting that he had seen milk wagons around while going home early one morning, said he would expand the present provincial milk board and have it take over milk deliveries.

## Provincial On Crown

Substantial provincial government timber cut on Crown land for the sale of woodlots and plots of 1000 revolving for logging companies and bridges, amendments to introduced in Legislature Friday.

The bill, which is the most important legislation introduced in the Legislature since the current session was introduced by Lands Minister E. T. Kenney.

The increase will increase the government's revenue by a considerable amount, exact estimate will be announced Wednesday in dress.

In the Vancouver district, which includes Vancouver Island and more timber than any other district, the previous royalties, per acre, were as follows:

Grade 1, \$3 (\$1.50); Grade 2, \$1.50 (75c).

The royalty shingle bolts 50 to 75 cents royalty for tie 2 1/2 cents to 4.

Under the new act a bona-fide not own any forest land is during 10,000 per year, may the minister of an area of exceed 640 ac productive can than 10,000 c

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## Province Boosts Royalties On Crown Timber Land Cut

Substantial boosts in the Provincial government's royalties on timber cut on Crown lands, provision for the setting up of farm woodlots and plans for a \$2,500,000 revolving fund to assist logging companies in building roads and bridges, are contained in amendments to the Forest Act introduced in the Provincial Legislature Friday.

The bill, a nine-page affair, which is the most important government legislation placed before the Legislature to date during the current session, was introduced by Lands and Forest Minister E. T. Kenney.

The increases in the royalties will increase the Provincial government's revenue from forests by a considerable amount. The exact estimate of this increase will be announced by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb next Wednesday in his budget address.

In the Vancouver forest district, which includes all Vancouver Island and which produces more timber than any other district of the province, the new royalties, per 1,000 f.b.m., with the previous royalties in brackets following, are:

Fir, cedar, spruce and pine—Grade 1, \$3 (\$2); Grade 2, \$2 (\$1.50); Grade 3, \$1 (75c). Hemlock—Grade 1, \$2 (\$1.50); Grade 2, \$1.50 (\$1); Grade 3, \$1 (75c).

The royalty to be paid on shingle bolts is increased from 50 to 75 cents per cord, while the royalty for ties is increased from 2½ cents to 4 cents each.

Under the amendments to the act a bona-fide farmer who does not own any forest land or whose forest land is not capable of producing 10,000 cubic feet of wood per year, may have reserved by the minister of lands and forests an area of forest land not to exceed 640 acres, or an area of productive capacity of not more than 10,000 cubic feet of wood per year, or an area sufficient to bring the combined capacities of the farmer's privately owned land and the proposed additions to 10,000 cubic feet per year.

### FARMERS' WOOD LOTS

The bill provides that where an applicant farmer is possessed of privately owned forest lands, no farm woodlot license will be issued unless the privately owned lands are combined with the Crown lands and the whole managed as a unit.

The woodlot must be appurtenant to the farm property and it may not be sold or transferred. Should the farm be disposed of, the woodlot will revert unconditionally to the Crown, but the minister may re-allot the same woodlot to the new farmer.

It will be required that the woodlot lands shall be kept stocked with trees, shall be managed for a perpetual yield, and the estimated yield harvested annually or periodically.

A deposit of \$50 is required at the time the license for a woodlot is issued, and the license may require that this sum be in-

creased per unit of materials used to a maximum of \$250.

The Crown will not collect land tax or forest protection taxes on the woodlots, but the licensee will have to pay stumpage fees.

The amending bill has no provision for major changes in principle on forest management licenses, but does contain some technical changes.

The \$2,500,000 revolving fund to be loaned to logging companies for building roads and bridges will be known as the Forest Development Fund.

The fund "shall be used by the minister at his discretion for the building, or financing of building, of forest roads, road systems and bridges designed for the better, more orderly or more economical harvest of timber and forest products in the interests of sustained-yield forest management, and for the maintenance and repair thereof," says the amending bill.

It is provided that the forest department may also use the fund for the same purpose.

Provision is made for repayment of the fund at a rate per unit of timber or other forest products carried over the road or bridge built with the loan from the fund. The Crown will have a lien for the amount payable and for all expenses of seizure upon all engines, logging plant, equipment, motor-vehicles and material used in the operation in connection with which the road or bridge was used.

## Member Advocates Grain Shipments Through B.C. Ports

British Columbia should make representations to assure that a portion of Canada's huge grain shipments are routed through Pacific coast ports, J. H. Cates, Coalition, North Vancouver, told the B.C. Legislature Friday.

While as much as 100,000,000 bushels of grain had been shipped through B.C. ports per crop year, due to control it is estimated shipments for the 1947-48 crop year will total only 35,000,000 to 38,000,000 bushels, he said.

"When it is considered that each ocean vessel entering and loading in coast ports leaves an average of \$20,000 for labor services, ships' stores, repairs and other incidentals, a loss of ships means a loss of revenue greatly affecting the economy of our province when upwards of 700 ocean vessels come here per year leaving approximately \$14,000,000," he said.

Proprietor of a tug boat business, Mr. Cates said that grain was a complementary cargo to lumber and for economic shipment of B.C.'s forest products overseas it was most desirable to see grain routed through B.C. ports. He said a ship carrying 2,000 tons of grain in her lower holds could carry almost as much

lumber as she could if her cargo consisted of lumber alone, and the grain brought greater stability.

He said that liners going through the Panama to Europe also liked grain for ballast and for fill-up cargo.

## Guthrie Complains Car Insurance Plan Enriches Companies

British Columbia's highway responsibility plan, which came into effect the first of this month, was described in the B.C. Legislature Friday by Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, as a scheme to enrich the insurance companies rather than a scheme to help the people.

Mr. Guthrie said that the scheme looked very much like compulsory insurance to him and charged that insurance companies were taking only good risks. He referred to two letters from Duncan old-age pensioners claiming they had been refused insurance by firms there.

"I don't think they'd do that in Saskatchewan," said the C.C.F. member. He compared rates for automobile insurance in B.C. with those of Saskatchewan, finding them more than twice as high.

"The government could do it a good deal cheaper and better," he said.

Mr. Guthrie took the government to task on several questions, including the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1947. He said he had worked in the mines, in the woods and elsewhere and had never seen a strike vote taken but in a manner similar to a provincial election. He said the ballot boxes were even similar.

He pleaded for the abolition of the means test for recipients of old-age pensions, for lowering of the age at which pensions could be received.

Turning to housing problems, Mr. Guthrie charged that Canada was lending money to European countries to get B.C. lumber to build homes there, yet B.C. needed that lumber.

The member contended that it was not the wages of the workmen but the profits of the builders which were forcing the cost of houses up. He quoted a group of statistics to support his contention.

Charging that a steel cartel had prevented the establishment of a steel industry in British Columbia, Mr. Guthrie suggested that the government, spending \$30,000,000 on the development of electric power should spend a few million for a steel mill.

Mr. Guthrie found Socialism as the answer to most of the problems he discussed but feared that he could not make the slightest impression on the government members and that they would return next session with the same arguments for the "beloved free enterprise" system.

## First Night Sitting Scheduled For Tonight

The B.C. Legislature will hold its first night sitting of the current session tonight in an effort to wind up the debate on the Speech from the Throne in time to present the budget Wednesday.

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, is the first speaker scheduled for tonight's sitting. He will be followed by A. J. McDonnell, Coalition, Vancouver-Centre.

Attorney General and Labor Minister Gordon S. Wismer will adjourn the debate tonight and is the only speaker scheduled for Tuesday.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb will present his budget Wednesday.



## Farmers' Institutes Board Passes On 15 New Resolutions

Fifteen resolutions were carried by the advisory board of farmers' institutes in the Legislative Buildings this morning to be passed on to the legislative agriculture committee. Four affected the Attorney-General's Department, four affected the Lands and Forests Department, and seven the Public Works Department.

Resolutions affecting the Attorney-General's Department sought:

Research to find the most practical method to increase the sporting fish population of the 1,000,000 acres of lakes in the Nechaco district.

More migratory bird sanctuaries established on lakes adjacent to main highways in the Shuswap-Okanagan district.

Every effort be made by the B.C. Game Commission to keep down predatory animals.

Continued bounties on predatory animals, with an increased staff of predatory animal hunters and provision of a game fund in connection with both matters.

Resolutions affecting the Lands and Forests Departments sought:

A forest conservation program for the Peace River district.

Assumption of greater responsibility by the department in regulating and controlling all matters pertaining to grazing and range improvement in the East Kootenay district, particularly in the Cranbrook grazing area.

Removal of charges on reverted government lands, so as to be open for pre-emption.

A Provincial government survey of all water sheds in the Okanagan Valley, and adjacent areas, with a view to taking over all irrigation systems in the Okanagan and putting more land under cultivation, allotting water supplies and equalizing rates, also ditching and flood control, and that every effort be made to enlist the Dominion government's assistance along the lines of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act.

Resolutions affecting the department of public works sought:

A traffic bridge across the North Thompson River in the immediate vicinity of Little Fort.

A bridge across the Kiskatinaw River between Sunset Prairie and Sunrise Valley.

Removal of brush along the sides of highways.

Installation of power equipment to spray roadsides to kill noxious weeds.

Completion of the unfinished portion of the Jasper-Prince George link of the Northern Trans-Canada route.

Better roads in the Shuswap-Okanagan district.

Completion of the Fort St. John cut-off commencing at Sunset Prairie and running north to a point on the Alaska Highway known as ten Mile Corner.

On Monday afternoon, the board passed resolutions seeking:

Continuation of the feed grain

subsidy after July 1, and extension of the policy to grain-growing sections of B.C.

Arrangement by the government for sufficient breaking outfits to plow land in the Vanderhoof area of Nechaco district which had been cleared under the government land-clearing project.

Alteration of forestry regulations requiring win-rows of brush, roots and earth left by land-clearing machines to be cut into 50-foot lengths before a permit to burn is granted. It was claimed too much work was involved.

Appointment of one or more weed inspectors for Nechaco district.

Active measures and more rigid enforcement of weed control by both the Public Works Department and rural municipalities in Shuswap-Okanagan district.

More money for weed control in the Peace River district and lengthening of time of weed control.

All B.C. cattle be T.B. tested, instead of only dairy cattle.

T.B. testing by the government veterinarian with blood samples for testing for Bangs disease at the same time.

## C.C.F. Member Says Electors Misled In B.C. By-elections

The B.C. Government deliberately misled voters in the Saanich and Cariboo by-elections, by failing to tell what he called the province's awful financial mess, Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., MacKenzie, said in the B.C. Legislature Monday.

He read accounts of campaign speeches by government members and said: "The primary purpose of this was to dangle before the people of Canada some nice juicy crumbs for which they jumped. Brother, what you wouldn't do to get one seat is nobody's business."

He also charged that announcements of money to be spent on various projects before the House met "were close to bribery," and that the government in its Japanese stand had made a "disgraceful exhibition of racial antagonism."

The government, he said, with the largest revenues ever received by a B.C. government was now broke and had to find new sources of revenue.

"We were assured by the Wizard of Ireland, the modern Mother Hubbard (former Premier John Hart), that the tax agreements (with Ottawa) would bring financial stability for years," he continued. "Now we find Ottawa was just a little too smart for us, even for this great financial wizard."

Mr. Hart jumped up at this point to remind that his deal with Ottawa had resulted in Saskatchewan getting another \$2,000,000 in its Dominion-Provincial agreement.

"We've got to be frank enough to admit we didn't make a very good deal with Ottawa," he said.

## Says Oil Companies Trying To Break Present Control

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., MacKenzie, suggested in the B.C. Legislature Monday that the government, rather than boosting the price of gasoline, should merely have fixed a ceiling price so that the efficient refining companies could compete with the less efficient producers.

"What we are doing with the 4½-cent increase is subsidizing the efficient operation of the Imperial Oil," he said, quoting statistics from the report of Touche & Co., chartered accountants employed by the Coal and Petroleum Control Board, which showed that with the 4½-cent boost Standard Oil would make a return on its capital after providing for taxes and other expenses of 12.23 per cent; Shell Oil 11.25 per cent and Imperial 4.75 per cent.

The member said that judged by modern standards the loco plant of the Imperial Oil was outdated, while Shell had a new cracking plant and Standard had a relatively modern plant.

With a 3.2-cent increase Standard could have made 8.87 per cent on capital, Shell 7.04 per cent and Imperial would have broken even, he said, continuing to draw his information from the Touche & Co. report.

Premier Byron Johnson interrupted Mr. Gargrave to suggest that the problem was the importing of gasoline.

Mr. Gargrave went on to say that he believed the oil companies were trying to break the present control of the petroleum industry and they would win this if the government continued to baby them along.

"The present action is but another example of this government's capitulation to big business interests," he said.

Mr. Gargrave also contended that the oil companies were deliberately producing more fuel oil because they can make greater profit on this than gasoline.

He reported that in 1946 output of fuel oil by the plants of three companies was as follows: Imperial 44.95 per cent, Standard 59.47 per cent, and Shell 54.86 per cent. During the same year output of gasoline was as follows: Imperial 33.41 per cent, Standard 28.86 per cent, and Shell 28.76 per cent.

Prices of fuel oil, he said, were not controlled and the consumers were paying double what they were a few years ago.

## McDonnell Proposes Furnace Steel Mill At Campbell River

Strong argument for the establishment of an electric furnace steel mill drawing power from the John Hart Development at Campbell River were presented to the B.C. Legislature Monday night by A. J. McDonnell, Coalition, Vancouver Centre.

Operator of a foundry in Vancouver, Mr. McDonnell said that since the war price of coal and coke, used in tremendous quantities in the blast furnace and open hearth processes of producing steel, had doubled, but the price of electric power has not increased.

"That factor," he said, "is what I believe makes possible the establishment of a basic iron and steel industry based on our native ores and produced by the electrical furnace process at a cost that will be competitive from now on with iron and steel produced in other parts of America by the blast furnace or open hearth process."

Mr. McDonnell said that depletion of iron deposits in Minnesota, source of ores for nearly all the steel mills in America, was another factor favoring the establishment of a steel mill in B.C. Ore from Labrador, being investigated as a new source of iron, would cost a considerable sum more than that supplied from Minnesota, he said.

The member also pointed out that it was necessary to add a ton of scrap steel to each ton of ore put into a blast furnace and the cost of scrap steel had risen from \$7 to \$25 a ton. In the electric process it is not necessary to add scrap steel.

The steel rolling mill in Vancouver, expected to be in production next month, the member continued, within two or three years, will need to augment its supply of scrap steel by basic steel billets and thus offers a market for the products of the proposed basic iron and steel industry.

He added that while it was not possible to produce steel and iron by the blast furnace or open hearth process economically in quantities of less than 250 tons a day, and B.C. could not find a market for that quantity, it is economical to produce as low as 100 tons a day by the electric furnace process and B.C. could find a market for that quantity.

## M.L.A. For Ma

If the truth were of the illegal strike been promoted, clique in Moscow agents operating on coast, D.C. B. Vancouver-Burr

Legislature Monday. "The curious is that here in Communists to tem, our leadership, excite all sorts of tur actions for wh shot or sent to camp if comm said the mem violent attack here in the E current session

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## Close Deb Speech Fr

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## M.L.A. Blames Moscow Clique For Many Illegal B.C. Strikes

If the truth were known many of the illegal strikes in B.C. have been promoted by the Kremlin clique in Moscow, through Stalin agents operating on the Pacific coast, D.C. Brown, Coalition, Vancouver-Burrard, told the B.C. Legislature Monday afternoon.

"The curious fact about it all is that here in Canada we allow Communists to attack our system, our leaders and our government, excite strikes and cause all sorts of turmoil and trouble, actions for which we would be shot or sent to a concentration camp if committed in Russia," said the member, in the most violent attack on Communism here in the House during the current session.

Mr. Brown suggested that labor unions with proven Communists in charge of their affairs should be given little or no recognition by the Labor Relations Board and should not be permitted to use its facilities. He said Communism was democracy's number one enemy, and the time had come when those who love liberty must speak out against it, and all governing bodies particularly

must keep on their toes in combating this menace.

"The Communists are spending in B.C. alone very large sums of money annually in propaganda and Red literature for one purpose only, and that is to destroy our democratic and free enterprise way of life," he said. "Please let us get this into our heads, that the Communists, by Trojan horse and cunning methods, are worming their way into our basic institutions for the kill and we are not doing very much about it."

He said the objective was to set up a world Soviet order.

Speaking of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1947, Mr. Brown said that he believed it was in the best interests of the workers, management and the public to have a secret government supervised strike ballot if conciliation of labor disputes fails.

"To my mind it is ridiculous to allege that this government is incapable of carrying out or administering its duty in this connection," he said.

## New M.L.A.'s Take Seats Today



Two new Coalition members of the Provincial Legislature as they were sworn in at 11.30 this morning. Left is R. S. Stuart Yates, Clerk of the House; Arthur J. R. Ash, centre, Saanich Coalition member, and Walter Hogg, Coalition member for the Cariboo.

## Amendment Eases Restrictions On Physicians' Funds

Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson Monday introduced in the B.C. Legislature legislation to ease the restrictions on the purse of the B.C. Medical Association.

Amendments to the Medical Act will give the College of Physicians and Surgeons power to use its funds to assist members, and members of their families; to advance scientific knowledge or medical education; for any purpose related to the practice of medicine, surgery or mid-wifery, or to promote the objects of the college.

Amendments to the Industrial School for Boys Act and the Industrial School for Girls Act, also introduced by Mr. Pearson, as health and welfare minister, provide for the superintendent of child welfare to recommend admission of boys and girls to these schools.

Minor amendments to the Trust Companies Act and the Jubilee Hospital Amendment Act, 1894, were also introduced by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb and Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Victoria M.L.A., respectively.

## Wants More Control Of Cars At Schools

A new system of traffic regulations for school zones was recommended to the B.C. government in the legislature Monday afternoon.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, urged the abolition of the present all-day 15 m.p.h. traffic rule for school zones and clamping the control on school zones only during hours when the children were not in the classrooms. He suggested the control then should be more rigid than at the present time.

## Only Blind Persons May Use White Canes

Use of white canes by persons other than the blind will be made unlawful in British Columbia by a bill introduced in the B.C. Legislature Monday by Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson.

The bill provides for a fine of up to \$25 for persons convicted under the act.

For purposes of the act a blind person is one described as a person registered as blind by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, one in receipt of a pension for blindness under the Old Age Pensions Act or one who has been certified by a medical practitioner or an optometrist as having not more than 6/60 vision in the better eye after correction with glasses.

## Age Limit Cut For Nurses In Training

British Columbia, in an effort to encourage girls to enter the nursing profession, will lower the age limit for admittance to nursing schools from 19 to 18.

Provision for this is made in an amendment to the Registered Nurses Act introduced in the B.C. Legislature Monday by Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson. The educational requirement, university entrance, or its equivalent, is maintained.

Amendment of the act will permit the average girl to go directly into a nursing school on completion of her high school. As the act now stands the average girl has to wait a year before admittance.

## Close Debate On Speech From Throne

The debate on the Speech from the Throne, which has occupied the House since the day following the March 2 opening, was wound up this afternoon in the B.C. Legislature.

Attorney-General and Labor Minister Gordon S. Wismer was the last government speaker in the debate which saw all 10 members of the C.C.F. Party and 14 government members, including Premier Johnson and Mr. Wismer, taking part.

The C.C.F. opposition attack on the government during the debate was wound up Monday night by Herbert Gargrave, Mackenzie, whip of the C.C.F. Last private member to speak was A. J. McDonnell, Vancouver Centre, a government member.

The motion, moved by Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition, Victoria, that "We, His Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, in session assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honor for the gracious speech which Your Honor has addressed to us at the opening of the present session," was finally put after Mr. Wismer's speech.

While the debate is theoretically confined to the statements in the Speech from the Throne, the speakers ranged over a wide variety of topics.

## Takes Seat Next Week



Dr. G. M. Weir, former minister of education, is expected to take his seat in the House for the first time during the current session on Wednesday, the Legislature was told Monday afternoon.

Ill since shortly after the adjournment of the last session last April, Dr. Weir, who represents Vancouver-Burrard constituency, relinquished the education portfolio to W. T. Stralith.

D. C. Brown, Vancouver-Burrard, told the House that Dr. Weir, if he is able to effect his present plans, will be in the House to hear Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb present his budget.



## Farmers' Institute Advisory Board Meets Here



Ten members of the advisory board of Farmers' Institutes for B.C. are in session at the Parliament Buildings today screening more than 100 resolutions from various institutes in preparation for presenting them to the legislative agricultural committee. Shown in session are, left to right, seated: A. B. Smith, Cranbrook; A. H. Pepper, Ioco; William Harrison, Kamloops, board president; W. J. Bonavia, Victoria, secretary; J. Woodburn, Salmon Arm, vice-president; E. Greenlee, Canim Lake; and Kenneth Wallace, Boswell; standing, T. E. Gerhardt, Fort Fraser; George Brandon, Talkwa; A. R. Hiscock, Victoria; Ted Dunn, Peace River, and L. W. Johnson, Vancouver, superintendent of Farmers' Institutes for the Provincial government.

## C.C.F. Members Hotly Resent Charges Of Union With L.P.P.

A. J. McDonnell, Coalition, Vancouver Centre, with C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch protesting and Mr. Speaker Carson's bell clanging, Monday night told the B.C. Legislature that a second coalition of the Labor Progressive Party and the C.C.F., had been formed in B.C.

The member suggested Mr. Winch no longer represented the C.C.F. but the new coalition, after an invitation had been issued by Mr. Winch in a Vancouver address.

