

F E B

1942

Good Money After Bad?

MR. W. J. ASSELSTINE, former minister of mines, has said a sensible thing in the Legislature about that famous hole in the ground at Commotion Creek.

He tells the government that it should get responsible advice upon the project of drilling for oil in the Peace River country, and then should either go ahead seriously, meaning business, or should quit altogether.

"The amount of \$100,000 in the estimates for the work," said Mr. Asselstine, "is either too large or too small. If work is to go ahead, it is too small. And if not, then it is too large."

The Pattullo government has been responsible for spending \$400,000 at Commotion Creek. The hole has been drilled a mile deep, is still in hard rock, and is still by all the signs as far as ever it was from striking oil.

It is now at least a case for expert oil men and geologists, not politicians, to say whether further public expenditures on this prospect are any better than a gambler's throwing of good money (somebody else's) after bad.

Certainly if we are not prepared to spend more than another \$100,000 on our politician's hole in the ground at Commotion Creek, we shouldn't spend any more at all.

Check Promotions

Security Act To Be Probed At Victoria

(Special to The Daily Province.)

VICTORIA, Feb. 2.—Full scale investigation into the operations of the Securities Act and the mines department's association with the securities department in reference to mining promotions, was launched in the mines committee of the Legislature this morning. E. K. Debeck, commissioner under the Securities Act, was on the stand all morning explaining the workings of his department.

Tom Love, Grand Forks-Greenwood member, declared that there was something wrong. While he had heard Mr. Debeck's explanation with interest, and was not in a position to argue that the fault lay with the securities administration, there were certain definite facts that required explanation.

His complaint was that a company took over the old Mother Lode at Greenwood. An attempt was made to interest American capital. Between 4000 and 5000 samples were taken. When everything was about ready to start the government interfered and said that there were only 50,000 tons of ore in sight and that it would not pay to operate.

The government quoted only assay reports and costs of operation. These costs had been reduced to such an extent by modern milling practices that the whole picture was changed.

Borstal Home May Be Closed

VICTORIA, Feb. 2.—(CP) — Suspension of the Borstal-type boys' home in Burnaby for duration of the war is under consideration, Attorney-General R. L. Maitland said today.

Suggestion has been made that the home, which now has a staff of eight under Superintendent Angus Macleod, and 11 inmates, might be transformed into a hospital for war emergencies.

"The matter is under consideration," Mr. Maitland said, "but I can't make no detailed statement until a decision is reached."

UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE DOME

Liquor Under House's Control Not His, Maitland's Warning

By B. A. McKELVIE.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—Attorney-General R. L. Maitland declared his independence of liquor. He made it abundantly clear that liquor lobbyists and those who seek political favor in connection with agencies and the selling of "hard stuff" to the government, need not come around his office. He wants nothing to do with them.

The attorney-general told the Legislature that the Liquor Control Board is under the control of the Legislature. It is the baby of the entire Assembly, and he doesn't want to be its foster parent.

Kicks and complaints of many kinds have been registered against ministerial incumbents in the past; in fact it is the duty of opposition to be critical, but yesterday saw a new form of complaint. It came from Opposition Leader Harold Winch, who took Agriculture Minister MacDonald to task for not spending his entire estimates.

MONEY LEFT OVER.

Dr. MacDonald, it appears, has developed a most unusual practice. He follows the instinct of the Scottish race and saves a bit here and a bit there. The result is that his department usually has some money to return to the treasury at the end of the year. Mr. Winch thought this should not be. The minister said Mr. Winch always explained, when asked, why he did not do this or that for agriculture that he did not have the money. The minister replied that when a sum

was voted for a specific purpose, he used it for that purpose and for nothing else.

Fraser Valley farmers are bolder than Providence itself, in the opinion of the agriculture minister. He told the House that the Fraser Valley lads sometimes elected men to represent them on marketing boards, "whom the Almighty never intended for such a purpose."

REBATE IS SLOWER.

E. T. Kenney, the active member for Skeena, put a poser to the government. He wanted to know why it was that when the provincial police sold a motor license they demanded cash on the nail. But when there was a rebate for the surrender of a license, it required one or two months for the police to part with the money.

There was no answer, officially, although one member whispered that it was surprising that any money at all was ever recovered from government.

Dr. T. D. Pattullo was sarcastic on Monday night. It was during consideration of estimates of the attorney-general, and some one had raised the matter of jobs. "I would like to ask the attorney-general if this great, non-political, non-partisan government is going to consider the C.C.F. in making appointments? By the abilities they display in this House they should get all the appointments."