Then the short-lived fireworks began.

"Don't be silly," said E. E. Winch, father of the opposition leader who represents Burnaby.

Opposition Leader Winch rose to say that Mr. McDonnell was "absolutely and positively incorrect."

"There never has been any invitation," he said. "There never has been any understanding between the C.C.F. and L.P.P. There isn't now and there never will be."

Mr. McDonnell tried to continue only to be halted by the Speaker's bell. He was asked to accept Mr. Winch's statement.

"I said at the outset I was stating facts from my own knowledge," he continued.

"He must accept that statement," replied Mr. Winch.

"I suggest the Hon. Member's..."

Again he was halted by the bell and told he cannot place an interpretation on what a member said.

He accepted Mr. Winch's statement.

"I repeat," he continued, "this much: The Hon. Members may place their own interpretation."

Later he quoted Mr. Winch as saying that "we must fight with every means with our power to wipe out capitalism and private enterprise and bring about a National Socialist state."

"I never made any such statement in my life," said Opposition Leader Winch.

"He made it that night in my hearing," replied Mr. McDonnell.

"Make allowance for senility," counselled the elder Winch.

Again Mr. McDonnell was forced by Mr. Speaker to accept the denial.

## Sales Tax Equitable, Says Vancouver-Burrard Member

Further support for a provincial sales tax from the Progressive Conservative wing of the Coalition government was given in the B.C. Legislature Monday afternoon by D. C. Brown, member for Vancouver-Burrard.

But Mr. Brown said that if the government did institute a sales tax there must be a definite and unconditional provision incorporated in the act that not one red cent could be used for any purpose other than to help finance education and pay for the province's share of social services.

"The more I investigate the sales tax method of raising revenue the more I become convinced that it is an equitable and realistically fine and contributory way of deriving needed revenue," said the member. "It certainly is in keeping with the ability to pay idea, and that is of paramount importance."

Mr. Brown, however, contended that there was no argument that the cost of social services largely should be borne by the federal government, especially when its budget surpluses are running into hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

"It is their responsibility and Ottawa knows that they have got to give us a better deal in this regard," he said, suggesting the sales tax if the Provincial government is forced to tap new sources of revenue after the federal administration has paid its share.

The member said that if the cost of living is going to level off at its current level, old age pensions will have to be increased under a contributory scheme of some kind, allowances for unemployable persons, mothers and children in need and the blind will have to be revised.

He suggested that if Ottawa does not do something shortly about the urgent need for health insurance, the Provincial government will have to make a start on some contributory plan. He warned that excuses would not be tolerated any longer.

## Winch Adv Medical Cl Treat Drug

Establishment medical clinics narcotic addicts serving minimum drugs was advocated by Winch, C.C.F., reported he had support for this plan of the B.C. m

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Mr. Winch also concerning the suggestion that be established of narcotic ad to their rehabilitation the support while 21 opposed he said.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1948

## Winch Advocates Medical Clinics To Treat Drug Addicts

Establishment of legalized medical clinics to treat chronic narcotic addicts with administering minimum amounts of drugs was advocated in the B.C. Legislature Monday by E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, who reported he had won further support for this plan from members of the B.C. medical profession.

Reporting that he had found support of 16 of 17 Victoria doctors replying to a questionnaire he had sent out on his suggestion previously, Mr. Winch told the House Monday he had outlined his plan to 900 doctors throughout the province. Two hundred and fifty-five had expressed approval of his proposal while 70 had opposed it.

Mr. Winch also queried doctors concerning their opinion to the suggestion that a hospital should be established for the treatment of narcotic addicts with a view to their rehabilitation. This won the support of 352 doctors, while 21 opposed the suggestion, he said.

He urged that treatment of these addicts should be placed in the hands of the medical and educational professions.

"Keep the Department of Justice out of the jails," he urged. "Their job, so far as it belongs anywhere, should finish at the gate."

Mr. Winch said that 200 of the doctors he queried had made additional comments, and he read some of them to the House. A majority of them expressed strong approval of his plans.

### READS REPORTS

Most of Mr. Winch's address was devoted to reading of various reports on the problem of narcotic addiction.

He brought out the following information: That narcotic addiction costs Vancouver \$1,000,000 a year; that 10 per cent of the commitments to Oakalla prison farm were addicts; that 59 per cent of the 52 addicts investigated in an R.C.M.P. inquiry were found to be of British extraction; that two out of three of these were first arrested at the average age of just below 17 years, well before they started to use drugs; over half of them started using drugs at the average age of 17; that the price of opium on the street was now \$10 to \$12 a grain, compared with \$20 in 1945.

Mr. Winch also read from a book which said that in England narcotic addicts could receive narcotics from doctors, and there was less addiction there than in the U.S.

If doctors were permitted to give narcotics to narcotic addicts, Mr. Winch contended the drug peddler would disappear, new addicts would be speedily discovered and treatment would be easier. The necessity of narcotic addicts to steal and kill to get narcotics would be eliminated.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1948

# B.C. To Levy 3 Per Cent Retail Sales Tax

## Municipalities To Get Third Of \$12,000,000, Says Anscomb In Budget

The British Columbia government shortly will levy a 3 per cent retail sales tax which will draw an estimated \$12,000,000 out of the pockets of taxpayers, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb announced this afternoon in the B.C. Legislature.

Municipalities will get \$4,000,000 from the sales tax revenues.

In his second budget address, which calls for a revenue of \$77,616,309 and expenditures of \$77,449,869, leaving a surplus of \$166,440, Mr. Anscomb said there was no alternative but to levy the sales tax.

"It is my intention to recommend to this House," he said, "that liberal exemptions be granted from the tax for food for human consumption.

"While this will seriously impair our revenue from the tax, it meets, in a large measure, the objection that the lower income group bears a disproportionate share of the burden."

After one-third of the tax has been apportioned among the municipalities as special aid, the balance of the \$12,000,000 will go to carry a substantial portion of provincial social service and old-age pension costs, the minister said.

What exemptions the government will grant in the sales tax will not be announced until the bill to provide for its levy is introduced in the House.

"The amount of the tax is anticipated to grow in volume from year to year, particularly

if the people as well as new capital continue to come to B.C. at the present rate," he said.

Mr. Anscomb noted, apparently answering municipal officials who had claimed that the municipalities deserved more than one-third of the 3 per cent tax, that based solely on population the collection within municipal areas at 3 per cent would amount to about \$9,000,000, but to assume that all sales made within a municipal area were of articles for use therein would be "a most erroneous assumption."

## 50% Return For Municipalities

Considering that a great deal of heavy machinery and equipment would be purchased within municipalities but utilized outside such areas and that the tax on such should not equitably be considered a municipal share, "we will find that the proposed grant of \$4,000,000 rather than being but one-third of the total is approximately 50 per cent of the return from sales within such municipal areas," he said.

The minister emphasized that the prime reason for the imposition of the sales tax was the increasing burden of social service costs.

"Over a period of the last 15 years there has been a rather considerable revision in the thinking with regard to this tax, and it is now accepted as being a logical source of funds, particu-

Questions concerning how the tax will be administered, whether by a token system or exempting minor purchases, were not answered by Mr. Anscomb.

The budget address, which contained upwards of 16,000 words and was 65 pages in extent, is on all counts the greatest ever read in the B.C. Legislature. The expenditure of \$77,500,000 this year compares with the budget appropriations of less than \$59,000,000 for the current fiscal year which will end March 31.

Actual expenditures during the current fiscal year, however, are expected to total \$65,674,000, he reported.

Mr. Anscomb noted that the sum proposed for the coming fiscal year for social services,

largely where the increased costs of social services make greater revenue necessary," he said, noting that 24 states of the U.S. and two provinces of Canada have sales taxes.

not including education, was slightly more than \$20,000,000—almost as much as the total revenue the Tolmie government at one time had to run the entire province.

## 15% Of Revenue For Debt Charge

Some of the highlights of the speech follow:

1. 1948-49 debt charges will require only 14.7 per cent of total revenue, compared with 21.3 during present fiscal year.

2. Costs of revenue productive services, such as mines, roads, forest, will rise from \$7,000,000 to \$17,500,000.

3. Cost of general government services, including direct special municipal aid, up from \$8,800,000 to \$15,700,000.

4. \$1,100,000 will be distributed as special aid to rural school districts to relieve tax burdens.

5. Province's surplus of assets over liabilities \$75,050,558 last March 31.

6. Provincial net debt reduced by \$10,242,377 to \$122,406,186 on Dec. 31, 1947.

7. Issues maturing during 1948 and early 1949 will be repaid from sinking funds.

8. Province in strongest position in so far as debt concerned, with net debt per capita reduced from \$177.74 to \$116.58.

9. Last year B.C. received most favorable terms in history in sale of bonds—2.565 per cent.

10. Belief expressed peak of inflationary spiral apparently not yet reached.

11. Increases in timber royalties expected to bring \$900,000.

12. \$9,370,000 required for road maintenance compared with \$4,280,000 spent during 1945-46.

13. Expenditures on capital account for highways and bridges will total \$9,900,000, coming from loans and revenue surplus.

14. \$2,750,000 to be spent on steel and concrete bridges out of existing loan acts.

15. \$1,000,000 will be set aside from a new loan act for public works equipment.

16. P.G.E. borrowing powers will be increased by \$5,000,000.

17. The province will borrow \$2,500,000 for revolving fund for forestry roads program for industry.

18. Ottawa called on to hold another Dominion provincial conference to implement social security proposals.

19. Municipalities will receive total of \$17,988,000 from province during next fiscal year.

20. B.C. Power Commission expects to spend \$11,000,000 for power development or acquisition of existing plants.

Further budget details on Page Seven.

## Winch To Open Debate On Budget Thursday

The budget debate, with C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch leading off, will get underway in the B.C. Legislature Thursday following the presentation of the budget address today by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

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## Provincial Debt Down \$10,242,377; Now \$116 Per Head

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, reporting a decrease in the net debt of the province by \$10,242,377 during 1947, told the B.C. Legislature today that at no time during the past 30 years was the province in as strong a position as today in respect to its public debt.

While the net debt decreased to \$122,406,186, the gross debt rose to \$165,702,659, by \$7,536,460. The net debt is secured by subtracting from the gross debt sinking funds held by the province, amounting to \$24,296,472, and the amount of debt incurred for the B.C. Power Commission which is deemed self-liquidating. This is \$19,000,000.

Of the gross debt \$106,197,859 is payable in Canada only; \$7,275,000 payable in sterling only; \$48,229,800 in securities carrying Canada and United States payment clauses and \$4,000,000 payable in Canada, New York and London.

The average interest rate was 3.44 per cent and \$5,696,676 was required to pay the interest in 1947.

The minister said that \$1,000,000 in 25-year debentures and \$2,000,000 in bonds which will mature during the coming fiscal year would be repaid, it was hoped, from sinking funds.

On Dec. 15 last the province sold \$5,000,000 worth of five-year debentures with a coupon rate of 2.5 per cent at a cost to the province of 2.56 per cent.

### MOST FAVORABLE TERMS

"I would like to point out," he said, that at no time in the history of the province was a sale made on as favorable terms as that on Dec. 15."

He warned, however, that it was extremely doubtful that similar rates would be obtainable in the future.

Full carrying charges on the public debt now require less than 15 per cent of the province's total revenue instead of 30 per cent and more payable but a few years ago. While in 1941 the gross debt required an interest service charge of \$6,886,279, the debt at the end of 1947 required only \$5,696,676.

### \$116.58 PER CAPITA

The per capita net debt has been lowered from \$177.74 in 1941 to \$116.58 in 1947, while the per capita interest rate has been lowered from \$8.42 to \$5.43.

He said that tremendous capital expenditures for public buildings, roads, power development, schools and other projects would be required in the not distant future and that if \$50,000,000 were borrowed it would cost \$3,000,000 a year to service and provide for the liquidation of that new debt.

A rise of \$3,223,550 to \$24,296,472 in sinking funds during the past year was reported, and last year the government made the first full provision of sinking fund instalment since 1932, he said.

## Presents Biggest On All Counts



Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb this afternoon read his second budget address in the B.C. Legislature. With upwards of 16,000 word in the address and with appropriations of \$77,500,000 asked to carry on the services of government, the budget was on all counts the greatest in the history of the province.

## B.C. Should Start Anew On School Tax, Says Cmdr. Beard

The Legislature's agriculture committee was told today that the Provincial government would probably have to "start afresh" on school tax measures.

The statement was made by Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Coalition, Esquimalt, to the committee, of which he is secretary, after the committee had heard protests from the advisory board of Farmers' Institutes against the burden of school costs in rural areas.

"The Cameron Report sounded very fine, and the government, in its lack of knowledge, implemented it," said Cmdr. Beard. "Now it has got out of control. You are just repeating what we as members are all trying to tell the cabinet."

The delegation said farmers and ranchers couldn't support the burden of the school taxes, multiplied several times, in some areas, without an additional benefit in school service.

The burden must not be taken off unorganized areas and placed on organized districts, warned James Woodburn, Okanagan delegate. George Brandon, Skeena, said there was a "kick all throughout the province" on the school tax problem.

## Increase Planned In Borrowing Power For P.G.E. Railway

The B.C. government will ask the provincial Legislature during the current session to approve the borrowing of another \$5,000,000 for the provincially-owned Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

Making this announcement today in his budget address, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb said that much capital work on the railway had been deferred during the war.

"As the borrowing authority is nearly exhausted and the requirements for the next few years will be large," he said, it was proposed to recommend an amendment to a 1928 act to provide an extra \$5,000,000. He said it was proposed to spend in the neighborhood of \$800,000 on capital account of the company during the next fiscal year.

The government has advanced the company a total of \$105,733,676 in principle, interest and discounts.

## Review Of Contracts Costs \$2,000,000

Contractors on big road projects and other undertakings of the provincial works department will receive a total of more than \$2,000,000 in excess of their original contracts.

The provincial government at the last session provided for a hearing to inquire into what additional sums the contractors would need to carry on their projects, costs of which had been swollen by many factors.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his budget address today disclosed this would cost the government an extra \$2,000,000 which would be taken from the \$15,000,000 allotted to highways from revenue surpluses.

## Bill To Dispose Of City Hall Site Started On Way

A petition for a private bill to give Victoria authority to lease or sell its city hall site subject to a plebiscite was received today by the private bills committee of the Legislature.

The petition was accompanied by a filing fee of \$300 and an additional \$300 because of late filing. The committee, however, suspended the rules to receive the petition.

Fee for late filing can be remitted later on special motion.

The committee also took the same action on a petition from the B.C. Automobile and General Insurance Company of Vancouver which also was late in filing its application.

Petitions were also received from the city of Vancouver and to incorporate the National Fidelity Insurance Company.

The committee chose C. W. Morrow, Coalition, North Okanagan, as chairman, and A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, as secretary.

## Labor Board To Cost \$53,820 In 1948-49

British Columbia's new Labor Relations Board, a five-man group charged with the administration of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, is expected to cost the Provincial government \$53,820 during the coming fiscal year.

This sum is provided for in Finance Minister Anscomb's budget. About half the sum will go in salaries to the five members.



# Restraint Urged To Halt Spiral

The people of British Columbia were warned today to do all they can to check inflation and to increase individual productivity.

The warning came in the budget address in the B.C. Legislature of Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb who said that during a period of inflation self-imposed restraint should be the watchword and that if the rise in prices were to continue normal safeguards would eventually vanish, hard-earned savings in monetary form would soon be eaten away, and even the bare essentials of life would be beyond the reach of most.

"We know definitely that the need for our goods and services is enormous and that to supply that demand many years of intense production would be required," he said. "We realize, however, that most of our potential customers require aid to re-establish themselves as solvent traders and that Canada can only help in a limited way.

"We have the resources; we know that the needs of our customers are vast; we hope for political stability in the countries we trade with. Let us make sure that we do not lose the greatest trade potential we ever had. . . .

## COULD BE GOOD YEAR

"The year 1948 could be a good year, and British Columbia, being more favored than her sister provinces with respect to resources and industrial potential, could, therefore, enjoy a relatively greater measure of prosperity. Let us therefore strive for objective co-operation and endeavor based on sound, proven economic practices."

He warned that the economic picture was not particularly bright because of continued inflation.

"A national survey of business conditions during 1947 reveals a year of great activity and accomplishment," he said. "The consideration of economic developments, however, suggests the possibility of critical times ahead."

Encouraging factors in the national economic picture were:

1. Gross national production estimated at \$13,000,000,000 in 1947.

2. Industrial production showing appreciable gains over the previous year.

3. Employment at the highest level in history and unemployment at the lowest.

4. Value of agriculture production substantially higher than in 1939 although 80 per cent less persons engaged in agriculture.

5. Since 1939 the number of persons engaged in manufacturing has almost doubled.

## THREE TO ONE RATIO

In B.C., Mr. Anscomb said, the shift of workers to industry had been even greater than elsewhere in Canada and there will soon be

three persons working in industry for every one in farming.

Facts on B.C.'s economic life were presented as follows:

1. Industrial payroll, declining slightly in 1944 and 1945, turned upwards in 1946, and preliminary estimates indicate a new all-time high was reached in 1947.

2. Retail sales index has risen from 174.0 in 1944 to 250.5 in 1947.

3. A marked increase has been recorded in the wholesale sales index.

4. Sales of life insurance have shown a marked rise.

5. Population has shown a steady increase since 1944, reaching 1,044,000 in 1947.

6. Railway freight loaded in B.C. down in 1945 and 1946, is expected to show a large increase in 1947.

7. Bank debts have risen steadily.

8. Power consumption has shown spectacular growth.

## STRENGTH INDICATED

"The business situation at the close of 1947 by all standard indicators was one of considerable strength," he said. "In most cases demands were excessive in relation to production. . . . Thus there is no doubt but that 1947 was a year of great achievements."

Mr. Anscomb also reviewed implications of the current austerity dollar-saving program and of the Geneva trade agreements and said:

While admitting there were certain merits in the dollar-saving program, Mr. Anscomb said:

"One cannot escape the reflection . . . that much of the 'austerity' could have been prevented had trading been based more closely on the real value of our dollar rather than on the dollar pegged artificially," he said. "One thing the austerity program will do is to hurt American and Canadian business, and in my view an over-valued Canadian dollar prevents the influx of American dollars for investment."

"Any measures designed to act as temporary palliatives are apt to impair the long-term needs of both. Both Canada and the United States are so dependent on each others' prosperity that they should pursue most energetically policies designed to create continuing joint prosperity."

# No Strings On \$4,000,000 Allotted To Municipalities

The \$4,000,000 which the province will grant to municipalities from its sales tax revenues will be given to the municipalities with no strings attached.

"It will be the responsibility of each of the municipalities to allocate its respective portion in that manner as will best meet its own requirements," said Finance Minister Anscomb in his budget address in the B.C. Legislature today. "There will be no vestige of coercion as to where or how the money shall be spent."

Mr. Anscomb pointed out that H. Carl Goldenberg, who inquired into provincial-municipal financial relations, had recommended important changes in municipal assessment, taxation and methods of administration.

"The province has provided whatever legal means were necessary, and it is now time for the municipalities to meet their own responsibilities," he said.

## GET \$4,328,000

He reported that the government in the last two sessions had increased municipal aid by \$4,328,000 through implementing the recommendations of the Cameron and Goldenberg inquiries. Direct grants and in-

direct aid in 1941-42 totaled \$2,965,449, compared with \$17,988,000 in 1948-49, he said.

"Surely no better evidence of generosity could be submitted," he said.

The finance minister said that the school building program throughout the province called for the expenditure of \$40,000,000, of which the province would pay \$20,000,000 — a program much greater in extent than could have been undertaken without the province's aid.

## LOANS NECESSARY

"It must be quite obvious to everybody that a program of that sort cannot be financed by the province, as far as its share is concerned, out of current revenue; and while we propose to earmark \$4,000,000 for the immediate present out of our revenue surplus account, from that time on, it will have to be financed by provincial loans," he said.

Lacking up-to-date statistics on population, the government will distribute this sum among city and district municipalities on a basis of 1947 school population and estimated total municipal population. In villages the population basis only will apply.

He said he would review this basis when the 1951 census figures were available.

# Province To Press Ottawa For Further Conference

British Columbia will press in Ottawa for a further Dominion-provincial conference to deal with social security measures "until we do receive what is our just and right return for the revenues we have handed to them," Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb told the B.C. Legislature Wednesday.

Reviewing the Dominion-provincial tax agreement in his budget address, the finance minister said it appeared to him there was conclusive evidence that B.C.'s tax agreement was predicated on the definite understanding that the federal government would implement its promises with respect to social security and public investment as soon as there were sufficient acceptances of the tax agreement.

"The language used 'that when a sufficient number of provinces had signed the agreement' surely is clear enough," said Mr. Anscomb, referring to the assurance given by Prime Minister King to former Premier John Hart. "Seven out of nine provinces have signed, and yet there has not been any indication from the Dominion government that they propose to implement their promises to our then premier."

Mr. Anscomb said that he and Premier Byron Johnson were both prepared to take a very definite stand the moment the

House adjourned to use every effort and means possible to have a further conference.

## SIGNED IN GOOD FAITH

"We signed the agreement in good faith, knowing full well that a goodly proportion of our people's money would be used to aid other areas not so favored as British Columbia," he went on to say, "but we signed in the belief that the surrender value of our tax rights would be used essentially for the common benefit of the provinces and their respective municipalities; that the pooling of these resources, together with the provincial aid from the Dominion, would ensure sufficient funds for adequate social security and social and health services and give material assistance in the development of our resources."

"I do not think there can be any argument used against a further conference on the definition of 'when a sufficient number of provinces have signed up,'" he said.

British Columbia's receipts under the Dominion-provincial tax agreement during the coming fiscal year have been calculated at \$1,413,051 more than during the previous year, the total being \$22,705,771. Growth in the population and gross national product are responsible for this.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1948

# \$18,668,534 Gain In Appropriations Asked

## Government Asks For \$77,449,869

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb this afternoon presented to the B.C. Legislature the greatest budget in the history of the province calling for expenditure of \$77,449,869, \$18,668,534 more than originally budgeted during the current fiscal year and \$31,134,575 more than the actual expenditures for the year ended March 31, 1947.

Revenue of the province for the coming fiscal year is estimated at \$77,616,309, \$18,700,000 higher than estimated for the current fiscal year. Main new sources of revenue is the 3 per cent retail sales tax, but the government also hopes to receive \$900,000 from increases in timber royalties contained in a bill introduced in the Legislature last week and \$6,000,000 more from other revenue sources.

High among the increases anticipated from levies which have been collected by the province for years is liquor profits. The government anticipates a \$1,900,000 increase in these during the next fiscal year.

The government also hopes to increase its collections from motor-vehicle revenue by \$1,400,000, from land registry fees by \$50,000, the Dominion tax agreement by \$1,350,000, gasoline tax by \$675,000, land sales by \$110,000, and timber sales by \$500,000.

The sales tax, however, is the only new form of taxation.

Mr. Anscomb outlined briefly as follows how the total expenditures will be divided:

Public debt—\$10,987,915, representing \$364,689 more than anticipated actual expenditures on this item for the current fiscal year and \$703,007 more than estimated for the current fiscal year. The main items of increase are \$184,646 for borrowing; \$5,000,000 more for premium and exchange; \$432,559 for additional sinking fund instalments, a good portion of which relate to borrowings on behalf of the Power Commission and ultimately refundable to the province, and \$80,800 more on account of redemption of serials and other securities.

Agriculture—\$790,070, up by \$107,220 over the current fiscal year's estimate, the principal increases being \$42,680 for the livestock branch and \$19,950 for district agriculturists.

Attorney-General—\$3,793,923, up by \$193,000 over the current fiscal year's estimates, bulk of the increase going to police protection and jails.

Education—\$12,981,537, an increase of \$1,744,000, \$1,100,000 of which will go to special grants

posed contribution from the sales tax to municipalities.

Health and welfare—\$13,679,691, an increase of \$4,367,226 over main estimates for the current year but a net increase of only \$1,461,226 over anticipated actual expenditures. Additional funds are needed to broaden the scope of health units, the division of tuberculosis control and welfare services generally.

Labor—\$384,685, up by \$122,400, most of which will go to general office expenses, industrial conciliation and arbitration and the new Labor Relations Board.

Lands and forests—\$5,425,565, an increase of \$1,288,532 over original appropriation for the current fiscal year. Increases include the following: \$133,760 for the surveys branch; \$45,680 for the water rights branch; \$95,000 for surveys and maps; \$80,000 for the South Okanagan project; \$327,480 for forest service; \$400,000 for forest protection fund, and \$107,600 for provincial parks.

Mines—\$585,180, increase of \$135,280, including additional sums for the inspection branch, grants in aid of mining, roads, iron and steel bounties.

Municipal affairs—\$69,067, an increase of \$34,057, mostly going to regional planning division.

Provincial secretary—\$7,880,892, representing an increase of \$1,247,578 over budgeted expenditures for current year and \$727,578 over anticipated expenditures for this year. Bulk of the increase will go to the government's contribution to the Civil Service Superannuation Fund, grants to hospitals, mental hospitals operation and operation of homes for the aged.

Public works—\$11,945,892, up by \$2,124,880 over current budget estimates and \$1,100,000 more than the sum actually to be spent.

for rural school districts, and most of the remainder going to increase in basic grants owing to expansion in school attendance. Finance—\$7,797,890, increase of \$4,134,236, \$4,000,000 of which represents the province's pro-

Trade and Industry—\$591,380, representing an increase over sum actually to be spent this year by \$52,395, \$23,705 of which will go to the B.C. Government Travel Bureau and \$25,990 for the Bureau of Economics.

## \$9,370,000 Appropriation For Highway Maintenance

Maintenance of British Columbia's highways will cost the province \$9,370,000 during the next fiscal year, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb told the B.C. Legislature today in his budget address.

Recalling that when he was Minister of Public Works in 1942-43 the department's expenses had totaled only \$2,405,436, Mr. Anscomb expressed pleasure that the province now was getting a real appropriation for roads, bridges and public buildings. The government is asking \$11,945,392 under ordinary budget estimates for the department.

Beside these appropriations there are several capital expenditures planned from loans previously arranged.

"Those who are conversant with the state of our roads throughout the province will appreciate that if we are to maintain proper means of transport and communication for our industries and our people, and if we are to attract tourists in large numbers, a great deal more will have to be done," he said. He noted that there had been no recent substantial increase in the province's road mileage.

### SPENDS MORE THAN TAXES

The Finance Minister presented figures to show that statements

that the government collected far more from gasoline tax and licensing of motor vehicles than it spent on roads were ill-founded.

He estimated revenue from these sources along with Motor Carrier Act fees at \$13,945,006 and said that the government, including the sums to be spent on maintenance, local highways, highway signs and municipal grants, along with debt service charges on money borrowed for road building would spend a total of \$14,860,123, or \$915,123 more than estimated receipts from motor vehicles.

Speaking of capital expenditures, Mr. Anscomb said it was planned to spend \$5,000,000 from surplus revenue and \$4,000,000 from loan acts of 1943 and 1946. It was also planned to spend \$2,750,000 on steel and concrete bridges provided for from borrowings under a loan act in 1947.

Mr. Anscomb said the government also proposed to set aside \$1,000,000 for the purchase of heavy road construction and maintenance machinery, \$1,750,000 for University of B.C. buildings, \$1,300,000 for provincial buildings to be charged against the borrowings authorized in 1943.

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## Wisner Attacks Communist Infiltration; Seeks Unity

Call for a fight against Communist infiltration in Canada was issued in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday afternoon by Hon. Gordon S. Wisner, Attorney-General and Labor Minister, in the course of an hour-and-a-half-long address which ended the debate on the Speech from the Throne.

He pleaded for unity in Canada and said it was no time for blasting at long range at the leaders in Ottawa. To him the international situation today with the Russians was similar to that which led up to the war with the Nazis.

He referred sarcastically to Russian "liberation" of countries in Europe and intimated there was a familiar touch in the way Czechoslovakia had recently been taken over. Labor leaders came to the fore there, he noted. Was there anything familiar in the Canadian scene he wanted to know. There is a Trojan horse in England, the U.S. and Canada, he warned. There were elements in B.C. which actually hailed the new dictatorship in Czechoslovakia, said Mr. Wisner.

He turned his fire on the C.C.F. Most of his speech had been a defence of the Coalition and an attack on the C.C.F. The Communists here who heralded the Russian success were the ones who supported the C.C.F., he alleged, although he did not accuse the C.C.F. of wanting the Communist support.

In the earlier part of his speech, Mr. Wisner discussed the success of the Coalition in the Saanich and Cariboo ridings by-elections. To him it was an expression of the public's desire for free enterprise and a stunning blow to the ambitions of the C.C.F.

He predicted that when the government went to the country the two successful Coalition candidates in the recent by-elections would be returned by an even greater majority.

He described the C.C.F. defeat in the by-elections as one which had been suffered even with support of the Labor-Progressive Party with the full strength of the unions behind it. However, he said, he fully accepted the C.C.F. statement that there was no allegiance between the C.C.F. and L.P.P.

### SOCIALISM VS. FREE ENTERPRISE

To Mr. Wisner the issue in Canada today was clearly one between socialism and free enterprise.

Assuming the policies, ideologies and platform of the C.C.F. were sound, and he did not believe it. He said there was no place in provincial jurisdiction for such a society.

The social security measures were not things for which socialism stood alone, but were things any government could bring in, he argued.

The Socialist Party plans an economy which contemplates entering more and more into private business, with the ultimate aim of getting complete control, he continued.

Under the limited authorities of the provinces this could not

be achieved, he claimed. There could not be a group of provinces, all with different philosophies. There must be a national government in control.

Socialism, to Mr. Wisner, meant ultimate ruin to the province. Under socialism, the province would lose millions of dollars for development and thousands of destrable citizens. He claimed that business men were being frightened of C.C.F. Saskatchewan and coming to British Columbia.

B.C. is a free enterprise province, Mr. Wisner asserted, adding that a recent poll showed the majority of Canadians preferred free enterprise and that B.C. rated as one of the two highest provinces in Canada with this desire.

On the question of Dominion-provincial relations, Mr. Wisner turned his attack on Ontario and Quebec. It had been agreed in earlier Dominion-provincial meetings that richer provinces would have to make some sacrifice for the benefit of the whole Dominion. All the provinces recognized the need for a solution except two—Quebec and Ontario, he said.

When former premier John Hart had offered his formula, said Mr. Wisner, he had been acclaimed as a great national figure in the search for national unity. Quebec, however, had refused to accept the formula and had not offered one of its own.

He charged that Quebec and Ontario had no intention of making an agreement with the King government because they did not like it and wanted to see it swept out of power. In this, said Mr. Wisner, he was speaking as an individual and as a citizen of Canada.

There must be agreement between all the provinces of the Dominion, he continued. There could be no national scheme of extended social benefits as long as two provinces stayed out.

How long, he asked, were the people of Canada going to allow the two richest provinces of the Dominion stand in the way of the country's progress?

He turned next to a defence of the recently-instituted provincial automobile insurance scheme in B.C. He refuted attacks which claimed the government was, in effect, going out of its way to benefit insurance companies. B.C. had a free enterprise system, he said, and there was competition between insurance companies in the province where not less than 25,000 persons were dependent on insurance for their livelihood.

Saskatchewan, which, he said, had been held up as an example by the C.C.F., employed only 116 civil servants in its automobile insurance plan.

### MOUNTING DEATH TOLL

B.C., he continued, had been faced with a mounting death and accident toll, and after study, Manitoba's scheme was found to be the best. The B.C. bill had not been brought in hurriedly, he said, but only after months of consideration. He asked that the new regulations be given a

chance to prove their worth. He refused, he said, to be stampeded into recommending scrapping of the act before it had been given a chance.

He had been perfectly willing to learn from the experiences of Saskatchewan, he said, but from what he had found he "believed they had bitten off more than they can chew." Although profits had been made previously, steps by the Saskatchewan government to take in public liability insurance, as well, he believed would change the picture.

Last year, said Mr. Wisner, B.C. insurance companies had paid out \$3,192,000 for damage which arose solely through the drivers' negligence.

Saskatchewan, with public liability insurance not included, had made a profit of \$1,209,000 on its compulsory insurance plan over a 21-month period.

If, in B.C., the government had an insurance plan covering public liability and charging \$10 a year, expenses would have exceeded \$6,000,000, based on last year's figures of payments by insurance companies, he reasoned.

Turning to other aspects of the B.C. scheme, Mr. Wisner pointed out that if a man was a danger on the highway, he would not be able to get insurance. This he felt was the only way to stop the mounting toll on B.C. highways.

## Farmers Charge Insurance Rates Up Since Plan Adopted

The advisory board of Farmers' Institutes told the legislative agriculture committee today that automobile insurance costs had risen as much as \$6 since the government's highway safety responsibility plan was passed by the Provincial Legislature last year.

"We have no protection against insurance agents and consider the charges excessive," the board said in a resolution submitted to the committee today. "We suggest the government carry this insurance and charge (for it) when licenses are issued."

The delegate for Vancouver Island, A. R. Hiscock, Victoria, said farmers had asked for coverage previously, because they couldn't afford to be involved in accidents without it, but they felt it should be on a cost and not a profit basis.

"My own insurance cost me \$6 more this year for the same coverage as I had before," he said.

Mr. Hiscock maintained that with group insurance the rates should be far less.

A. H. Peppar, Ioco, reported insurance companies used to give lower rates in rural areas because the hazard was less. This year, he said, the rates had been raised about \$5.

The board called on the committee to use its resources to get some changes made this year.

## Dissatisfied Express

Dissatisfaction with provincial government aid municipalities them one-third from the provincial sales tax was municipal affairs the Legislature Percy George of first vice-president of B.C. Municipalities.

"We wanted of control over Mayor George ter Anson's answer our question."

Mayor George he was fearful ment may feel preciative of the

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He said the Municipalities per cent education which would be or \$12,000,000 unload the education.

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## Dissatisfaction With Sales Tax Expressed By Mayors And Reeves

Dissatisfaction with the provincial government's plans to aid municipalities by granting them one-third of the revenue from the province's 3 per cent sales tax was expressed in the municipal affairs committee of the Legislature today by Mayor Percy George of Victoria, who is first vice-president of the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

"We wanted to get some form of control over education," said Mayor George. "Finance Minister Anscomb's budget does not answer our question."

Mayor George, however, said he was fearful that the government may feel "we are not appreciative of the \$4,000,000."

"We are," he said, "up to a point."

He said the Union of B.C. Municipalities had suggested a 2 per cent education or sales tax which would bring in \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 and that would unload the municipal costs of education.

He pointed out that municipalities have a backlog of work on roads and other municipal services such as garbage collection which should be done, and unloading of the education costs would make this possible, and at the same time settle the municipal problem of education costs once and for all.

The sales tax, Mayor George said, would rise and fall with education costs.

### PROVINCE CALLS THE TUNE

He suggested that the education department was calling the tune in education costs and the provincial government would be less lenient in its education program if it paid a greater part of the expense.

"You feel, then, that the government has crossed you up," said Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie.

Mayor George agreed.

A. C. Hope, Coalition, Delta, took exception to Mr. Gargrave's question, and Mayor George said perhaps he should have said that the government had misinterpreted the needs of the municipalities.

Reeve R. M. Grauer of Richmond said he did not believe that the government was carrying out the intent of the persons who brought in the educational sales tax resolution at the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention or of the municipalities.

"If the government feels we are going to be satisfied with the \$4,000,000 they are badly mistaken," he said.

"We want a fixed rate on land and improvements. The government should carry the rest," he continued, pointing out that the municipalities felt they should bear some of the cost of education and that share should be the amount produced by a levy of 5 mills on land and improvements.

"I think the municipalities would be satisfied then," he said.

### HIGH AND DRY

Mayor W. M. Mott of New Westminster, president of the U.B.C.M., pointed out that the municipalities had been left "high and dry" for this year, since they don't know when the tax is going to be imposed and the extent of their grants, yet they have to balance their budgets by April 1.

If the tax did not come in until July 1, he said, the municipalities would only get \$2,000,000.

Reeve Grauer pleaded for close co-operation of the municipalities with the Legislature's municipal affairs committee and charged that the educational problem should have been decided by the committee and not by the provincial cabinet.

"We're just window dressing," suggested Mrs. Tilly Rolston, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey. Reeve Grauer agreed.

## Cost More To Run Parliament Buildings, Government House

Maintenance of the Parliament Buildings, headquarters of the Provincial government, and Government House, home of the Lieutenant-Governor, is going to cost the Provincial government more during the coming fiscal year.

While \$268,734 was appropriated in the 1947-48 budget estimates for maintenance of the Parliament Buildings and grounds, the government, for the coming fiscal year which starts April 1, is asking \$311,701.

It is estimated the heating plant will cost \$34,647 to operate during the next 12 months, compared with \$29,324 during the year ending this month, while the mechanical staff is estimated to cost \$17,700 compared with \$14,100.

The janitor, watchman and usher service is expected to cost \$75,900, compared with \$51,020 budgeted for the current fiscal year. The service includes 37 janitors, four watchmen, two ushers, a janitress, night and day foremen.

The government is budgeting for \$2,000 more for power, light and water, bringing the total sum to \$20,000, while taxes and insurance estimates have been increased by \$5,500.

Light, fuel and water for Government House during the coming fiscal year are expected to cost \$1,500 more, while cost of maintaining the grounds is estimated at \$24,500. Total cost of Government House to the Provincial government is estimated at \$44,240, compared with \$37,580 for the previous year.

## Sales Tax Forecast For Cars, Liquor, Cigarettes, Meals

British Columbia's proposed new retail sales tax will be collected on cafe meals, liquor, smokes and automobiles, it was indicated today at the Parliament Buildings.

Announcement of the tax was made Wednesday by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his budget address in the B.C. Legislature. Mr. Anscomb said that liberal exemptions would be made on foods.

Full details of what will be taxed and what won't be taxed will be available when Mr. Anscomb introduces the bill to provide for the levy.

In the meantime it is reported that B.C. will not use tokens as Washington state does, as this would make the tax too cumbersome. It is thought that items costing but a few cents will be exempt of the tax, but one cent may be collected on items costing more than 15 cents and less than 50, two cents from 51 to 84 and so on.

Cigarettes are expected to go up one cent in price to 36 cents for 20, while liquor is expected to cost 12 to 15 cents a bottle more.

## Committee Hears Municipal Plea For Insurance Firm

The Union of B.C. Municipalities today requested the Legislature's municipal affairs committee to endorse a plan for the setting up of a municipal fire insurance company, to handle school and municipal fire protection on a voluntary basis.

The suggestion had previously been presented before the war but action was deferred. Since then the U.B.C.M. has done considerable investigating of such a plan.

Mayor W. M. Mott, president of the union, suggested that the plan might include provincial buildings also, and A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, suggested that it should include provincial government properties.

Another resolution called for the provincial government to provide basic plans for schools and other municipal buildings which could be used by municipalities for developing their building programs. This, the union suggested, would result in a considerable saving to the municipalities in architects' fees.

The municipalities also asked the government to assume the cost of paying police magistrates' salaries. An alternative if this suggestion were voted down, was that the government should consult municipal councils before making appointments and adjusting salaries of police magistrates.

The union told the municipal affairs committee that some municipalities had suffered loss of considerable revenue by the substitution of a three per cent pole tax for the licensing of pole lines. The union suggested that the municipalities should be able to levy the tax or the license, whichever produced the more revenue.

## Committee To Study Election Act Changes

The Provincial government proposes to reopen the Provincial Elections Act, extensively amended during the last session of the Legislature, and a legislative committee has been set up to consider amendments.

Included on the committee are five government members, Tom King, Columbia; C. W. Morrow, North Okanagan; J. H. Cates, North Vancouver; D. C. Brown, Vancouver-Burrard, and T. A. Love, Grand Forks-Greenwood, and Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch and Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie.

The committee, set up by a resolution of the Legislature moved by Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson, is instructed to report to the House not later than March 29.

The committee is scheduled to meet next Monday.

## Will Spend More On Tourist Advertising

A slight increase in appropriations for tourist advertising by the B.C. Government Travel Bureau is planned for the next fiscal year by the B.C. government.

The government this year is asking \$167,400 for the travel bureau, compared with \$143,695 budgeted for the current fiscal year. The planned appropriation for tourist advertising is \$65,000 for the next fiscal year, compared with \$62,000 appropriated for the current year.

Included in the bureau's estimates is a \$2,500 item for settlement literature, not included in the previous estimates.

Also partially aimed at tourists the appropriation for provincial parks will be increased substantially. Amounting to \$75,000 in the estimates for the current year, the appropriation for the coming fiscal year has been set at \$182,600.

## Winch Will Move Non-Confidence Vote

The C.C.F. Opposition this afternoon in the B.C. Legislature opened up their attack on Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's budget.

The attack was opened by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, who following his address is scheduled to move a vote of non-confidence in the government.

His motion calls for the striking out of all words after "that" in Mr. Anscomb's motion "that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the House to go into Committee of Supply" and the substitution of these words "this House condemns the policy, now sought to be introduced, of imposing a provincial sales tax."

The debate on the budget will continue Friday and into next week with W. A. C. Bennett, Coalition, South Okanagan, and James Mowat, Coalition, Alberni, scheduled to speak on Friday.



## HIS SECOND BUDGET

**PREDICTIONS THAT MR. ANSCOMB** would present the Legislature with a record budget of something like \$70,000,000 were a little wide of the mark. Against an anticipated revenue of \$77,616,309 for the fiscal year beginning next April 1, the Minister of Finance informed the lawmakers and the public generally yesterday afternoon that the treasury expects to disburse no less than \$77,449,869, leaving a modest surplus of \$166,440. And if an illuminating comparison were needed to emphasize the growth in the cost of conducting the business of British Columbia's government, it can be found in the fact that less than two decades ago—during, for instance, one period of the Tolmie regime—the revenue then necessary to run the affairs of the province was approximately equivalent to that now required to satisfy the proposed allocations for health, welfare, social security, institutional and other social services alone—or some \$20,344,000.

No citizen of this province should be alarmed at the revenue and expenditure account presented by Mr. Anscomb. He is realistically preparing for the rapidly-expanding business of government, laying the foundations for a stable economy, and trusting the populace to play its full part in contributing to that state of contentment upon which progress and prosperity depend. It is not surprising, of course, that the professional crepe-hangers who view practically everything with alarm are trying to make out that British Columbia is nearing the abyss of bankruptcy, that the Minister of Finance should be lopping \$10,000,000 off his contemplated expenditures instead of increasing them to that extent. All of which is quite easy to say; but those who parade this argument conveniently ignore the manifold demands made upon the provincial exchequer since the Legislature met a year ago. Mr. Anscomb's reply is the simple and straightforward one. He tells the suppliants that he will be glad to satisfy their requirements so long as they are prepared to foot the bill. Since British Columbians spend nearly \$50,000,000 a year on liquor it will not be argued seriously that they are ready to curtail the social services.