"Well," acidly retorted Mr. Maitland, "they had the opportunity of joining the government and helping direct appointments, but they refused."

MRS. STEEVES RAISES QUESTION

Seeks Legal Advice for Poor

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA.—Poor persons obtain free legal advice, both in Vancouver and Victoria, Attorney-General R. L. Maitland told Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, North Vancouver, during consideration of the attorney-general's estimates.

He stated that the bar of those cities had arranged with junior members to give such service through the legal aid associations.

W. T. Strath, K.C., Victoria member, endorsed the remarks

of the attorney-general, but E. E. Winch, Burnaby, told of trying to obtain free aid for a deserving case in Victoria. It had been refused.

The attorney-general was not quite sure as to the practice followed in his department in making appointments. Where possible the Civil Service Commission would be consulted. There were cases of technical appointments, though, which might be different. He would, in such cases in Victoria, consult the members for that city.

OPEN FORUM ON A.R.P.

Government Affirms Contract For Raid Sirens Cancelled

By PAUL MALONE.

Vancouver Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—The contract made three months ago for purchase of 75 air raid sirens for B. C. has been cancelled and 28 sirens already delivered under the agreement are lying idle in Vancouver, C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch charged at a meeting of the legislative supply committee Monday night.

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland replied that he understood the contract had been cancelled in favor of purchase of a "two-tone" type of siren recommended by the National Research Council of Canada.

Other developments during a brisk legislative "open forum" on a report in which C. C. F. members fired questions at Mr. Maitland during consideration of the attorney's general's department estimates, were:

1. An announcement by Mr. Maitland that "all details (of the purchase of sirens) are being worked out by a committee which did a tremendous amount of work."
2. A statement by the attorney-general on the "make-up" of the provincial A.R.P. committee now being formed.
3. A prediction by Mr. Maitland that provincial authorities will have power to remove inefficient municipal A.R.P. committees.
4. A report by the attorney-general that the B.C. Government "policy on shelters" has not been decided.

DISTURBED BY REPORTS.

Mr. Winch said he was disturbed by reports that the contract for purchase of 75 sirens from a well-known company which had produced 90 per cent. of the sirens in use in North America, had been cancelled in favor of sirens offered by a firm less well known among electrical workers.

"My information is that, at the same time the contract made three months ago was cancelled—five days ago—28 five-horsepower sirens rushed on a priority basis had arrived in Vancouver and the others were in the factory awaiting shipment," he stated.

Another contract, the C.C.F. leader continued, was let to a firm "not very long established" which "farmed out" orders for essential parts. Furthermore, sirens produced by this firm were not "weatherproof" and would have to be kept running at low frequency to prevent "freezing."

"It is very confusing when one of our major needs is sirens and the sirens available to us are of the same type used in Los Angeles and Halifax," added Mr. Winch.

Mr. Maitland replied the government "had nothing to do with the purchase of supplies."

The first sirens were ordered by an emergency committee set

up three months ago to make a special study of communications and other A.R.P. problems. Decision to cancel the contract was made by this committee after the National Research Council recommended "two-tone" sirens and the company manufacturing them promised speedy delivery, the attorney-general said.

The C.C.F. leader said he had seen recently a statement in a Kamloops paper that no sirens were available in Kamloops.

"To say the least, it seems very confusing and inefficient to read this when 28 sirens are lying unused in Vancouver," Mr. Winch continued.

"A lot of things are confusing, but we are getting them straightened out as quickly as possible," the attorney-general stated.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, interjected to say: "I would rather be warned by a one-tone siren than a Jap bomb—it's worse than ridiculous. It's criminal."

POWERS OF A.R.P.

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, asked Mr. Maitland about the "setup" of the new provincial A.R.P. committee, and what its powers would be.

The attorney-general said he expected the committee would include representatives of fire-fighting, safety, transportation, police and other agencies concerned with A.R.P.

"The Provincial Government has the power to appoint (municipal) committees. If inefficient, it has the power to remove them," he explained.

"I hope the Japs will wait until Ottawa okays everything for us," interjected Mr. Gargrave, recommending "a greater delegation of power" by Ottawa.

Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, charged offers of labor representatives to co-operate in A.R.P. organization had been "brushed off."

Mr. Maitland said he would recommend that such offers be accepted.

FOR SMALLER UNITS.

Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, asked for financial aid and advice for A.R.P. work "in smaller communities as well as in the bigger cities."

Mr. MacNeil asked if "any steps have been taken to provide for uniformity of A.R.P. instruction for school children."

The attorney-general said he would "look into it."

Mr. Gargrave enquired if there was "any uniformity of training for auxiliaries and provision for speedy transit of auxiliaries to places where they were most needed."