**WHILE IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR** the citizens of the province to study all the details of revenue and expenditure—with which the Minister of Finance liberally punctuated his able speech—in order to understand changing economic conditions, the guardian of the treasury presented one or two significant comparisons regarding what he termed the functional application of public moneys. By this means he sought to emphasize, for example, that whereas in 1946-1947 the debt charges required 21.3% of the total revenue, next year they will absorb only 14.7%. On the other hand, social services, including education, will rise from approximately \$20,500,000 to nearly \$33,000,000. Then again, revenue productive and development services, during the same period, will expand from a little more than \$7,000,000 to nearly \$17,500,000, while general improvement services—including \$5,600,000 of direct special aid to the municipalities—will be increased from \$8,800,000 to nearly \$15,700,000.

Because of the foregoing contemplated increases in the government's cost of doing business, plus the satisfaction of other expensive demands from various sources, Mr. Anscomb found he had no alternative but to recommend to the Legislature the imposition of a retail sales tax. This inno-

vation is generally regarded as the most effective method of providing new aid to the municipalities—aid, by the way, which a serious inflationary condition has determined. Nor is the province immune from the exactions of the vicious spiral. Hence the Minister of Finance has proposed an allocation of \$4,000,000 to the civic treasuries, or one-third of a total of \$12,000,000 he expects to collect from this source. How popular or unpopular this new tax will be with the public remains to be seen. Experience with this form of raising new revenue in many states of the neighboring Republic, however, teaches that an initial objection soon gave place to satisfaction over the amount collected and the worthwhile uses to which it was put. So long as it does not exceed the rate recommended—and it is often easier to increase than to reduce taxation—its reception will probably be generally favorable.

**ANOTHER MATTER WHICH HAS EX-**ercised the public mind for some time came in for specific reference in Mr. Anscomb's financial statement. In view of what he termed repeated statements made by uninformed persons as to the disposition by the government of the revenue from the gasoline tax, the minister showed that these funds, plus the fees received under the Motor Carriers' Act, will amount during

the current fiscal year to \$13,945,000, whereas expenditures on highways, bridges and ferry maintenance will aggregate \$11,090,000, while the service charges required for debts incurred in the construction of roads and bridges amount to \$3,770,000. Thus the total cost works out at \$14,860,000, or approximately \$915,000 more than the revenues whose allocation had been selected by critics of this phase of the government's business as a favorite grumbling pastime. And it is to be noted, incidentally, that the estimated expenditure on capital account for roads, highways, and bridges from the revenue surplus of \$4,900,000 from existing loan acts will amount to some \$5,000,000 in the next fiscal year.

It will be seen that in the space at our disposal here it has been possible to deal with but one or two of the more important of the numerous items of revenue and expenditure to which Mr. Anscomb referred in his commendably lucid and candid exposition of the affairs of the province. All that remains to be said is that the minister, remembering the warnings to which he gave voice in his first budget speech last year, and recognizing the stern realities of the times through which the province, in common with the nation as a whole, is passing, presented the elected representatives of the people an adequate and compelling picture of the financial condition of a part of Canada of whose ultimate destiny none but the confirmed pessimist has the least apprehension.

## Province Grants To Help Control Of Cancer, Arthritis

The Provincial government this year will double its grant in aid of cancer control and grant \$25,000 toward arthritis control.

Provision is contained in the government's estimates for the coming fiscal year for \$50,000 to be appropriated for cancer. It is understood that the \$25,000 to be appropriated for arthritis will go to a national committee studying arthritis.

A substantial increase is planned in appropriations for

public health service in metropolitan areas, bringing the total for the coming year to \$119,000, and for the 16 health units in the province, a total of \$285,558 is being asked, compared with \$158,658 during the current fiscal year.

The new health unit in Saanich and southern Vancouver Island is budgeted to receive \$20,965 more than its revenue, estimated at \$7,925, while the unit in the central part of the island is scheduled to have a budget of \$51,180, compared with \$40,390 during the current year.

The government has planned appropriations for \$1,628,775 for tuberculosis control, including \$32,850 for traveling clinics, compared with \$45,975. For the current fiscal year the government asked \$1,252,638 for the division of tuberculosis control.

## Social Service Costs \$13 Per Capita

Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson, replying to a question of E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, in the Provincial Legislature, Wednesday reported that the estimated per capita cost of social services for the current fiscal year in B.C., other than pension provided for old-age pensioners, was \$3.75.

Mr. Pearson said he had no figures available on the cost of this service provided by the municipalities.

He added, however, that the total per capita cost, including gross old-age pensions, was \$13 per capita, not including administrative costs.

## Hears Hindu Vote Plea

Authority to give naturalized Hindus the franchise in municipal elections was asked today by the Union of B.C. Municipalities during a meeting with the Legislature's municipal affairs committee.

The committee will decide later whether or not the request will be recommended to the government.

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## First No Confidence Vote In Legislature Thrown Out By Majority Of 32 To 13

The C.C.F. opposition Thursday afternoon lost by a big margin the first round in its battle against the proposed retail sales tax.

The House voted 32 to 13 against an amendment to the motion of Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb that the House go into committee of supply. Voting with the 10 C.C.F. members were Mrs. Tilly Rolston, Vancouver-Point Grey, and W. A. C. Bennett, South Okanagan, both Coalition government members, and Thomas Uphill, lone Labor member of the House.

The C.C.F. motion, proposed by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, would have substituted for Mr. Anscomb's motion one to the effect that the House strongly condemn the proposed sales tax. Premier Byron Johnson announced the motion would be taken as a motion of want of confidence.

The division, calling for a standing vote, was asked by Mr. Winch.

Mr. Winch moved the resolution after a two hour and 20 minute address, the first in the budget debate following the presentation of the budget by Mr. Anscomb Wednesday. A considerable part of Mr. Winch's speech was devoted to condemning the proposed sales tax.

The amendment was seconded by W. H. Brett, C.C.F., Prince Rupert. Speaking in support of the amendment were Herbert Gargrave, Mackenzie; J. H. Corsbie, Peace River, and A. J. Turner, Vancouver East. Mr. Bennett announced his position.

### DEFICIT BUDGET

Mr. Winch suggested that the budget presented by Mr. Anscomb was really a deficit budget, to the extent of \$12,000,000, and that was why the government had to impose the new tax.

"The government, on the surface, seems to be going hog wild on expenditure and administrative costs," he said. "We're going to question very closely the estimates as they go through."

He questioned specifically some of the appropriations asked by the government and said that the increases asked for departments doing purely administrative work was 76 per cent.

"All that can't be explained away by increased salaries and costs," he said.

The Opposition Leader charged that the sales tax would tend to increase the inflationary spiral and the C.C.F. were unalterably opposed to it since it placed the main burden of government on the poorer people.

"It is a graduated income tax in reverse," he said, adding that the tax would be levied on consumer goods on which workers and farmers spend one half their income. "This tax increases as income decreases."

### TO DEPRIVE FAMILIES

The small income family will be deprived of some necessities, he continued.

"It is based on the inability to resist rather than the ability to pay."

Mr. Winch said a government should only impose a sales tax after it has exhausted all other possible sources of income. Experience, he said, has shown that the tax gained a foothold as an emergency measure which was hard to dispose of.

He described the tax as "the child of panic and unpreparedness" and added that it had been condemned in all scientific studies.

He advocated that the government collect more royalties and take over certain productive enterprises as new sources of revenue.

Mr. Brett, saying the retail sales levy was "not an equitable tax," said the tax appealed to the government as a simple method to raise money, putting the responsibility of collecting the tax on retailers.

The Prince Rupert member predicted that the sales tax would cut down retail sales volume, since the people would not have so much money to spend and read a telegram of protest from a Retail Merchants' Association.

Mr. Gargrave also referred to protests from retail merchants' groups in Powell River and Westview in his constituency and said that using statistics prepared by the Toronto Welfare Council he had estimated conservatively that the tax would apply to purchases on which the average worker spent 40 per cent of his income.

Claiming the tax did not take

the interests of workers and farmers into consideration, he said the government was going to tax families which the federal government recognized as unable to pay taxes. He was referring to income tax exemptions.

Describing the tax as unsound, rotten and unjust, he said hundreds in his constituency were opposed to it and it was just another method of gouging a few cents out of the workers.

### WILL HIT FARMERS

Mr. Corsbie contended that the tax would reduce returns for farmers because the people would have to cut down on some items to pay the tax, and these would include products of the farms.

Suggesting the position of the farmer should be improved, the government through the sales tax would also be dealing the farmers a blow by increasing the price of farm machinery and automobiles.

"The farmer is going to have to pay through the nose in increased costs," he said.

And he added that levy of the tax on feeds, seed and fertilizer might tend to increase the cost of milk, which was trying to be held down.

Mr. Corsbie also suggested that the tax would tend to halt the movement of business to B.C. for persons buying from mail order houses would tend to place their orders with firms outside the province and the government would not be able to collect taxes on these items.

He predicted also that farmers in the Peace River district would go across the provincial boundary into Alberta to buy farm machinery and all things of value.

Labeling the tax as the worst form of nuisance, he suggested the government would need a strong force of inspectors to check up on retail stores.

"It is the most obnoxious form of tax we can think of," he said.

Mr. Turner advocated the government increase taxes on liquor, and take over breweries and distilleries, and go into the insurance business in an effort to raise revenue rather than impose the sales tax.

## Puts Responsibility On Provinces For Health Societies

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, charged in the B.C. Legislature Thursday that the Provincial government had a moral responsibility to take care of the 90,000 to 100,000 men, women and children who had relied on health benefit associations which have been closed down recently.

The Royal Commission appointed to investigate these societies, Mr. Winch alleged, had immediately given members a feeling of security. Within 10 months of the report and action by the Provincial government to control the societies thousands on thousands of persons had lost their claims and prepaid premiums because the societies had been suspended, either voluntarily or on order of Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer.

Mr. Winch said that the liabilities of the suspended societies totaled \$176,000, including \$132,000 in unpaid claims, some of them dating back to last June. He estimated prepaid premiums at \$95,000.

The suspended societies had a total membership of 28,924 plus dependents, he said, bringing the total number of men, women and children relying on this service to almost 100,000.

Mr. Winch also requested Mr. Wismer to consider seriously whether or not criminal action should not be taken against some of the officers of the societies, for falsification of reports and other matters.

He contended that the government should accept the responsibility of paying unpaid claims and take over prepaid premiums, assuming the operation of the suspended societies and consolidating them.

## Liquor Act Changes Proposed In House

Two amendments to the Provincial Liquor Act were proposed in the B.C. Legislature Thursday by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

Describing the system as ridiculous, he advocated abolition of the rule that prohibits the guest of a member of a club or veterans' club from treating the member and his friends. Mr. Winch said it was done all the time.

Suggesting the regulation may give trouble in the future and was already causing concern, he advanced the suggestion that veterans' clubs should be permitted to sell beer to take out, since beer parlors had this privilege.

Mr. Winch suggested that if the government were going to grant special privileges it should give them to the veterans' organizations as well as the profit-minded beer parlors.

## Raft Of Adjectives Fired At Sales Tax

British Columbia's proposed retail sales tax was submitted to an intense adjectival bombardment from the C.C.F. Opposition Thursday in the B.C. Legislature.

Here are some of the words and phrases the five C.C.F. members who spoke on the measure used:

Unfair, unjust, nuisance, vicious, rotten, unsound, iniquitous, inflationary, unequitable, businessman's proposal, unscientific, graduated income tax in reverse, class legislation, upsidedown tax and the child of panic and unpreparedness.



## Orchard Says Canadian Western Will Get Less Than 100,000 Acres

C. D. Orchard, deputy forests minister for the B.C. Government, told the Legislature's forestry committee today that the forest management license for the Canadian Western Timber Co. Ltd., if granted, would at the outside cover 100,000 acres of forest land.

The company had sought the license for 800,000 acres on Vancouver Island to supply raw material for a big pulp mill development at Duncan Bay, a few miles north of Campbell River. Considerable opposition to this license and the principle of forest management licensing, the government's plan to provide sustained yield forestry, has been voiced, particularly from small logging outfits.

Mr. Orchard said the Canadian Western Timber Co. Ltd. application was based on the fact that the company now owns 135,000 acres of timber lands, that it has enough timber to continue its present operations for 25 years, and it is seeking a government grant to supplement its present holdings for the pulp mill.

Mr. Orchard described the forest management license system as the only practical solution to the overcutting of B.C. timber resources and said the problem was simple arithmetic which any sixth grader could understand.

This situation, as explained by Mr. Orchard, was this:

There are 150,000,000,000 F.B.M. of timber on the coastal area at the present time, and it was being cut at the rate of 3,000,000,000 F.B.M. per year. That means that there is a 50-year supply. But it takes 100 years to grow a tree to merchantable lumber size.

"What are you going to do from the 51st to the 99th year," he asked, adding that it takes more than 100 years to grow a good tree.

Asked by Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Coalition, Esquimalt, whether it wasn't possible to get faster growing trees, Mr. Orchard said that the U.S. Forest Service was spending a lot of money to answer that question and B.C. would be able to get any information the service secured.

To emphasize his point concerning the lack of timber, Mr. Orchard told of one valley, without naming it, where there were four towns, all prosperous, with sawmills engaged in cutting timber. Thirty-five years from now there will only be one, and "it won't be the town it is today."

The deputy minister admitted that the estimates of the timber resources of the province were

merely estimates and the situation, because of cutting and fires and other forces, was changing all the time. He said that about 1,000 man years of work had been spent in determining the timber resources of the province and between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

Mr. Orchard outlined the various possible steps which could be taken to preserve the forest resources.

"If the government doesn't do something about it, nobody else will," he said.

In U.S., he said, the forest lands had been turned over to private enterprise years ago, but now the federal government was buying it back.

"I don't think private ownership is the answer," he said.

The other alternative, he suggested, was outright government management of the timber, the government selling the mature timber as it was ready to the various logging companies.

"We're in an excellent position to do this in B.C.," he said, noting that while the government had disposed of some timber, it had practiced public ownership of the land. The E. & N. Railway belt was an exception, he said.

While public ownership appealed to all, it was not practical with 75,000,000 acres of forests in an area 1,000 by 500 miles.

He said that in England one man was employed to manage every 100 acres of forest land and it was estimated that one man should be employed for every 20 acres. At that rate, B.C. would need more than 3,000,000 men to manage her forests, and even if one man were employed for every 10,000 acres, 7,500 men would be needed.

Doubting that the public would stand for this army of men looking after the forests, Mr. Orchard said that the solution was to distribute the responsibility for management of the forests among the 2,000 companies now engaged in forestry in B.C. and induce them to practice good forestry.

He explained that the government's role would be to keep a close, critical eye on the objectives of the management licenses, but leave up to the companies the actual work.

He denied that the small logger would be cut off by the issuance of forest management licenses and said there was no reason why the small operator cannot himself obtain a management license, except the logger's own refusal to accept the responsibility of keeping the province's forest industry intact for future generations.

## Winch Says Antagonism Of Cities, Province Increasing

Granting of one-third of the proposed 3 per cent provincial retail sales tax revenues to municipalities will not solve the current fight between municipalities and the provincial government which each year saw the antagonism increasing, Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch told the B.C. Legislature Thursday.

In his address in the budget debate in which he spent a considerable time lashing back at government critics of the C.C.F. and its policies, Mr. Winch urged the Provincial government to call a provincial municipal conference to work out a solution to the problem. He suggested that attending the conference should be representatives of the provincial municipal affairs, provincial secretary, education and Attorney-General's departments; the Union of B.C. Municipalities, incorporated cities and municipalities, the B.C. Federation of Agriculture and members of the Legislature.

Aim of the conference, he said, should be to get an understanding between the province and the municipalities and to revamp the present relationship between the government and municipalities.

"I don't see how we are going to solve the problem without attacking it on this basis," he said, adding that after the problem had been solved a liaison should be established between the municipalities and the provincial municipal affairs department.

### POWER POLITICS

Referring to statements of A. J. McDonnell, Coalition, Vancouver East, concerning the plight of Europe, Mr. Winch warned that this had resulted from a war brought about by two systems of capitalism and the C.C.F. were opposed to power politics regardless of what nation was employing it.

To the suggestion of Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer concerning C.C.F. and Labor Progressive Party relations, Mr. Winch suggested Mr. Wismer was using the philosophy of fear and not the philosophy of reason, and that paved highway of democratic Socialism offered the only middle course between the rough roads of capitalism and Communism. Mr. Winch described democratic Socialism as the best defence against Communism, referring to various countries of western Europe.

Charging Mr. Wismer was trying to tie the L.P.P. around the necks of the C.C.F., Mr. Winch displayed newspaper advertisements of a few years back, headed: "Tim Buck proposes Liberal-Labor Coalition." "Quit playing politics, Mr. Attorney-General," he said. "They loved you a few years ago."

## B.C. Bill Of Rights Needed Says Winch

Enactment of a bill of rights to combat the bad name British Columbia has received in the field of human relations was advocated by C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch in the provincial Legislature Thursday.

While not mentioning Japanese, Mr. Winch was referring to the stand taken by the Provincial government against the Japanese, and he suggested that the criticism of the province was a stigma against the name of British Columbia. The way to clean it up, he suggested, was by the passing of a bill of rights recognizing Canadian citizenship.

Among the freedoms which such a bill of rights should provide Mr. Winch listed: Freedom of conscience, belief, expression, assembly, from arbitrary arrest, to the franchise; the right to employment and compensation, along with conditions and privileges without discrimination because of race; the right to engage in any occupation, and the right to all educational facilities.

Mr. Winch also advocated that the bill of rights include provision for the admittance of any person of any race to a hotel, claiming that it was a disgrace that during the past few years some had been denied the right to enter a hotel because they were black.

## 308 Narcotic Addicts Sent To Jail In 1947

Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer told the B.C. Legislature Thursday that 212 males and 96 female narcotics addicts were admitted to provincial jails during 1947.

Replying to questions of E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, Mr. Wismer said that of these admitted to provincial jails 21 males and one female were transferred to penitentiary.

He said that 62 males were convicted as addicts, five as peddlers and 146 for other offenses. Twenty six females were convicted as addicts and 74 of other offenses.

One male person was convicted as a peddler who was not an addict.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1948

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1948

**WHAT IS THEIR ALTERNATIVE?**

**MAYORS AND REEVES OF THOSE** communities clustered around the chief coastal ports of this province are not objecting to the government's proposed sales tax, as such; their major complaint is that they are not to be allowed to take a much larger share of the revenue the provincial treasury expects to collect from this source. We wonder if these chief magistrates ever give a thought to what the people of the remote regions of British Columbia think as they watch the leading lights of the densely-populated areas continuing to tread the path to the Parliament Buildings with hands extended. Those stalwart citizens of the province, many of them with but few of the manifold amenities of town or city life, generally view a problem—financial or otherwise—from a practical perspective.

No citizen in his or her right mind will underestimate the nature of the difficulties with which the municipalities and the province find themselves confronted in these inflationary times—difficulties that are part and parcel of the legacy of the costliest war in history. Courage and imagination are required to meet and overcome them. What the mayors and reeves of the larger communities who have become extremely vocal in their criticism of the sales tax split have not shown the government, however, is what other form of taxation or what kind of provincial economy could be resorted to that would yield anything like the \$4,000,000 which the Minister of Finance proposes to tip into civic coffers under the policy he announced in the Legislature during his budget speech. If they can show Mr. Anscomb and his ministerial colleagues how the government might divert other provincial revenues in sufficient volume to satisfy them and, at the same time, meet the present more or less fixed commitments to which the province is obligated, then those responsible for civic administration might have more solid ground on which to base their complaints about the division of the proceeds from the sales tax.

As far as Victoria is concerned, of course, the taxpayers are now about to meet the full impact of a policy which cut taxes when money was plentiful and inflation was a condition which this newspaper persistently warned would inevitably occur if those who continually bombarded the federal authorities to remove controls got their way. And those who served on the aldermanic board of this city during the mid-thirties cannot escape their share of the blame for a state of affairs now considerably aggravated by their failure to carry out essential civic work when it could have been accomplished at a reasonable cost by the large surplus of labor which then existed. The four Greater Victoria communities can help themselves now, however, by getting on with the sensible business of amalgamation. This is their way to economy and greater efficiency in management.

**Statistics Show  
Essondale Crowding**

Statistics showing the overcrowding of Essondale and the provincial hospital in New Westminster were presented to the B.C. Legislature Wednesday by Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson, answering questions of E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby.

The estimated bed capacity at Essondale, Mr. Pearson said, was 2,287, while the actual number of patients now in residence was 3,228.

The estimated bed capacity of the provincial hospital at New Westminster was 466, he said, while the present number of inmates was 632.

**Victoria Bill Gets  
First Reading**

The bill which, if enacted, will give the city of Victoria power to lease or sell the City Hall site was given first reading by the B.C. Legislature Thursday, following introduction by Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Victoria government member.

The bill specifies that the lease term may not exceed 99 years and the sale or lease may include exemption of the lands and improvements erected on them from taxation for a period as the council may determine and in lieu of such exemptions the council may grant a fixed taxation.

The proposal has to be submitted to the council and receive a three-fifths majority to be ratified.

**Embargo Asked  
On B.C. Log Exports**

John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George, will ask the Provincial government to petition the Dominion government to halt the export of logs from British Columbia to the United States.

Mr. McInnis has filed notice of a motion to this effect in the B.C. legislature, saying that much of Canada's unfavorable trade balance with the United States is the result of exporting raw material and importing manufactured articles, processed from raw materials.

"Employment in British Columbia is adversely affected by the export of raw materials which could be manufactured in the province," he said.

**End Capital Punishment  
Urges Elder Winch**

A move to abolish capital punishment has been launched in the B.C. Legislature by E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby.

He has filed notice of a motion calling on the House to send to the Lieutenant-Governor a request "praying that His Honor will cause to be conveyed to the Federal government the opinion of this House that action should be taken to abolish capital punishment."

The motion is scheduled for presentation next Tuesday, but it may be some time before it is debated.

**MacDonald, 2 Others  
To Speak On Monday**

Municipal Affairs and Mines Minister R. C. MacDonald will continue the budget debate in the B.C. Legislature Monday afternoon.

Two other speakers have been scheduled for the sitting. They are Randolph Harding, C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan, and Tom King, Coalition, Columbia.

The sitting will begin at 2.30.

**Cowichan Assessments  
Reported Down In 1946**

Total assessments of the Cowichan assessment district were down in 1946 from 1945, according to a return made in the B.C. Legislature by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

Replying to a question of Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, Mr. Anscomb reported that in 1942 the total assessment for the Cowichan assessment district was \$5,803,109. The assessment fell in 1943 to \$5,742,100, rose to \$6,386,315 in 1944, rose still further to \$6,432,761 in 1945, but dropped to \$5,931,116 in 1946.

In the Nanaimo assessment district total assessment in 1942 was \$12,483,735. The assessment in 1943 fell to \$11,952,609, and has risen since then as follows: 1944, \$12,147,157; 1945, \$12,379,847, and 1946, \$12,640,391.

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## Confident Borstal System To Further Expand In B.C.

Hope for further expansion and development of the Borstal system in British Columbia for youthful offenders, was expressed by Roxborough Smith, who addressed the annual meeting of the John Howard Society Friday on "New Haven," the first Borstal-type institution in Canada.

Mr. Smith pointed out there was only one institution established with the result that only one type of offender could be selected for extensive training. In England, where the system was first developed, he said, there were several institutions who dealt with offenders on a basis of psychiatric examination.

"At the present time we are selecting young offenders from Oakalla whom we feel are capable of benefitting from a period of intensive training," he said. "Had we more than an institution, it would be possible to establish some sort of classification and segregation by institutions, placing the more mature and hardened, say, in one and the young less sophisticated in another."

Mr. Smith said that should the indeterminate sentence be introduced, committals will then be direct to New Haven from the courts. Although his was desirable, he said, it would mean the courts themselves would have the onus of determining who are and who are not suitable candidates for New Haven.

"This will place a heavy burden on the magistrate," he said. "The work of months can be destroyed over night by a handful of ill-chosen, unsuitable inmates."

Mr. Smith said it was hoped that with the ushering in of the indeterminate sentence provincial legislation would be passed to allow for an adequate parole system. "There are many details as yet to be worked out but the future lies promisingly ahead," he said.

He said at the moment the Attorney-General's department was working on a system of "after-care" for youthful offenders leaving the Borstal institution. He added that with the full co-operation and interested public-minded citizens in the province, the plan would prove successful.

The speaker reviewed the work done at New Haven. He pointed out that the Borstal System had no merit apart from the Borstal staff. "The foundation of the system is first the recruitment of the right type of men," he said. "The personal influence of the staff is everything."

Mr. Smith said the success and progress of New Haven depended to a great extent on public interest and understanding.

"Experiments of this kind are not cheap and there are still those who try to measure the value of re-training in dollars and cents," said the speaker. "It has been wisely said that could we but solve this problem, the gain in human happiness, in social and industrial efficiency, and in moral welfare of the community as a whole would be beyond all computation."

Father Carlyle, Roman Catholic chaplain at Oakalla Prison farm

and visiting chaplain at the Federal Penitentiary at New Westminster, appealed to citizens to support the John Howard Society in its effort to bring about prison reforms.

Father Carlyle, who is a member of the society, said that all that had been said about conditions in penitentiaries were true.

"Punishment does very little good and is no cure for crime," he said. "You don't cure a criminal by imposing upon him a medieval sentence."

He said crime had often its origin in the home and steps should be taken to protect youths, who through no fault of their own, had fallen into evil ways. He added that present-day reform schools and penitentiaries were not the answers.

Rev. F. Comley, president, was in the chair. A. W. Hammond, secretary, gave a detailed report on the society's activities during the past year.

## B.C. Lawmakers To Take 4 Days Off At Easter

B.C. lawmakers, like provincial civil servants, are expected to take a four-day holiday for Easter.

The House will probably adjourn next Thursday afternoon until the following Tuesday afternoon.

The budget debate is expected to continue throughout the week and beyond the Easter holiday.

## Alberni Member Points To Resources Of Ore On Island

James Mowat, Coalition, Alberni, expounding the needs of his constituency and the west coast of Vancouver Island, told the B.C. Legislature Friday of two iron deposits in that area.

Speaking of the possibility of a steel industry in British Columbia, Mr. Mowat, taking part in the budget debate, said that if the Texada Island ores should run out there was an island of iron ore down the Alberni Canal near Bamfield and a mountain of ore at Zeballos. He also recalled that there were large quantities of limestone on the Alberni Canal.

(Texada Island has been mentioned in the past as perhaps the chief source of ore for the proposed B.C. steel industry.)

Power and roads were what the west coast needed, Mr. Mowat said, suggesting that the B.C. Power Commission, which had done a splendid job in the development of Campbell River, should make a survey of hydro-electric power development sites in the areas of Zeballos, Tofino, Ucluelet and Bamfield. Power was needed, he said, for fish plants.

He pleaded for the opening up of a road north from Alberni on the west coast, which would serve Long Beach, whose tourist attractions he outlined, and Tofino, which hopes some day to become the western terminus of the Trans-Canada Highway.

## CONTRACTORS SCORED

While congratulating the government on securing a reserve for park purposes on Cathedral Grove, the member charged that the contractors engaged on rebuilding the Cameron Lake section of the Parksville-Alberni road were failing to keep the highway passable.

"For several weeks the traffic has been dragged through, sometimes by the aid of a bulldozer," he said. "This is not easy on a car, and hard on the temper of the driver."

Mr. Mowat expressed hope that something could be done to have the medical school built in Vancouver; advocated that old-age pensions be increased to \$50 per month for women over 60 and men over 65; urged a cost of living bonus be paid those in receipt of mothers' pensions and other fixed allowances; and called on the government to do something for retired civil servants.

The member endorsed the creation of larger school districts, saying that in his district the school board had endeavored in every way to render the greatest possible service at the lowest possible cost and that the board had gone out of its way to take a keen interest in the small schools which previously had been left to their own resources and, to some extent, neglected.

"There has been a greatly increased respect by the board in the smaller schools and I think it should pay tribute here to the school board for their attitude in this regard," he said.

## Coalitionist Urges Government To Scrap Sales Tax

The Provincial government received its most severe roasting of the session at the hands of one of its own members Friday afternoon when W. A. C. Bennett, member for South Okanagan, gave what is expected to be his final major address in the B.C. Legislature.

And taking the brunt of the criticism leveled at the government in the one and a half hour address was the proposed sales tax. Mr. Bennett urged the government to withdraw its budget for the next fiscal year—an unprecedented action—to bring in a new budget without the “ill-considered,” “unfair,” “retrograde” sales tax.

The attack, which Mr. Bennett delivered with all stops open and which made many an earlier C.C.F. opposition barrage seem mild, was also leveled at the federal government. Mr. Bennett shortly expects to resign his seat in the Provincial Legislature to file his nomination as Progressive Conservative candidate for the forthcoming by-election in Yale.

The bombardment of the Provincial government's policies brought expressions of approval from the C.C.F. who the day previously had lost their first round in the battle against the proposed sales tax. Three times he brought replies from provincial cabinet ministers.

Near the end of his speech when Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb was talking with Premier Byron Johnson, Mr. Bennett asked him to refrain.

He got a tart reply from Mr. Anscomb to the effect that he had listened to him without interruption for an hour and a half.

Suggesting the government should pare administrative expenses Mr. Bennett was asked by Mr. Johnson to speak specifically and not in generalities. Mr. Bennett replied with the suggestion that the government set up a committee of the House to go into every department to see where savings could be made.

### TAX UNWORKABLE

Contending that the proposed sales tax was unworkable, Mr. Bennett was told by Attorney-General and Labor Minister Gordon S. Wismer that he should wait until the sales tax bill was introduced before making such charges.

Mr. Bennett said Alberta had abolished the tax for this reason. How are you going to collect taxes in a grocery store which sells foods, on which no tax will be collected, and other items on which the tax will be imposed? he asked.

Mr. Bennett's solution to the problem of rising government costs was to levy an unearned increment or capital gains tax, to cut down on sinking fund payments, and to cut down on administrative costs.

The capital gains tax, he suggested, would not hit the poor man as would the sales tax, but would hit some of the wild infla-

tionary dollars produced during the postwar period. This tax, he continued, would produce millions—more than in any other province because the rising population had tended to make the inflation of property prices higher than elsewhere.

Increasing prices was dangerous in business and dangerous in government Mr. Bennett warned, adding that among the hardest to be hit by the tax would be the farmers, who take all the risks of business as well as of the elements. He said the Provincial government should put pressure on the federal government to remove its eight per cent sales tax.

He said the tax would send B.C. business to Calgary, Winnipeg and Toronto because British Columbians would buy more through mail order houses outside the province whose business could not be taxed. Mr. Bennett even went so far as to suggest that British Columbians, to avoid the tax, would order automobiles through Alberta firms for delivery in B.C.

### ECONOMY LACKING

The member charged that the economy of the government in the early days of the Coalition was no longer present and suggested that if former Premier John Hart were still in the driver's seat the tax would never have been levied.

“Since Mr. Hart left the government there doesn't seem to be much heart left in it,” he said.

Among savings Mr. Bennett suggested were slashing the salaries of members of the Labor Relations Board.

He predicted the imposition of the sales tax would bring a round of new demands from labor for wage increases and industrial strife would be on the upswing.

A new formula to solve the school cost problem was advocated by Mr. Bennett.

“I say it's most unfair and it won't be solved by a little hand-out here and little handout there,” he said, suggesting the government should assume 50 per cent of the school costs above the basic cost.

Then Mr. Bennett took the C.C.F. to task, reading election promises of the Saskatchewan group which had never been implemented by the government.

He said the government could never be defeated by the C.C.F. If it were defeated it would be not because the C.C.F. had won over the electors, but because the electors were not satisfied with the government.

## Committee Studying B.C. Election Act

A special committee of the B.C. Legislature today began dotting the “i's” and crossing the “t's” in the Provincial Elections Act, which was extensively overhauled last year and has since been submitted to two tests in provincial by-elections.

The committee, which named Tom King, Coalition, Columbia, chairman, and J. H. Cates, Coalition, North Vancouver, secretary, started off considering 50 amendments submitted by elections officers. These, George M. Phillips, registrar general of voters, pointed out, were mostly concerned with mechanical details.

Mr. Phillips suggested that controversial issues such as whether or not the Mennonites should be permitted to vote should be left until later.

During the discussion of some of the proposed amendments, C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch suggested that the same voters' lists should be used for both federal and provincial elections.

## Trying To Wind Up Session By April 15

The B.C. Government is aiming to wind up the current session of the B.C. Legislature by April 15, it was learned today.

The session, which began March 2, will enter its fourth week Tuesday. A four-day adjournment on Thursday of this week is planned for Easter.

## Hogg Maiden Address Scheduled For Tuesday

One of two new members of the B.C. Legislature, Walter Hogg, who was elected on the Coalition government ticket Feb. 23, will speak in the budget debate in the House on Tuesday.

Dr. F. W. Green, Coalition, Cranbrook, and Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, are also scheduled to speak on Tuesday.

## Hospital Scheme With Small Charge To Prevent Abuse

A hospitalization scheme with the patients required to pay 20 per cent of the cost of their hospitalization to curb them using hospitals more than necessary was urged in the B.C. Legislature Monday by Tom King, Coalition, Columbia.

Suggesting 20 per cent as the patient's share of the cost, Mr. King warned that then “people won't want to be going to the hospital so often” and doctors would not be sending patients to the hospital unnecessarily because it was easier to care for them there.

But Mr. King expressed the hope that something would be done to relieve the hospital situation, particularly that faced by small hospitals which do not have the fatherly municipalities to fall back on to cover their deficits.

The member spoke out in favor of the proposed reclamation project for Duke Lake in the southern interior of the province, although this project had been severely criticized by game organizations which contended that the feeding ground for migrating fowl would be lost.

Mr. King said there were thousands of acres of slough lands in the Columbia Valley which would provide superior feeding and resting places for migrating fowl.

He expressed appreciation to the government and the B.C. Power Commission for taking over the Golden plant and reducing power rates.

## Teacher-Member Seeks Establishment Of Junior Colleges

The only school teacher member of the B.C. Legislature Monday during the budget debate called on the Provincial government to establish junior colleges throughout the province to give advanced vocational training and adult education. The plea came from Randolph Harding, C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan.

Mr. Harding analyzed the school system in B.C. and found a need for extension of adult education facilities so that citizens of all ages would be enabled to attend classes if they desired. “There is a need for traveling lecturers, films, radio, free summer schools, recreational facilities, an adequate library system, all utilized for different purposes,” he said, adding that education for citizenship should include a study of the parliamentary system.

Mr. Harding also claimed that the government should provide for further education of retarded children and that provision should be made so that teachers' salaries, school grants and the education department are the first to have appropriations cut.



## Women Refuse To Give Ages; Voters' Registry To Close

Coyness of B.C. electors, particularly women, about giving their ages to registrars of voters will cause the Provincial government to abolish the central registry office of voters set up last year.

After hearing of the problem from George M. Phillips, Vancouver, registrar general of voters for the province, the special legislative committee studying proposed amendments to the Provincial Elections Act today decided to recommend to the Legislature that the office be abolished.

Mr. Phillips said that in Vancouver alone it was estimated that 3,000 persons, majority of them women, would be disfranchised because they had refused to give their ages. Yet the Provincial government cannot legally require a person to give his or her age.

Purpose of the central registry was to eliminate from voters' lists duplications and names of persons who had died. The office has needed the birth date of all voters as a further identification with their names. Mr. Phillips said that without birth dates operation of the office was impossible for there was so much duplication of names.

In Vancouver, Mr. Phillips estimated that 700 persons had already refused to give their ages to traveling deputy registrars of voters, and it was estimated that less than one-quarter of the total number of voters had been registered.

"It's terrible what I've had to put up with," said Mr. Phillips, saying that deputies had been told, "It's none of your business," when asking the ages of voters.

"I'm gravely worried about it," said Mr. Phillips, contending that the 700 who had refused to give their ages were so far as he knew good citizens.

It has been suggested that without the birth dates given the registration has not been completed and therefore the person may not vote.

Kenneth Wiper, registrar of voters here, spoke out in support of the central registry, and said that in the Greater Victoria area fewer women had refused to give their birth dates than in Vancouver. He said that women who at first refused agreed to give their birth dates when it was explained to them why this information was necessary.

## Columbia Member Joins Critics Of Retail Sales Tax

A third government member, Tom King, Columbia, entered the lists Monday against the Provincial government's proposed 3 per cent retail sales tax, but the attack was milder than that launched previously by W. A. C. Bennett, South Okanagan, and Mrs. T. J. Rolston, Vancouver-Point Grey.

During the same sitting the C.C.F. continued to hammer away at the proposed tax with Randolph Harding, youthful member for Kaslo-Slocan, describing the tax as an additional heavy burden on an already exorbitantly high cost of living.

Mr. King contended that the sales tax would mean that B.C. would lose a lot of business, and he did not see why a farmer in his district would pay \$45 extra for a \$1,500 machine which he could buy in Calgary. He suggested that a dealer in Calgary would be smart to pay the freight to B.C. points to get the business, and there would be nothing unethical in his doing so.

The result, said Mr. King, would be that dealers in B.C. would have to absorb the tax.

Like the C.C.F., Mr. King suggested that a tax should be collected on mines, urging a graduated tax which would cover a five-year period.

At the same time he urged powers be given municipalities to levy a larger fee on beer parlors, and he referred to high prices paid for beer licenses in Vancouver and the Interior, claiming these high prices would not have been paid if the beer licenses had not been restricted by the government.

Concluding his discussion of the sales tax, Mr. King urged that farm implements and feed grains be exempt from the tax. He likened the position of a farmer feeding fowl to that of a sawmill operator, the feed being merely the raw material used to produce eggs or turkeys.

Big corporations which had made millions in profits were suggested by Mr. Harding as the source the Provincial government should go to for expanding their revenues.

He likewise foresaw the loss of business to Alberta to avoid payment of the sales tax, and warned that the plight of low income groups would be worsened by the levying of the tax.

## C.C.F. Member Says Budget Debate Unconstitutional

The contention that the B.C. Government's \$78,000,000 budget for 1948-49 was unconstitutional and therefore the current budget debate in the Legislature was unconstitutional, was made by Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, in the House Monday.

Mr. Gargrave pointed out that provision made in the budget estimates, filed last week by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb, was for salaries to be paid for 11 ministers and that the Constitution Act provides for only 10 ministers to receive salaries.

Mr. Gargrave contended that the House could not proceed with the budget debate.

Mr. Speaker R. H. Carson suggested that he could reserve decision on the point introduced by Mr. Gargrave, and that in the meantime the House could proceed with the budget debate.

C.C.F. Opposition Leader H. E. Winch said he was agreeable to this.

Former Premier John Hart pointed out that while the budget estimates had been tabled in the House they did not come into effect until April 1. Arrangements could be made to amend the Constitution Act to provide for an 11th minister, although he did not think this was the intention of the government.

The estimates provide for salaries for the Attorney-General and the Minister of Labor. Both of these portfolios are held by Hon. Gordon S. Wismer.

The House this afternoon expressed congratulations to E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, who today is celebrating his 69th birthday and to J. H. Corsbie, C.C.F., Peace River, who is to be married shortly to a Victoria girl, Miss Margaret Carr.

## Delinquency Highest In Well-To-Do Areas

Mrs. Tilly Rolston, chairman, told legislative social welfare and education committee today that her experience on the Vancouver parks board had shown that juvenile delinquency rate was highest in areas where well-to-do persons live.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition, Victoria, said that she had noticed the same thing when she had attended the juvenile court in Vancouver.

The remarks were made during a presentation to the committee by Hugh McMillan, president of Boys' Clubs in Vancouver, of the work of the movement.

## Increase Royalty On Peace River Coal

The B.C. government, which has spent considerable sums on the exploration of coal resources in the Peace River district, is planning to increase the royalty on coal produced from these areas in the future to compensate for its development work.

Provision for this is made in an amendment to the Coal Act introduced in the B.C. Legislature Monday by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney.

The amending bill gives the Lieutenant-Governor in Council power to set the royalty to be paid on licenses or leases for an area upon which the government has done testing, improvements or development. The royalty may not be less than 25 cents per ton.

All the other seven pieces of legislation introduced Monday had been forecast by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb in his budget address last week, or provide for administrative changes in acts without changing their broad principles.

A \$5,000,000 loan bill was among them, the bill providing that \$4,000,000 of this sum may be spent on highway construction and \$1,000,000 for purchase of equipment for highway and other public works maintenance.

Borrowing powers of the government-owned Great Eastern Railway will be increased by \$5,000,000 in another bill, while a third bill provides for the government to borrow \$2,500,000 for the forest development fund. This fund will be made available to logging concerns to help them build roads.

## Putnam, 2 Others To Speak Wednesday

The budget debate in the B.C. Legislature will proceed Wednesday with Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam leading off.

He will be followed by A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, and Dr. R. R. Laird, Coalition, Similkameen.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1948

## B.C. Leads In Assistance To Cities Municipal Minister Tells Legislature

Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald told the B.C. Legislature Monday that the policy of curbing school board authority was receiving serious consideration.

Speaking during the budget debate, Mr. MacDonald, who is also Minister of Mines, did not indicate whether or not it was the government which was giving the question consideration, but he said:

"By and large, school boards give good services, and without any financial remuneration. But it is generally agreed that the policy of giving a public body the right to spend large sums of the public's money, without any responsibility of collection, is wrong in principle, and would never be tolerated in a well-conducted business."

Mr. MacDonald blamed rising school costs partly on British Columbia's growing population, and he noted that the percentage population increase in B.C. was three times as great as in Quebec, the province whose growth stands second.

"The other problem, of course,"

he went on to say, "is not only the higher cost of teachers' salaries, but also the cost of capital construction."

He reported that a \$50,000 contract for a two-room school had been approved by a certain municipality, while New Westminster had passed a by-law calling for an expenditure of \$1,000,000—the plan calling for two gymnasiums and an auditorium to seat 1,500 people.

The minister had good news for the municipalities, saying the government was prepared this year to make a grant to the municipalities to cover taxes on government-owned buildings used for commercial purposes. He also said that Works Minister E. C. Carson would explain the government's position on the Goldenberg recommendation concerning the province paying municipalities for upkeep of arterial roads.

"No government in the history of this province, or in the history of any other province in the Dominion, has shown more consideration and financial assistance to municipalities than has

been shown by the present Coalition government," he said.

Mr. MacDonald, reporting that agreements had been entered into by B.C. municipalities with Wartime Housing Ltd. to build 5,300 units, claimed that it was not the function of the municipalities to grant fixed sums in lieu of taxes for houses for veterans. He said the Dominion government should make these grants.