Mr. Maitland said Major Moodie had been "co-ordinating" along these lines nearly two years.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis, Vancouver-Burrard, asked if a policy on shelters had been decided.

"Ottawa has advised strongly against shelters—I'm not in a position to say what we will do," replied Mr. Maitland.

Mr. Gargrave said that before individuals could do A.R.P. work efficiently and enthusiastically, they would need "leadership and equipment."

The Mackenzie M.L.A. asked Mr. Maitland if municipalities would be required to bring their police and fire forces "up to full strength" before receiving A. R. P. aid from the senior governments. The attorney-general said municipalities would not be permitted to reduce their normal municipal service costs at expense of A.R.P. grants.

"What about a war insurance scheme—personal and property?" asked Mr. Gargrave.

"The Dominion Government has been working on that for some time. I think you will find it will work out satisfactorily," Mr. Maitland replied.

Bonus for B.C. Civil Service In Prospect

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA.—There is every prospect that a cost of living bonus will be forthcoming for some part of the provincial civil service, Premier Hart indicated in answering questions by Mrs. Dorothy Steeves in the Legislature last night.

It was hoped to effect sufficient savings in the estimates to provide bonuses for those in the lower brackets, and for married men at least. It might be that something could be done for single employees as well.

No Compulsory Auto Insurance

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA.—There will be no legislation to set up compulsory automobile insurance this session, the attorney-general told E. T. Kenney, Skeena.

Mr. Kenney not only wished to see the suggestion that he had made earlier in the session, that the government go into the insurance of cars, implemented, but he suggested that governors be placed on all automobiles for the duration of the war that would limit speeds to 30 miles per hour.

Barge Sold for \$20 Rents at \$8 a Day

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—The public works department sold a ferry barge on the Arrow Lakes to the Big Bend Cedar Pole Co. last year for \$20, and then hired the vessel back at \$8 per day for 20 days.

This fact was given in answer to questions placed on the order paper by Herbert Herridge, Rossland-Trall. It supplemented information given to the public accounts committee last week by Capt. C. S. Leary, former minister of public works, that the transaction had taken place. He did not, however, give the prices.

In the Legislature Would Abolish Civil Service Act in B.C.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA.—Hon. Dr. K. C. MacDonald, minister of agriculture, told the Legislative supply committee Monday "in my opinion" abolition of the provincial Civil Service Act would be a "greatest service."

The minister was replying to questions by Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, about appointments in the department of agriculture.

He admitted certain appointments were not subject to the Civil Service Act and that applicants were not required to pass examinations. It would be impossible, Dr. MacDonald maintained, for appointments in outlying farm districts to be made according to terms of the Civil Service Act.

When Mr. MacNeil protested all appointments to the federal civil service were subject to the federal Civil Service Act, Dr. MacDonald replied they were in "theory," but actually there were exceptions made possible by "temporary appointment."

The minister added that strict adherence to the provincial Civil Service Act would give Victoria residents an unfair advantage over applicants in outlying areas where examinations were not held.

Deaf Chief Warden Keeps House Lit In Blackout

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, criticizing B.C. A.R.P. organization in the Legislature Monday night, told this story:

The chief warden of a Vancouver Island community is "stone deaf and over 70 years old."

When a blackout was ordered in December he was unable to hear signals and radio instructions. His house blazed with lights throughout the blackout.

B.C. to Validate "Illegal" Marriages

(Special to The Daily Province.)

VICTORIA.—A bill validating marriages involving a divorced person remarried without waiting the statutory 90-day appeal period after the decree absolute was introduced in the Legislature Monday by Attorney-General Maitland, K.C.

The bill will validate only marriages solemnized before January 31, 1942.

Many "illegal" marriages, performed in ignorance of the statutory waiting period, will be affected, it is believed.

BUT DEFENDS CONTROL**Lower Mainland Marketing "Cesspool," Says MacDonald**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—"We have a cesspool on the lower mainland in respect of marketing. It is the most difficult thing in the world to handle," declared Agriculture Minister K. C. MacDonald during consideration of departmental estimates Monday afternoon.

A major debate arose when J.

A. Paton, Vancouver-Point Grey, asked if steps were to be taken to correct the marketing setup on the lower mainland, as revealed by the Harper royal commission.

The minister defended the principle of controlled marketing with great vigor.

In respect of the lower mainland organization in the past he was not as positive in his support. "I have often thought that producers of the Fraser Valley had not always been as discreet in the selection of their representatives for the boards as they might have been. Men have been chosen whom the Almighty never intended for such a purpose," the minister asserted.