He said he was opposed to the sale by municipalities at nominal sums of their lots for these housing projects, opposed to the agreements, opposed to special taxes or the exemption of taxes, and opposed to 40-year agreements.

Outlining assistance given by the Provincial government to municipalities, the minister mentioned the appointment of Dr. E. A. Cleveland, chairman of the Greater Vancouver Water Board, to investigate the water situation in Greater Victoria.

He recommended the amalgamation of water services here as a wise move on the part of the four municipalities concerned.

## Doctor Offers House Ideas To Launch Health Insurance

A four-party committee, composed of representatives of the Medical Services Association, the Blue Cross, the B.C. Medical Association and the provincial government, was proposed in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday to work out a health insurance program for the province.

The suggestion came from Dr. F. W. Green, Coalition, Cranbrook, who said he felt sure sure a committee could work out a satisfactory solution to the problem. Such a scheme was sadly needed, since hospital costs had gone sky high, he said.

Dr. Green warned that B.C. won't get a hospitalization scheme for \$5 to \$30 as Saskatchewan for the government there had to pay \$3,500,000 to augment the funds collected by these levies.

The member urged that a medical school be constructed in Vancouver, and some solution must be worked out for the horse-racing problem.

Replying to C.C.F. members who had suggested that the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Ltd. should contribute more to the provincial treasury, Mr. Green reported that the company, while making huge profits, paid huge sums in taxes both to the provincial and federal governments, paid the highest wages of any mine of that type in British Columbia, assisted its employees to build their own homes, sponsored a hockey team and helped out employees develop their recreational facilities.

"Without it there would be no Kimberley, no Trail," he said, adding that no government would have ventured in an undertaking of this type.

## End Racial Discrimination In Elections Act, Urge C.C.F.

Removal of all racial discrimination in the Provincial Elections Act and lowering the age at which a person may vote to 18 was urged today by C.C.F. members of the Legislature to the special legislative committee studying amendments to the act.

The motions, put by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch and Herbert Gargrave, Mackenzie, were ordered by the chairman Tom King, Coalition, Columbia, to be tabled until the full committee could be present to discuss the question.

Absent from the meeting today were D. C. Brown, Vancouver-Burrard, and J. H. Cates, North Vancouver. Both were attending discussions concerning the future of racing in Vancouver.

Mr. Winch urged that all persons recognized as citizens under the Canadian Citizenship Act and who had lived in the province for six months should be enfranchised in British Columbia. This would include Japanese born in the province.

"I certainly think it is high time we recognize this principle," said Mr. Winch. "If the Menonites in the Fraser Valley are entitled to it so are all minority groups."

Failure to extend the franchise

to certain racial groups was described by Mr. Winch as an "absolute disgrace to the province, the Dominion of Canada and to what British justice is supposed to be."

He said British Columbia was afforded an opportunity to wipe the "dirty blot" from the province.

Mr. Winch's motion was seconded by Mr. Gargrave, who said he had nothing further to add.

Mr. King noted that the extension of the franchise had been a problem which had caused so much controversy in the committee last year and that all members of the committee should be present when the question was discussed.

The suggestion that the age of voters be lowered to 18 was made by Mr. Gargrave and seconded by Mr. Winch. Discussion of this suggestion was likewise held over by Mr. King, until the full committee was present.

At the same time Mr. Winch suggested that instead of recommending amendments to the elections act that the committee recommend consolidation of the act. He pointed out that during the last two years 150 amendments to the act would be made.

## 3 Members To Continue Budget Debate Thursday

The budget debate will continue in the B.C. Legislature Thursday with Dr. R. R. Laird, Similkameen, and Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Esquimalt, both government members, and John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George, participating.

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## 2 Others Wednesday

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## Provincial Control Of School Estimates Proposed In Report Of Commission

Increase of Provincial government grants to schools by more than \$1,799,000 and assumption of control of school board estimates by the Department of Education has been recommended by the Maclean Royal Commission which has investigated school taxation questions.

The unanimous report of the six-man commission appointed last August by the Provincial government to investigate all matters relevant to the present system of school cost sharing was presented in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday by Education Minister W. T. Straith. It is considered doubtful that the government will take action on all the recommendations of the commission since it has already announced it will make grants of \$4,000,000 to municipalities for school and other purposes from its estimated \$12,000,000 annual sales tax revenue.

The commission recommended that an assessment commission be set up "to bring about a provincial wide equalization of assessments."

### DUTIES OUTLINED

Duties of this commission were suggested as follows:

1. To conduct an educational program for the instruction of assessors.
2. To reassess any parcel of land or all of the land in any municipality or district in the province.
3. To make orders requiring the adjustment of the assessment base of any municipality or other area for the purposes of the computations required under the Public Schools Act.
4. To compel municipal and provincial assessors to produce for the inspection of the commission all assessment rolls and other documents relating to assessments.

5. To assess the costs of any reassessment upon any municipality in which such an assessment is carried out.

"Provision might well be made for the decisions of the assessment commission to be made subject to an appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council," the report suggested.

"Assessment commissions are operating successfully in some of the other provinces and in the United States, and the experience seems to have been that most assessment difficulties can be cleared up without the necessity of a formal order of the assessment commission."

Reporting that the commission was of the opinion that the government system of grants for schools have failed to meet the actual costs incurred by school boards to support of minimum program of education, the commission recommended the following changes in school grants:

1. That the present per pupil grants of \$16 for elementary, \$20 for junior high and \$23 for senior

high school be increased by \$2, and that the minimum grant be raised from \$250 to \$500 per daily attendance. This, he estimated, would cost the government \$337,000.

"The combined effect of these two recommendations would be to afford a substantial degree of relief to both municipal and rural areas and especially to those districts which have schools with a small enrollment.

2. That the allowance for schools in isolated areas be fixed at \$550 per school and that in no case should it be less than the sum paid in 1947. This, the commission estimated, would cost \$388,000.

3. That the basic grants for teachers' salaries be revised upward to bring them closer to actual sums paid, the commission suggesting that \$200 per teacher would cost \$992,000.

4. That a grant be made for dormitories on the same basis as is now made for other school buildings and that the cost of operating such dormitories be shared equally by the province and the school districts. This would apply only to junior and senior high schools.

In addition a per pupil allowance of, say, \$10 per month be made to school boards to assist in the maintenance of students who are required to board out in order to obtain their education, the report said.

5. That the province's share of transportation costs for school children be increased from 60 to 70 per cent. This it was estimated would cost \$82,000.

On the question of budget control the commission recommended that the budgets of school districts be subject to approval by the superintendent of education before becoming effective and that a greater degree of supervision be exercised by the Department of Education over the budgetary and accounting procedure of school boards.

The commission suggested the superintendent of education re-

quire the school boards to make comprehensive budget submissions reflecting detailed estimated expenditures and monthly reports of expenditures; uniform and complete accounting records, and that the boards provide auditors' reports and financial statements to the superintendent, and that the department make periodic test audits of districts' records and accounts.

The commission said it did not believe it was within the scope of its inquiry to consider a plan submitted by F. T. Fairley, deputy education minister, which he proposed be substituted for the present system of education finance.

"Under the system proposed, the government would assume a fixed percentage of the total cost of education in the province, the districts assuming the remainder," the commission reported. "The school districts' share would be raised by the application of an over-all provincial mill rate.

"While this proposal would appear to have the merit of

simplicity and may well be worthy of further study, it is apparent that it involves the substitution of an entirely new scheme for the 'present system of the school cost sharing,'" the commission reported, ruling it beyond the scope of the inquiry.

### 'UNDOUBTED BENEFITS'

The commission said that "we would like to say that we are of the view that undoubted benefits have accrued as a result of the introduction of the new system of educational finance in 1946, even although some of the benefits cannot be expressed in financial terms.

"We think that adjustments can be made which will result in the attainment of the objectives originally contemplated, but we are convinced that vigilance should be exercised to insure that economy is constantly practiced and that further adjustments are made when changed conditions so require," the report said.

The commission was headed by H. Alan Maclean, assistant deputy attorney-general for B.C. Other members of the commission were B. C. Bracewell, J. T. Clark, R. R. F. Sewell, R. C. Grant and J. A. Stewart.

The commission held hearings in 12 communities of the province, including Victoria, Port Alberni and Nanaimo on Vancouver Island.

### NEW DEFINITION OF LANDS

New definitions of lands and improvements were urged under the Public Schools Act, the Municipal Act and the Taxation Act.

The commission recommended that fruit trees should be dealt with the same under the Municipal and the Public Schools Acts, suggesting that they be exempted from taxation under both acts.

"In the case of landowners such as ranchers, the very nature of those undertakings necessitates the use of large tracts of land, it is recommended that all of the range lands used solely for the purpose of grazing cattle be reassessed with a view to afford some relief," the commission reported.

### FARM LAND CLASSIFICATION

The commission also recommended that for the purpose of computing the government grant and the sharing of school costs under the Public Schools Act, both municipalities and rural areas should include in their assessment basis 75 per cent of the assessed value of the farmer's residence, and exclude all of his other improvements used solely for farm purposes up to a stated maximum.

It was also suggested that the definition of farm land be changed so that only bona fide farmers could obtain the benefits of the farm land classification.

Speaking of the reduction from several hundred to 76 the number of school districts in the province, the commission reported:

"On the whole it is felt that the present system of large school units has been in operation for so short a time that it is not yet possible to make any recommendations regarding the size of school districts. Further, we think that if the necessity arises for revising present boundaries, it could well be done by the educational authorities in consultation with the assessors of the districts concerned."

While urging provision of dormitories at strategic centres and provision of a grant for a boarding allowance claiming this would tend to take education more readily available to those living in isolated areas, the commission did not endorse mobile schools, operated in some sections of Ontario with some success.

"We are not sure whether this system would be practicable in this province as we are inclined to doubt whether or not there would be enough pupils to justify a system of this kind," said the commission. "We do feel, however, that this scheme merits further study."

## Greater \$230,3

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## Greater Victoria May Get \$230,320 From Sales Tax

Greater Victoria municipalities may receive a \$230,320 share of the proposed 3 per cent B.C. retail sales tax this year.

This was learned today when B.C. Union of Municipalities notified its members disposition of the one-third share of the tax to the municipalities probably will be based on school populations in 1947 added to estimated total populations of 1946.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb told the union this is the suggested plan for distributing the tax share. He stressed the percentages worked out are approximate only.

The union said representations have been made to the finance department on payment this year and "if the tax is imposed without delay and arrangements made for payment this year, in all probability the payment will cover a six-month period."

Estimated share of the municipalities for 12 months is \$4,000,000.

If the six-month period \$2,000,000 is paid, the city, Saanich, Oak Bay and Esquimalt will get \$230,320.

The city's share of this would be \$132,222 or 6.6111 per cent of the \$2,000,000; Saanich, \$59,800 or 2.9900 per cent; Oak Bay, \$26,605 or 1.3304 per cent; Esquimalt, \$11,690 or .5845 per cent.

Vancouver's percentage amounts to 41.0551 which would mean \$211,102 of the \$2,000,000.

Vancouver Island districts and share they will receive, follow:

Alberni, 3150 per cent; Courtenay, 2606 per cent; Cumberland, 1249 per cent; Duncan, 3683; Ladysmith, 2466; Nanaimo, 8304; Port Alberni, 8880; North Cowichan, 6550.

Other B.C. districts:  
New Westminster, 4.0261 per cent; North Vancouver, 1.6020; North Vancouver, 1.0295 (one for city and other municipality); West Vancouver, 1.3064; Chilliwack, 1.4087; Surrey, 3.4160; Burnaby, 4.9727; Kamloops, .9358; Kelowna, 1.1855; Nelson, .7787; Prince Rupert, 1.0189; Revelstoke, .3851; Trail, 1.3005.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1948

## Whole Coast Area As Crown License Urged By Logger

W. C. Gibson, member of the Truck Loggers' Association, today told the Legislature's forestry committee that the entire coast area of B.C. should be retained as a single management license by the Crown, which should sell timber as it matures to the highest bidder.

Mr. Gibson told the committee that the truck loggers had no quarrel with the forest management plan but did not approve of the methods adopted in the legislation approved by the Legislature last year.

"If we can be shown and convinced we're wrong, we'll go right down the line with you," he said. He blamed the Legislature, rather than the operators or the B.C. Forest Service for the development of the "cut and get out" policy used by operators in the woods today.

Mr. Gibson contended that revenue from the forests should never have gone into general revenue of the province, but the government should have adopted a policy that every tree cut must pay for planting of another tree.

The forestry department, he claimed, had not been given the funds it required to build up a strong department, and now it was passing the burden on to private industry.

Claire Smith, president of the association, contended that logging companies should be required to pay for reforestation where it was necessary and suggested that the government should make a levy for reforestation on the same basis as assessments for scaling charges. But Mr. Smith claimed that natural reforestation to the extent of 75 per cent can be achieved by careful logging and natural regeneration was the cheapest and most satisfactory.

## Expect Resumption of Berry Exports

Hope that the Marshall Plan will make possible the resumption of exports of B.C. berries in sulphur dioxide solution was expressed by Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam Wednesday in the B.C. Legislature.

For years large quantities of berries from southern Vancouver Island and the Fraser Valley have been shipped in solution to the United Kingdom. Britain's dollar conservation program, however, has cut these off.

## Reforestation Plans Won't Hit Target Because Of Snows

C. D. Orchard, deputy forest minister for B.C., told the Legislature's forestry committee that bad weather had held up the government's current planting program, aimed at the planting of 12,000,000 Douglas fir seedlings on Vancouver Island, and the program this year would fall short of its aim.

The government, Mr. Orchard said, had originally aimed at increasing nursery production to 20,000,000 trees annually, but because of the shortness of the planting season and the huge labor force required the planting program had been cut back to 12,000,000 trees annually.

Seedlings can only be planted successfully for reforestation during a short period in the fall and during about six weeks in the spring. The fall planting period is endangered by early frosts, while the spring planting period, as is the case this year, has been cut short by late snows.

Mr. Orchard said that two camps on Vancouver Island employing 150 men had been required to halt operations by snows last week-end.

Under the government's sustained yield forestry program, now being set up, holders of forest management licenses will be required to shoulder the responsibility of reforestation on the lands covered by the license.

This policy, Mr. Orchard said, was being adopted because it was impossible for a single agency to handle a problem requiring such a huge labor force and restricted to such a period.

Logging companies holding management licenses, where necessary, since natural regeneration has not been adequate, will probably put their logging forces to tree planting during the short planting periods of the spring and fall.

## Law-Making Starts In B.C. Legislature

Five bills, all providing for minor administrative changes and repeal of an act, provisions for which are made elsewhere, were introduced in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday afternoon.

An amendment to the Soldiers' Land Act provides for creation of a separate account in the treasury for funds of the Southern Okanagan Lands Project at Oliver. At the present time funds from this project go into consolidated revenue of the province.

The Codling-moth Control Act is repealed, since control of the pest in province's orchards is provided for elsewhere in the statutes of the province.

A bill to amend the Farmers' Land-clearing Assistance Act provides for the agriculture department to place a lien in the land registry office on land it has cleared and for which it has not received full payment. In some cases purchasers of lands cleared by the government have not been aware that money is still owing to the province.

Control of creameries, dairies and milk pasteurization plants will be tightened up in a bill introduced by Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam to amend the Creameries and Dairies Regulation Act.

Changes already made by the federal government in its collection of taxes on corporations are incorporated in the B.C. legislation in amendments to the British Columbia Corporation Income Tax Act introduced by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

## Prefers Calluses To College Degree

Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam, who during his lifetime has probably done more hard manual labor than any other member of the provincial cabinet, is strongly in favor of hard work.

Wednesday in the B.C. Legislature Mr. Putnam, who has spent many years of his life farming, suggested that if schools could teach people to think for themselves and sent them out into the world with ambitions and missions, they would be fulfilling their purpose.

"Something in education robs work of its dignity," he said. "I think that's bad."

"I believe calluses on the hands are just as good as a college degree, and probably do a lot more good."

He said that British Columbia had been built to its present stature by people with calluses on their hands, and "I think that's what we've got to get back to."

## Sales Tax Will Hit Poor, Says Member

B.C.'s proposed sales tax was assailed in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday because it was contended by A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre, it would make the poor poorer and the sick sicker.

Mr. Turner claimed that ill health was more prevalent among the poor than the rich and that the tax would lower the standard of living, thus making the poor poorer and therefore increase sickness and hospitalization costs.

"Prevention in every sphere of social life is cheaper than cure," he warned.



## Farmer, Soil Preservation Vital Factors In Salvation Of World, Says Putnam

"The soil is our most priceless possession and our greatest responsibility. Freedom has never flourished in a hungry and impoverished land. God grant us the intelligence to respect the soil, and the will to conserve it in all ways, so that when our period of stewardship is done we may pass on the soil with its fertility and fruitfulness undiminished. Thus, our children's children and their children's children shall not know want, and their nation will remain the land of plenty and the home of freedom."

Thus, using the words of another person, Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam concluded an address in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday. While not a skilled orator—he is a farmer himself—Mr. Putnam put across to the House his plea: Farmers must be given a better deal, and the soil must be conserved, if the people of the world are to be well fed.

Making a thorough review of the agricultural picture in British



HON. FRANK PUTNAM

Columbia, the minister's speech, which came during the budget debate in the legislature, contained several warnings and expressions of hope.

He said that he hoped to be able to announce before long that the government would help in the digging of dugouts and building of dams in the Peace River district to augment farm water supplies.

Asked by Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, what was going to be done about the water shortages on Vancouver Island, Mr. Putnam said that something will have to be done about this, and that he had high hopes that the formation of a Greater Victoria water board would bring water in plenty to farms on the south end of Vancouver Island, making a paradise in the Saanich district to supply produce for Greater Victoria.

But Mr. Putnam warned that southern Vancouver Island was not, without water, satisfactory for dairy production, but did lend itself to small fruit production.

Speaking of the lower Fraser Valley, Mr. Putnam warned that some day it may be regretted that fine agricultural areas had been taken over for residential purposes.

### TO IMPROVE GRAZING LANDS

He warned that some of the interior range lands may be over-grazed at the present time, but it was hoped that experiments now being undertaken would make possible improvement of these vast grazing lands by the development of new grasses.

Through development of water and power resources of the Columbia River, Mr. Putnam foresaw the development of 100,000 acres of irrigated land in the East Kootenay district before long, and he said that the development of the river will bring cheap power to that district.

Farm lands of this area will be producing long after the Kimberley mine is merely a hole in the ground and Trail is just a ghost town, he suggested.

"The land should be looked after as our greatest resource," he warned, adding that the history of all nations had shown that when the land had eroded and production was lost, that country began to sink.

### MUST DOUBLE PRODUCTION

"We're going just about the same way," he warned.

Yet the agricultural production of the world would have to be doubled in the next 15 to 20 years or people would be going hungry, he said, so great is the increase in the population of the world today.

While pleading for conservation of the soil, Mr. Putnam urged that the lot of the farmer must be improved, for most of the farming today in B.C. was being done by persons getting on in years and farming was attracting few young people.

"If it weren't for machinery we wouldn't have sufficient food to feed ourselves," he said.

"The government will be well advised to develop the country and to make it a better place to live," he said.

"Put the farmers on the same level as the urban people," he said. "I think it is a more honored and dignified industry than any other we have. If we don't see farm production on proper fertilized land, citizenship of this province is going to go down."

## Committee Hears Vancouver Tax To Bring \$2,200,000

Vancouver's proposed business tax will raise the revenue of the mainland city from businesses from \$1,000,000 presently collected in trade license fees to an estimated \$2,200,000, Acting Mayor George Miller told the legislative private bills committee yesterday.

Vancouver is asking amendment to the legislation passed at the last session of the Legislature to give cities authority to levy the tax to provide for the collection of either the business tax or the trade license fee, whichever is larger; to exempt by-law certain persons, and to continue to collect a fee on motor vehicles.

The proposed amendments were presented to the committee by D. E. McTaggart, K.C., city solicitor for Vancouver.

Mr. McTaggart said that the law as it now stands requires the city to levy the business tax on all businesses, but Vancouver felt that certain groups should be exempted. He suggested private schools should not be taxed under the proposed new levy because each seat provided by these schools reduced the number the city had to provide.

Mr. McTaggart also suggested that in some cases the city would receive more revenue by collecting the trade license fee than the business tax and therefore it was asked that the city have power to levy either one or the other. Peddlers, with small offices, would not provide much revenue under the business tax, he suggested, yet they could be required to pay in accordance with the size of their business under the trade license tax.

At the same time Vancouver is asking to remove the ceilings of \$500 for a manufacturing plant and \$2 per employee on the trade license fee.

Exception to this was taken by T. G. Norris, K.C., representing the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. He claimed the principle was entirely unsound and that ceilings should continue pending the levy of the business tax and that the city should not have a blank cheque for licensing businesses.

The new provisions were asked in amendments to the charter of the city of Vancouver.

They have been taken under consideration by the committee.

## Orchard Outlines Experiments To Cut Reforestation Costs

Experiments to cut down the expense of reforestation by use of airplanes and other methods were outlined to the Legislature's forestry committee today by C. D. Orchard, deputy forests minister for the B.C. government.

The question had been opened up by Claire Smith, president of the Truck Loggers' Association, who said that experiments now were being conducted in loading tree seeds so that they could be dropped from aircraft.

Mr. Orchard outlined several experiments which had been conducted during the last two decades in seeding of forests but indicated, while some of them may in the future be practical, at the present time all were either less satisfactory or more expensive than planting by hand seedling trees grown in nurseries.

With Douglas fir seed costing \$4 a pound and two and a half pounds is needed per acre, the cost of "broadcast" seeding, he said, was more expensive than nursery production of seedlings and planting by hand. He pointed out that a considerable portion of the seeds distributed failed to grow and loss to birds and rodents was heavy.

To cut down the loss to birds and rodents experiments had been conducted into poisoning these pests before the seeding; perfuming the seeds so that they would drive the rodents away and poisoning the seed. None of these techniques had proved encouraging.

In some area seeds were planted with shields over them and the shields were later collected but the result was not encouraging.

The latest experiments are aimed at providing a protection for the seeds against rodents and birds, so that the seeds after being dropped from aircraft would not be eaten up. While this had proved successful for rice and other products, the difficulty with forest tree seed pelted at the present time was to develop a protection which would eliminate the loss to birds and rodents but at the same time permit moisture penetration to start the growth of the seed.

Mr. Orchard admitted that something may be developed in the future to make this possible.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1948

## WASTING PUBLIC FUNDS

**REGARDLESS OF WHEN OR BY WHOM** it was arranged, there is an item on which the Legislature should hesitate before granting funds, and that is a projected trip to Great Britain of the Minister of Trade and Industry and his deputy. At a time when the government is admittedly finding it extremely difficult to budget for its ever-mounting cost of public and social services, it is hard to reconcile this extraordinary decision to spend thousands of dollars on the provision of ministerial cicerones—who, incidentally, know little if anything of British business methods—for a group of British Columbia business men who probably know much more.

Since this a matter which already has been aired in the House, and because we have some knowledge of Britain and the British importer, it is imperative that the taxpayers of this province be alert to this stupid proposal to fritter away public funds. And it must be classed as stupid in the light of the inescapable fact that British Columbia is fortunate in having in the British metropolis a talented representative who, in the last quarter of a century, has been on the spot acquiring an intimate knowledge of British people and the British way of doing business. And on innumerable occasions he has demonstrated his ability to act as our ambassador and commercial envoy far more successfully than any transient—even of ministerial or deputy-ministerial status.

In addition to Mr. W. A. McAdam, C.M.G., the Agent-General to whom we refer above, British Columbia also is represented in the United Kingdom by a trade commissioner, Colonel H. F. E. Smith, whom the government appointed only a few months ago to assist the province's senior official in the attainment of those very important objectives which the minister and his deputy now argue they hope to reach by virtue of a few weeks' visit.

Nothing we have said in the foregoing is intended as the least personal reflection on the Minister of Trade and Industry or his deputy. It is merely said to suggest that it is ridiculous to waste public funds to send them on a mission for which there is not the slightest justification. The delegation of outstanding business men who are intending to make the trip at their own expense are, we feel confident, thoroughly competent to manage their own tour of British industrial centres—especially as they are assured of the expert and courteous guidance of Mr. McAdam and his assistant in trade matters.

## Urges Government Form Commission To Control Racing

Taking over of British Columbia's race track industry by the government was recommended in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday by A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East.

This was suggested as a solution to the problem currently being discussed by the government, brought about by claims that the B.C. Turf and Country Club Ltd. was unable to make an adequate return on its investment on two race tracks in the Vancouver area.

"Apparently B.C. Turf is out for blood and plans to make the government surrender," he said, noting that two suggestions had been brought forward. One, that the government allow the race tracks to take another 2 per cent out of bets placed, and the other that the government put up \$500 purses on each day of racing to encourage the racing of B.C.-bred and B.C.-owned horses.

Mr. Turner rejected the first suggestion, and urged the government to take over the tracks and set up a racing commission to operate them.

He suggested that the plight of the company could not be so bad since he had learned that an offer of \$1,000 a day for use of a track had been made to the company but rejected.

A. J. McDonell, Coalition, Vancouver Centre, asked Mr. Turner for the source of his information. Mr. Turner declined to give the source, saying he had learned it on reliable authority and the member would have to be satisfied with that.

## Printer's Error In Budget Estimates Puzzles Members

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb told the B.C. Legislature Wednesday that a mistake had been made in the printing of the B.C. government's budget estimates for the forthcoming fiscal year and jokingly suggested that the mistake resulted from his generosity.

Earlier C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch had brought to the attention of the government that some copies of the budget estimates presented to the House did not contain the same figures as others.

The error was brought about apparently by a change in the government's proposed appropriation for special assistance to rural areas' school taxes. Originally the government had planned to ask \$300,000 for this work but later it had upped its proposed appropriation to \$1,100,000.

The change, made after the budget estimates had been printed, apparently was not affected in all copies of the estimate through an oversight in the King's Printer's office. Likewise, the total appropriations the government had asked had not been changed in the summary of appropriations asked by the government.

After the House had decided to proceed with the budget debate while the question was looked into, Mr. Anscomb made his statement, assuring the House that any members who had copies of the estimates in which the changes had not been made would be presented with the revised copies.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1948

## Beard Says House Talks Too Much, Ministers Have To Work Too Hard

Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Coalition, Esquimalt, thinks that private members of the B.C. Legislature talk too much and cabinet minister work too hard.

Suggesting that a 30-minute time limit be set on the speeches in the House of private members, Cmdr. Beard prefaced his statement by expressing the hope that none of his fellow members would take his observation as being personal.

"I am firmly of the opinion that our form of government lacks maximum efficiency because only a few must carry on the burden of government throughout the year of this vast and fast-growing province by being numerically insufficient to carry on the work involved," he continued, advocating that at least two more members be added to the provincial cabinet.

"Several cabinet ministers have literally died or gone sick during even the short time I have been a member and no sick or over-

tired minister can give his best services to the province," he said. "Conversely the province has no right to expect so much time and worry to be shouldered by so few."

Cmdr. Beard observed that two important portfolios were carried by one man in the cabinet today, apparently referring to the Attorney-General and Labor portfolios held by Hon. Gordon S. Wismer.

"In my opinion, ministers of the government should travel extensively if they are to keep abreast of the rapid advances in B.C., and they cannot take time to be away from their desks under present conditions," he said.

He added that the biggest disillusion he had experienced was the smallness of the part the private member plays in the larger constructive measures of the government, "and yet a private member is given every consideration in his efforts to help his own constituents."



## 2 M.L.A.'s Demand Earlier Sessions

Members from both sides of the House Thursday pleaded with the B.C. government to call sessions of the Provincial Legislature earlier in the year so that it would not interfere with the work of members and delegations to the government.

John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George, urged the government to call future sessions for late January or early February, noting that the session which began March 2 was late this year. Earlier sessions, he contended, would be more convenient to delegations and all others interested in proposed legislation going before the session.

Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Coalition, Esquimalt, seconded the suggestion of Mr. McInnis, urging the government not only to call the session in January but also to call members to Victoria a week before the session opened so that they could become acquainted with the impending legislation.

He described as a poor excuse the contention of the government that the session could not start earlier because legislation was not ready.

## Massive Mine Bills Before Legislature

Legislation covering almost every phase of mining in British Columbia, superseding present laws governing coal and metalliferous mine operations, now is before the B.C. Legislature.

The two bills were introduced Thursday by Mines Minister R. C. MacDonald and went through first reading. Both are the most bulky pieces of legislation now before the House.

The Coal Mines Regulation Act is 81 pages in extent and includes 94 sections and three schedules. Governing metalliferous mines, quarries and metallurgical works, the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act is 63 pages long and has 48 sections and one schedule.

Both bills are the result of a year's work by the mines department which held hearings with mine operators and mine unions.

Routine amendments to the Constitution Act and the Apprenticeship Act are also before the Legislature, having been introduced Thursday afternoon.

## Designation Planned Of Films For Adults

Provision for classification of movies as adult entertainment and advertising of films as adult entertainment is made in a proposed amendment to the Moving Pictures Act now before the B.C. Legislature.

Classification of motion pictures has long been advocated by C.C.F. members of the Legislature, but the amendment introduced by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer does not go as far as C.C.F. members had asked.

It provides that the motion picture "censor may, where he deems it necessary, classify any film as adult entertainment. Where a film is so classified, the censor may require that there be displayed prominently the words 'adult entertainment' in such of the advertising of the film as he deems necessary."

No provision is made in the amending bill to prohibit children from attending films classified by the censor as adult entertainment.

## Control Demanded Of Coast Ship Fares

Extension of the powers of the Board of Transport Commissioners or creation of a new board to control passenger fares and freight charges of British Columbia coastal ships is asked in a motion to be proposed in the B.C. Legislature by Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie.

Notice of the motion, to be moved next Tuesday, has been given to the Legislature.

Mr. Gargrave points out that many thousands of B.C. citizens are completely dependent for their transportation and freight on the various coastal steamship companies which, during the past year, have increased both passenger fares and freight rates, "without regard to the general public interest."

He will ask the House to petition the federal government urging the creation of a board similar to the Board of Transport Commissioners, which controls railway freight and passenger fares or extension of these powers to the present board.

## \$3 Court Cost Levy Set For Magistrates

Increase in court costs is provided for in a bill to amend the Magistrates Act now before the B.C. Legislature.

Introduced by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer, the bill provides that magistrates may levy charges of \$3 for costs in cases originating under the Summary Conviction Act in unorganized areas of the province.

At present the charge is \$2.50.

## More For Cancer Urged By Doctor

Dr. R. R. Laird, who represents the Similkameen constituency in the B.C. Legislature, thinks the B.C. government may be wise to build up its highway system for military purposes.

"There may come a day, sooner than any of us even dare vision," he told the Legislature Thursday, "in which we will need roads south and north, east and west, not only for the purpose of our citizens, but for the purpose of military travel, in order that we may quickly transport supplies to our Pacific coast to defend us against an invader."

The government member complimented the works department on choice of men, who were capable of not only building roads but also, if the need arises, of building air fields.

## Road Network Said Handy For Defence

The B.C. government, while moving in the right direction by asking twice as much for cancer control this year, is still not doing sufficient, in the opinion of Dr. R. R. Laird.

The government member for Similkameen also expressed satisfaction in the B.C. Legislature Thursday that the government was planning to grant \$25,000 toward arthritis control and was increasing appropriations for tuberculosis control.

Dr. Laird, one of three physicians who are members of the House, suggested that the government should pass legislation to make directors of health and benefit societies responsible for losses incurred by their patients, and advocated that plans for a medical school on the University of B.C. campus with a 500-bed hospital be proceeded with.

## Esquimalt Member Advocates Province Regulate Profits

Overcharging is a polite term for theft, in the opinion of Cmdr. C. T. Beard, Coalition government member of the B.C. Legislature, and the government should make legislative curbs on those endeavouring to become rich as a direct result of the war or of conditions brought about by the war.

Cmdr. Beard outlined his views to the B.C. Legislature before the Easter adjournment, contending that the government should have power to license persons to do business and should stipulate that charges be fair or the license would be withdrawn. At the present time, he said, the government only has power to interfere where the financial set-up of a company is unsatisfactory.

He cited as an example attempts by furniture-moving companies to overcharge a person of his acquaintance, and said he would gladly substantiate his statements before any committee the government cared to set up.

"These are but two cases which came to my immediate notice and give me cause to believe that hundreds of similar cases must exist," he said.

"It is probably futile for me to ask for legislation to curb these practices as we are so wedded to the antiquated slogan of free enterprise, before we have too many discontented people who will, quite rightly, make every effort to put this seemingly helpless government out of power. In my opinion we are their protectors and are failing to fulfill our responsibilities in this respect."

## Formal As Cu

The current British Columbia Assembly Thursday fifth week for Easter adjournments are second long day wound up tempo of the House will be.

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MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1948

## Formal Speechmaking Nears Conclusion As Current Session Enters Fifth Week

The current session of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly Tuesday enters its fifth week following a four-day Easter adjournment and the indications are that with the second long debate scheduled to be wound up Wednesday the tempo of the proceedings of the House will be speeded up soon.

Convened March 2—a couple of weeks later than usual and some of the lawmakers have pointed out to the government, urging that in future sessions start in January or early February—the Provincial Parliament to date has spent most of its time discussing a wide range of topics.

Traditionally the first few weeks of any session are turned over to the debate on the Speech from the Throne which gives every legislator an opportunity to discuss whatever topic he wants.

Technically the debate on the Speech from the Throne is limited to the topics mentioned by the government in the speech read by the Lieutenant-Governor on the opening day of the session but actually a member can discuss anything which the Speech from the Throne fails to mention.

The debate on the Speech from the Throne got underway during the current session on March 3 with Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition government member for Victoria, leading off and making the motion that the Lieutenant-Governor be thanked. A. A. F. Steven, another government member, who represents Vancouver-Point Grey, seconded the motion. The debate continued in full swing until March 16 when the motion was passed.

### RECORD \$77,000,000 BUDGET

It was followed the next afternoon by presentation by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb of the record \$77,000,000 budget. This confirmed that British Columbians faced a new form of provincial tax—a retail sales tax expected to net \$12,000,000 annually.

The second big debate of the Legislature was detonated by Mr. Anscomb's budget address and this debate will continue Tuesday when the Legislative Assembly reconvenes after the Easter adjournment.

Like the debate on the Speech from the Throne the budget debate, technically confined to points raised by the budget, has wandered over all questions in the minds of the lawmakers.

While the two debates have been in progress the legislators have started on the job of actually making laws, but to date but one measure has been finally passed. It was a law to validate an election of village commissioners in Osoyoos and had to be rushed through so that the village could carry on its functions.

### IMPORTANT LEGISLATION

Several other more important pieces of legislation have been introduced during the current session and have been sent

through the formality of first reading but the legislation of greatest interest to the people of the province has yet to be brought into the House by the government.

Perhaps the most important bill before the House at the present time is that providing for amendments to the Forest Act which Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney introduced some weeks ago. It provides for increase in royalties timber companies will have to pay the government for trees cut on Crown lands, provision for establishment of farm woodlots and a plan to assist logging operators in building logging roads with funds advanced by the government and repayable as timber is hauled over those roads.

While the government's forest management license system to provide sustained yield forestry had been under considerable fire since it was introduced a year ago, no change in this policy was provided for in the amending bill.

With the winding up of the budget debate probably next Wednesday the Legislature will occupy itself with lawmaking and formal passing, item by item, of appropriations to carry on the affairs of the government during the forthcoming fiscal year.

### BUDGET ESTIMATES

Passing of the budget estimates is done in committee of the whole House properly known as committee of supply. During this committee meeting the 10 cabinet ministers will have to prove to the satisfaction of the legislators the necessity of the appropriations asked for their departments.

During the next week or two the bulk of the legislation the House will consider during the present session will also be introduced.

The bill to provide for the levying of the sales tax will probably be followed with keener interest by the public than any other measure. In it the people will learn what foods will be exempt from the tax and what items will be taxed, how the tax system will work and an indication will probably be given of the date at which the tax will come into force.

Administration of the tax is expected to require a considerable force.

The passage of this bill in all probability will be preceded by the strongest opposition barrage of the session. During the budget debate opposition members almost without exception have expressed their strong opposition to the measure, winning the support of two government members in a vote on an amendment to Mr. Anscomb's motion that the House go into committee of supply.

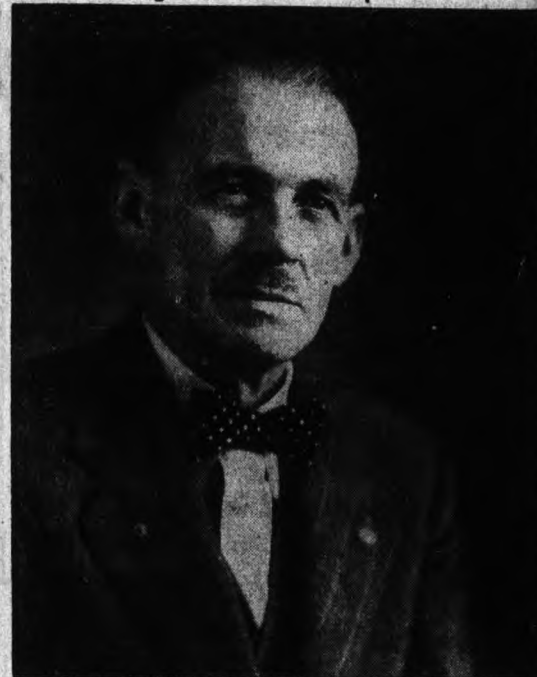
While indication was given in the Speech from the Throne and in the "policy" speech of Premier Byron Johnson of the government's plans to institute a hospitalization scheme nothing has been heard of this proposal since. No provision for financing such a plan was made in the budget and no indication has been given

since the "policy" speech by cabinet ministers of the type of scheme under consideration by the government.

The legislators to date have been working on an easy schedule, with but one night sitting held so far. But more night sittings are in store for the members before they leave for their homes on or after April 15.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1948

## Tells Of Big Plans For Department



Works Minister E. C. Carson told the B.C. Legislature this afternoon how his department plans to spend \$18,600,000 during the forthcoming fiscal year on maintaining, rebuilding and surfacing B.C. highways and replacing bridges.

## 124 Miles Of New Construction Scheduled For Coming Season

The Provincial government during the forthcoming construction period plans to let contracts for 124 miles of new construction and reconstruction.

Details of the program were announced in the Legislature today by Works Minister E. C. Carson who said the new projects would be confined for the most part to the main trunk highways and will consist mostly of continuation of projects now in progress or filling in gaps between projects already completed.

During the 1947-48 fiscal year the government, with appropriations totaling \$7,580,000 authorized, embarked on projects for construction and reconstruction

of 214 miles of highway, also confined mostly to main trunk roads. Of this work 84 miles was done by contract and the remaining 130 by day labor projects.

Completed during the year were 294 miles of new construction and reconstruction, including projects already in progress at the beginning of the year.

Of the total \$7,580,000 authorized for new construction, \$5,000,000 was allocated for the last calendar year, the remainder being allocated for the current calendar year. To this will be added \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year to start next Thursday.

Aside from the Duncan-Lady-smith rerouting of the Island Highway, all of the major projects are slated for the mainland.



## Duncan Project In \$18,600,000 Works Program

Works Minister E. C. Carson announced today the Provincial government plans to spend \$18,600,000 during the fiscal year to start Thursday of this week on maintenance and new construction of highways and bridges in the province, including construction of a new Island Highway route from Duncan to Ladysmith—the largest project ever undertaken on the Island Highway.

Details of the massive public works department program for the coming fiscal year were announced by the minister in the Provincial Legislative Assembly this afternoon as the budget debate neared the close.

Scheduled for the 1949 program are several other minor improvements in the Island Highway which will complete the rebuilding of the main island artery from Langford to Courtenay which was started during recent years.

Mr. Carson reported that recommendations are expected to be received by the department within three or four months on the proposed new Island Highway outlet for Victoria.

Of the \$18,600,000 program, the government is asking \$7,000,000 for road maintenance, an increase of \$1,000,000 over current fiscal year, but most of this \$1,000,000 will be eaten up by increased costs; \$3,100,000 for paving; \$5,000,000 for new construction; \$2,500,000 for bridges, and \$1,000,000 for new equipment.

The paving appropriation is expected to put new surfaces on 465 miles of highway, compared with 283 miles of surfacing com-

pleted during the past construction season. Included in the program are the surfacing of 21 miles from Red Gap to Qualicum and Union Bay, and 20 miles between Parksville and Cathedral Grove.

This phase of the overall program will be financed by the three cents a gallon gasoline tax taken over by the Provincial government last year when the Dominion government vacated the gasoline tax field. Of the total \$3,100,000, \$2,500,000 is expected to come from the tax during the coming fiscal year while the remainder is a carry-over from unspent portions of the tax during the current fiscal year.

## To Replace Bridges On Island

Several bridges on Vancouver Island are planned to be replaced with the \$2,500,000. These include replacement of the following bridges with the estimated costs of the structures as follows: Tugwell Bridge, \$16,000; Muir Creek, \$16,000; Sandstone Creek, \$15,000—all on the west coast road; and Niagara Bridge, \$50,000, on the Malahat; Coombs, \$100,000; Courtenay Slough, \$45,000, and Diamond Crossing, \$180,000—all in the Comox electoral district; and River Bend bridge, \$45,000, in the Alberni electoral district.

This phase of the project will be financed from the \$5,000,000 loan for bridges provided during the last session of the Legislature and from bridge maintenance funds.

Mr. Carson said that every effort would be made to have the Hope-Princeton Highway, providing the first direct highway link for the Okanagan Valley with the coast, completed and paved early in 1949.

"While it had been hoped that the work between Hope and Princeton could have been com-

pleted as a paved highway early in 1948, adverse weather conditions and the encountering of more rock than had been previously estimated, together with other factors, would indicate that the completion of this important highway in 1948 is impossible," he said.

Mr. Carson gave no indication in his address as to the date when the John Hart Highway, to provide the Peace River district with its first direct highway outlet to the B.C. coast, would be completed.

The sections of the Island Highway yet to be reconstructed following the completion of the Duncan-Ladysmith projects, include those between Qualicum and Cook's Creek and a short section at Mill Bay.

Mr. Carson gave no indication as to which of the two routes for the Duncan-Ladysmith project would be chosen by the department. The question is being investigated following discussions with civic and school officials at Duncan not long ago.

For further details of the Works Department program see page 12.

## 3 Per Cent Sales Tax Bill Before Legislature Soon

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb indicated today that the bill to provide for the levying of the three per cent retail sales tax in British Columbia would be introduced in the Legislature late this week or early next week.

Mr. Anscomb said that the bill was not completely prepared yet and it would be two or three days before it was ready for presentation to the Legislature.

Meanwhile it was learned that the staff which will be required to administer the act when it comes into effect will be housed in the new temporary office building being completed now be-

hind the Parliament Buildings. The building now is about 85 per cent complete.

British Columbians are expected to know what items will be taxed and what items will be exempted after the bill has been introduced in the House. Some indication of the starting date of the tax may also be given in the bill.

While Mr. Anscomb has announced that liberal exemptions will be allowed foods for family consumption, the tax will be levied on restaurant meals, cigarettes and liquors, it has been reported at the Parliament Buildings.

## Material Shortages, High Costs Slow Bridge Replacement

British Columbia's 1947-48 bridge-building program, calling for the replacement of 61 structures, fell far wide of its mark because of shortages, Works Minister E. C. Carson told the Provincial Legislature today.

Of the program, but four bridges were completed and 16 are in the process of construction, 10 having foundations completed and awaiting steel, and 17 were replaced by permanent culverts and fills.

"Six other bridges which had to be substituted for the original list were constructed in concrete and steel," he said. "In addition to these structures, there were a number of smaller structures constructed in the various districts throughout the province."

Mr. Carson went on to say that materials, men and equipment, lacking throughout the entire year, did not show much sign of improvement during the coming fiscal year.

He noted that the mill price of steel had increased by \$20 a ton during the year and the cost of structural timber had almost doubled.

"In addition the wage scale increased by 25 per cent and there is a further advance for steel prices forecast," he said.

"The effect of these increases is going to be that only a little more than half of the structures will be built that had been planned for from the \$5,000,000 allocated by the treasury department," he said, adding that one of the major problems of the department was to replace bridges so that it will not be necessary to close any major structures to traffic.

Mr. Carson noted that while steel work for the Pattullo Bridge was fabricated and erected at \$180 per ton, latest bids indicated similar types of construction would cost about \$350 per ton.

## Review Suggested Of B.C. Road Aid In Municipalities

Works Minister E. C. Carson told the B.C. Legislature this afternoon that the whole matter of highways in municipalities maintained by the Provincial government should be revised in light of present conditions.

The minister said that the recommendations of the Goldenberg commission that the province extend its financial participation on highways in municipalities to cities not exceeding a population of 15,000, and that special grants be made to cities with populations exceeding that total had not been carried out by the Provincial government because of shortage of competent staff.

"It is my contention that our modern program of highway construction is designed and carried out to move motorized traffic expeditiously to their various destinations," he said. "In certain areas ribbon and business development is detracting from the usefulness and original purpose of our present highway design. In other words our modern highways in certain sections are merely another street with the comparative hindrances to the free flow of motor traffic."

"Every possible effort will be made during the coming year to catch up on our safety and directional signing," he continued.

## Kenney To Wind Up Debate Wednesday

The budget debate, which has occupied the B.C. Legislature since Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb presented his budget address March 17, is scheduled to be wound up Wednesday afternoon by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney.

Scheduled to speak that afternoon before Mr. Kenney are Thomas Love, Coalition government member for Grand Forks-Greenwood, who is deputy speaker of the House, and J. H. Corsbie, C.C.F., Peace River.

## Hospitalization To Go To Court

The provincial government is expected to put a new hospitalization scheme before a court shortly.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1948

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## Hospitalization Plan To Go To Caucus Soon

The provincial cabinet is expected to put British Columbia's new hospitalization insurance scheme before a Coalition caucus shortly.

Both the Speech from the Throne and Premier Byron Johnson's "policy" speech indicated that the government would place a plan before the Legislature during the current session.

Monday Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson met with medical and hospital leaders, including representatives of the B.C. Medical Association and the B.C. Hospitals Association to discuss the hospital insurance scheme.

It is expected that the government may work out a scheme which will provide benefits similar to those of the Blue Cross to cover all residents of the province.

No official announcement has been made of the government's plans.

## No Action Taken On Mennonite Vote

The special committee of the B.C. Legislature studying amendments to the Provincial Elections Act today declined to make any recommendations to the Legislature on whether or not Mennonites should be extended the franchise.

The committee discussed the question at length and Thomas King, chairman, asked for a motion but none was made by the committee members. The C.C.F. members of the committee made it clear that they would not support any motion which discriminated against other minority groups while extending the franchise to Mennonites.

Mennonites were registered previous to last year when they were specifically prohibited from being registered on the voters' list.

## Contractors Face Loss On Projects

Several contractors working on big B.C. road projects, despite increases in their contract prices provided by the Provincial government last year, will lose money, Works Minister E. C. Carson told the B.C. Legislature this afternoon.

Mr. Carson told how the contract prices for some of the contractors had been increased after a hearing before Mr. Justice Sidney Smith. This cost the province about \$2,500,000.

He indicated that those engaged in long-term projects would suffer a loss, despite this increase.

## Acute Shortages Of Men, Machines Hamper Program

Work of the Provincial Works Department in rebuilding and modernizing British Columbia's 25,000 miles of highways and hundreds of bridges has been hampered by four major factors, Works Minister E. C. Carson told the Provincial Legislature this afternoon.

These, the minister said, were difficulty in securing adequate equipment, shortages of construction material, shortages of manpower, and difficulty in securing technical personnel.

"Despite the fact that we had placed orders in the two years for \$1,000,000 worth of equipment as soon as authorized by the Legislature," he said, "we have only had part delivery of certain types, our greatest shortage being in graders and maintainers."

"There still remains undelivered 22 power graders, six tractors, one shovel, 10 trucks, five Backer-Green loaders, four truck plows and miscellaneous equipment."

"I think that I should also point out that owing to rising prices the equipment on order will cost approximately 35 per cent more than when the orders were placed."

Included among new equipment purchased, Mr. Carson listed the following: Twenty grader snow plows, one rotary snow plow, 32 bulldozer blades, five towing winders, 28 tractors, nine power shovels, 47 power graders, four air compressors, two concrete mixers, two bituminous mixing plants, one asphalt distributor, five gravel-crushing plants, five five-ton four-wheel drive trucks, one seven-and-one-half-ton four-wheel drive truck, 157 three-ton maintenance trucks.

The minister said that 50 more new three-ton trucks were on order.

While five years ago the average age of department maintenance truck equipment was 12 years, today, with the purchase of new trucks the average age is 6.3 years, he said.

Mr. Carson said that shortages of steel had held up the department's announced bridge program last year, and this shortage was aggravated by the strikes in the local fabricating plants and by the diversions of steel to other areas which had been allocated to the B.C. area.

### LUMBER STILL SHORT

"With respect to material there has been some easing up on the lumber situation although costs are exorbitant when compared with the period prior to the war, and if steel were available, and having in mind the longer life, it would be advisable to switch to steel," he said.

He reported that representations had been made to the Federal government both by himself and Premier Byron Johnson which had brought a promise that a fair share of the import quota would come to B.C.

### LABOR TASK EASED

"In the early part of the 1947 season, labor was difficult to obtain in many districts," he continued. "This hampered both our maintenance and construction work. However, with a revision of our wage and salary scales upward and a slacking in certain industrial lines, the situation was somewhat better than last year."

Mr. Carson said that the shortage of competent technical personnel in the works department would be aggravated on June 30 of this year when several of the department's senior engineers will retire. He mentioned specifically the service given by A. L. Carruthers, deputy minister, and H. L. Haynes, chief location engineer.

He added that the department was fortunate in securing the services of Normal M. Macpherson, former commissioner of highways for Alberta, who will succeed Mr. Carruthers.

"We have also been able to secure the services of several younger experienced engineers to augment our maintenance staff, and it is proposed to add others as and when the opportunity offers," he said.

## Stop Independents Using Party Titles

Independent candidates in provincial elections will not be permitted in future to adopt party titles including the names of any of the official parties in provincial politics if a recommendation of the special elections committee to the Legislature is adopted.

The committee instructed that an amendment to the Provincial Elections Act be drafted to prevent a person running on an Independent Liberal or People's C.C.F. or any other ticket associating themselves with the official party when they are not members.

## Prairie Folk Problem For Vote Registrars

The special committee of the B.C. Legislature studying amendments to the Provincial Elections Act today heard of problems migrating prairie folk were causing registrars of voters.

G. M. Phillips, registrar general of voters, read a letter from one deputy who reported some persons from the prairies were being registered who had lived in B.C. the required six-month period but were probably planning to return to their prairie homes.

Actually these persons are not qualified unless they have established their homes in B.C.



# Contributory Hospital Insurance For B.C.

## Compulsory Plan Calls For Payroll Deductions Of \$33 A Year Maximum

Premier Byron Johnson announced today that legislation to provide a compulsory contributory hospital insurance scheme covering all persons in British Columbia will be presented immediately to the British Columbia Legislature.

The Premier said that the maximum payment per family will be \$33 per year, and will cover all members of a family up to the age of 16 years.

To finance the scheme the government will appropriate from revenue surplus account \$2,000,000 and set aside a stabilization fund for the hospital insurance scheme, Mr. Johnson said.

Mr. Johnson said that the government will contract with the hospitals to supply ward and diagnostic services and will continue to provide hospital services for all recognized social indigents, including old-age pensioners, mothers' pension recipients and others received social allowances.

It is also the intention of the government, said Mr. Johnson, to introduce legislation to empower the government to apply the Dominion tax on amusement to the hospital fund should the Dominion withdraw from this tax field.

"That is to say, the moment the Dominion withdraws, the province will take over; the tax for this purpose," said Mr. Johnson.

The only persons exempted from the government's hospitalization scheme will be those who have coverage with other organizations or companies, whose benefits are equal to the government scheme, Mr. Johnson said.

The stabilization fund, to which the province will contribute \$2,000,000, will be augmented by the 70-cent per patient per day contribution of the provincial government to hospitals and the 70-cent per patient per day contribution of municipalities. To this will be added contributions from payroll deductions, provided under the scheme and the revenue to be secured from the amusement tax should the Dominion withdraw from this field.

### Within Reach Of Everyone

"The scheme to be instituted will bring hospitalization within the financial reach of everyone, and it is hoped that as the plan is put into practical operation, other improvements may be made from time to time as the funds warrant," said Mr. Johnson.

The scheme amounts to an extension of facilities provided by the Blue Cross service of the B.C. Hospitals Association.

The announcement of the Premier followed discussions Monday of representatives of the hospitals and the B.C. Medical Association with Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson.

Mr. Johnson's announcement gave no indication of what the contribution would be for a single person. Under the present Blue Cross scheme the single person contribution is \$1.25 per month. The family contribution is \$2.75.

At the present time the Federal government collects a 20 per cent tax on amusements.

The Blue Cross scheme provides for maternity benefits after a person has been enrolled for nine months. The Blue Cross scheme is limited to groups of 10 persons or more.

No indication was given in the Premier's announcement when the scheme would come into effect. The contributions, it was indicated, where possible will be made on the payroll deduction plan, the same as is done by the Blue Cross.

It is possible that the scheme will provide for contributors to get hospitalization treatment anywhere in Canada or the United States. This is provided for under the Blue Cross arrangement that was started in the U.S. and is now in force in all provinces of Canada and all states of the U.S.

British Columbia thus will become the second province of Canada to have a compulsory hospitalization scheme. Saskatchewan embarked on a scheme somewhat similar to B.C.'s last year.

The scheme is expected to be a major factor in putting British Columbia hospitals out of the red and in the black financially. During the past year they went behind to the sum of \$1,000,000. To help meet this deficit the provincial government contributed \$550,000, leaving the remainder to be made up by local authorities.

### Budget, Estimates Ruled Constitutional

Mr. Speaker Robert H. Carson ruled in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday that the budget debate in the Legislature was constitutional and in order.

Question of the constitutionality of the budget estimates and therefore the budget debate had been raised by Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, last week, and the House had proceeded with the debate while awaiting Mr. Speaker Carson's ruling. Mr. Gargrave contended that the budget estimates and therefore the budget debate was unconstitutional since provision was made in the estimates for

salaries to be paid 11 ministers while the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1946, provided for only 10 ministers to be paid.

"The estimates of revenue and expenditure submitted by the Minister of Finance are for the consideration of the members of the Legislature, to be dealt with in community of supply," said Mr. Speaker Carson in his ruling.

"The committee of supply is fully competent to amend the estimates submitted, or any item therein, by way of making a reduction in same."

The House continued the budget debate and is scheduled to wind it up later this week.

### Debate Wind-up Delayed To Thursday

Second night sitting of the current session of the B.C. Legislature will be held tonight starting at 9. The House is expected to deal with legislation.

A change has been made in the program of the House with Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney, who previously had been scheduled to wind up the budget debate today, now scheduled to wind up the debate Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Kenney is the only speaker scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

### Animal Diseases Laws Consolidated

Legislation to streamline Provincial government control of contagious diseases in animals, consolidating existing laws in this connection, was introduced in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday by Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam.

The new legislation takes the same name as the previous act, the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and eliminates provisions for control of diseases falling under federal jurisdiction.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1948

## Rising Liquor Bill For B.C. Alarms Peace River M.L.A.

J. H. Corsbie, C.C.F., Peace River, expressing alarm at British Columbia's rising liquor bill Tuesday in the B.C. Legislature, advocated further control of advertising and sale of liquor.

Mr. Corsbie, speaking during the budget debate, expressed alarm that 17½ per cent of British Columbia's total revenue came from taxes on liquor and that \$57 per capita was being spent annually on liquor in this province.

"It is something that is getting really serious," he said, referring to the indirect costs of liquor, including those of courts, jails, broken homes and institutions.

While admitting it would be hard for the Legislature to prevent excessive drinking, the member suggested the Provincial government should adopt a program which will not in any way encourage drinking. He advocated abolition of all liquor advertisements and stricter enforcement of laws governing the control and sale of liquor.

Mr. Corsbie claimed that British Columbia's temperance education program, now being formulated by the provincial education department, did not go far enough and that it needed more money.

### SALE TAX PROTESTS

Speaking of the proposed Provincial government 3 per cent retail sales tax, Mr. Corsbie said that people all over the province were raising their voices in protest against the tax, but the government believed the people will have forgotten about the tax by the next election.

"One would almost wonder who is supporting it," he said, claiming that there would be no need for the tax if the government showed greater economy and took a larger share of the profit of big corporations.

He advocated that the Provincial government continue its battle to have the mountain differential in freight rates removed and claimed that the 21 per cent boost in freight rates announced Tuesday would hit farmers hard since they would have to pay more in freight charges on goods brought to the farms and on produce exported.

Urging that Federal government market legislation be instituted as a protection to fruit growers whose position has been made less favorable by the loss of the United Kingdom market, Mr. Corsbie urged that the Provincial government give assistance to development of processing plants and to improvement of packing facilities.

## Subcommittee Of 3 To Study Changes In Utilities Tax

A sub-committee of the Legislature's municipal affairs committee was appointed today to work out a way to assure municipalities no reduction in revenue from public utilities.

The committee will consist of A. C. Hope, Delta, who is chairman of the committee; C. W. Morrow, North Okanagan, secretary, and Herbert Gargrave, Mackenzie. Mr. Hope and Mr. Morrow are Coalition government members while Mr. Gargrave is a C.C.F. member.

At the present time the municipalities are authorized to collect 3 per cent of the gross revenue of public utility companies operations within their boundaries in lieu of taxes. There is some question whether or not this tax should be in lieu of taxes from pole lines or on all properties of utility companies but land.

Previously municipalities had collected taxes on assessment of pole lines at \$500 per mile in rural areas and \$800 per mile in urban areas. Some municipalities, particularly of those of the lower mainland claim that the previous method of taxing provided considerably more revenue for them than the 3 per cent gross revenue tax.

W. C. Mainwaring, vice-president in charge of Vancouver Island operations of the B.C. Electric Railway Co. Ltd., said that the total amount paid by the B.C.E.R. under the 3 per cent tax was \$187,000 compared with \$294,000 paid previously. However, the company has guaranteed that no municipality in 1948 will receive less than it did under the assessment of pole lines, and this would cost the company \$351,000.

M. D. Hamilton, representing the B.C. Telephone Company, said the 3 per cent tax had raised their taxes by 30 per cent.

Taxation of pole lines and other improvements has long been a problem of municipal officials. The 3 per cent gross revenue tax, recommended by the Goldenberg commission, it was thought, would solve the problem.

## More Duties Urged For Private M.L.A.'s

A suggestion for private members of the Legislature to assume a great legislative burden, thus relieving the provincial cabinet, has been made by A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East.

In a motion, notice of which has been given, Mr. Turner suggests "that this House recommends for the consideration of the government that facilities be provided to allow for the hearing of representations to the government for changes in legislation for at least 30 days prior to the opening of each session and that, as a means of lightening the burden now mainly carried by the executive cabinet in this respect, the greater use of private members be made for this purpose, and it is recommended to the government that it name private members of the Legislature who shall sit prior to the opening of the session with a representative of each government department concerned as a committee or committees to hear and study the proposals so made."

Mr. Turner also suggests that each special committee shall make a report and recommendations to the government, which may refer such reports and recommendations to the appropriate select standing committee of the Legislature.

There are many matters of public importance presented to the members of the Legislature by bill, motion and resolution during the session on which insufficient time is allowed to give wise and serious consideration, said Mr. Turner.

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## ROAD PROGRAM

**NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE** could satisfy all interests which believe conscientiously that their pleas for road construction should be given top priority in any program the province initiates. Even the broad plans laid down by Hon. E. C. Carson, Minister of Public Works, in the Legislature yesterday will face inevitable criticism from certain quarters. The plain facts are, of course, that British Columbia has access to neither the money, the manpower, the equipment, nor the material to please everyone with a justifiable case for a road.

On the other hand, the \$18,600,000 outlay earmarked for roads and bridges this year represents another forward step in the continuous effort to bring highways into a condition and extend them sufficiently to serve the more pressing needs of the population. Work that is listed, it will be noted, marks another stage in the over-all plans to serve the motoring public—including tourists—to the best of the department's ability under existing conditions.

The impediments faced by the province in this effort were briefly sketched by the minister. Not only will equipment on order cost approximately 35 per cent more than when orders were placed, but materials and labor will be considerably more expensive. While increases in wages will presumably augment the supply of manpower, the extra charges will automatically reduce the road mileage which can be laid down. British Columbia has a specific sum for the job in hand. Of the \$7,000,000 fixed for maintenance of roads, \$1,000,000, or the amount by which the figure exceeds that of 1947, will be absorbed by higher costs. The \$5,000,000 for new construction will go just as far as these costs permit; and the \$2,500,000 for bridges will be subject to the same limitations, plus those inherent in the continuing scarcity of supplies. The acquisition of \$1,000,000 worth of new equipment, which the department hopes to obtain during the year, should add materially to the efficiency of the projects listed.

Good news to the up-island, in addition to the projected construction of the new Duncan-to-Ladysmith section, is the announcement that substantial stretches will be included in the 465 miles of paving for which estimates have been made this year, while residents of lower island communities will note with satisfaction the arrangements made to replace bridges which have caused concern in recent seasons.

When all the money has been spent, the highways of British Columbia will not rival the elaborate and costly constructions of the more densely populated sections of the United States. On the other hand, the minister should be able to pride himself on the progress of a workmanlike job for the people of this province.

## CONTENTIOUS LEGISLATION

**EACH YEAR ABOUT THIS STAGE OF** the annual session of the Legislature it is customary to remind the government of a hitherto unfortunate habit of introducing important legislation, either new or in the form of vital amendments to existing statutes, without affording adequate time and thought for intelligent consideration. This practice makes neither for good law nor for efficient administration. And the people of the province already are aware of the fact that some highly-contentious proposals are to be laid before their elected representatives before prorogation some time next month. With the budget debate nearly ended, therefore, it is hoped that the legislative requirements of the departmental heads are either ready or in an advanced stage of preparation.

Such proposals as a sales tax, plans for dealing with hospital problems, and at least one basic change to the Forest Act Amendment Act of 1947, for example, will demand meticulous examination and the fullest possible discussion. While the projected measures to give effect to the first two departures in provincial policy are at the moment in the conversational stage, there is no doubt about the government's intent in respect of them. New forest legislation, on the other hand, despite its far-reaching implications and relationship to the future of British Columbia's economy, should be fully understood by the average citizen as one of those measures whose impact is felt because of its direct impingement upon the household budget.

Briefly put, as we understand the intent of a change to the Forest Act Amendment Act passed at last year's session, the Truck Loggers Association of B.C. is requesting the government to repeal that provision in the legislation which establishes the policy of perpetual Forest Management Licenses. In its stead, this organization—which purports to speak for some 114 companies that comprise its membership—asks that the Forest Branch be authorized to place the forest lands of the province on an over-all sustained yield basis, thereby enabling all operators, both big and small, to obtain the forest crops of such properties, when mature, on a competitive, free-enterprise method. In its fundamental aspects, of course, this change would protect further alienations in perpetuity of Crown timber to concerns which today are virtually in control of about two-fifths of existing and potential merchantable forest resources.

It is quite properly pointed out by the Loggers Association that all Crown timber, when mature, should be sold in blocks not larger than one natural unit for logging purposes—also bearing in mind, by another token, that sales of large blocks eliminate many potential purchasers on the score of huge equipment and financial resources—and that the contract for each crop sold shall contain regulations that will make certain a maximum of natural reforestation. The argument in this latter stipulation, or so it would seem to us, is that sufficient regard for a sustained yield policy is not required of logging operators under the law as it now stands. While these matters may appear to be out of the layman's realm of discussion, they are indissolubly linked with our traditional free-enterprise system and the inalienable rights inherent in the basic philosophy of equal opportunity for all. Hence their manifold importance.

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