FEARED PRICE DROP.

He had often been inclined to ask the Lieutenant-Governor to suspend the operation of the Natural Products Marketing Act on the lower mainland. "But if this was done it would just be handing the markets back to the Orientals. It would mean going back to \$6 a ton potatoes."

There was a continual war being waged in Vancouver against the machinations of Orientals in the produce business, "and men of other races who possess Oriental attributes."

Dr. MacDonald made an attack upon the press, particularly The Vancouver Daily Province. His complaint was founded upon what he declared to be discrimination in giving greater prominence to evidence given before the royal commission that was unfavorable to the Marketing Act than to testimony in support of the principle of controlled marketing.

He suggested that the brokers and wholesalers were in a better position to advertise than were farmers.

There were men in Vancouver who sat up nights trying to circumvent the act, he told the House.

"As far as I am concerned, so long as I am in charge of the department of agriculture, I am going to fight this thing to the last ditch," he asserted.

HITS PRICE SPREAD.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Yale, said that if farmers are not prepared to raise crops without compulsory laws to help them, then they should not be farming.

Continuing, Dr. Gillis said that as a result of marketing control there was a spread on a ton of potatoes of \$18 between producer and consumer in Vancouver. The minority was ruling.

In the Fraser Valley, he challenged, there were only 400 registered potato growers, but there were hundreds more who were growing tubers. They would not register. Something should be done about the whole matter of marketing potatoes.

The minister retorted that the only portion of the \$18 spread that could be attributed to the board was the \$1 fee charged by it. The spread was not comparable to that before controlled marketing was introduced.

SCORES FREIGHT COST.

Tom Love, Grand Forks-Greenwood, pitched into the debate, to complain that his district was not being fairly treated. This, however, was more the fault of the railways than the department of agriculture. It cost \$118 more to ship a car of canned goods east from Grand Forks than it did from Penticton.

R. C. MacDonald, Dewdney, was of the opinion that the Harper Commission had been sitting long enough. He wanted to know when it would end, and what it had cost.

Dr. MacDonald replied that the commission had yet to delve into marketing in the interior. The commission had been set up for the whole province and not only for the investigation of marketing in and about Vancouver.

MAITLAND STATES POSITION**Liquor Buying Up to Board**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—Attorney-General R. L. Maitland wants nothing to do with the purchasing of liquor, he emphatically informed the Legislature Monday night.

His declaration that jurisdiction over the Liquor Control Board belonged to the Legislature itself, came after Harold E. Winch, opposition leader, had charged that both the "public and the Liquor Control Board are being taken for a ride by the distillers."

Mr. Winch based his allegation on information to the effect that both the board and the public were paying the same sums for whiskies of four and five years of age as formerly was paid for liquor matured for 11 years. He wanted to know why.

The attorney-general explained that there was apparently nothing that could be done about it at the present time, for the federal price ceiling affected the sale of intoxicants as well as other commodities. On one kind of liquor, he said, the government was losing \$12,000 because of this.

"I don't want to have anything

to do with the buying of liquor," he said. "I don't want people coming to me about agencies. I don't want to have anything to do with the selling of liquor. The Liquor Control Board is responsible to the Legislature, and I want it to stay there."

Urge Amendment Of B.C. Labor Law

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—Amendment of Section 5 of the Provincial Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to make bargaining by employers with the union nominated by employees compulsory, was recommended to the legislative labor committee on Monday by a delegation representing Vancouver Island groups affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, the Canadian Federation of Labor, and the Canadian Congress of Labor.

On a motion by Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, the committee referred the recommendation to Labor Minister G. S. Pearson "for favorable consideration at this session."

J. J. Robertson, Victoria, spokesman for the delegation, complained that the act in its present form allowed employers to "stall" and attempt to persuade employees to abandon the union they had chosen.

Eighty Per Cent. Salvage

The attorney-general's department has under consideration a proposal to close New Haven, the Borstal-type home for boys in Burnaby for the duration of the war. Economy is one of the motives behind the proposal, and it is suggested that the institution may be used as a war hospital.

War needs must, of course, be satisfied, and if New Haven or any other institution is required as an emergency hospital, plans will have to be made accordingly. But the war has not yet come so close to British Columbia.

As for measures of economy, they are always in order. But money economy is not everything. Economy in human material must come first, and if figures mean anything the New Haven home has been, since its inception, productive of more real economy than almost any other provincial institution that can be named. If the attorney-general knows of a better he would do well to give it some publicity.

Since New Haven was founded 213 first offenders from Oakalla Farm have passed through it and 80 per cent. of these, it is stated, have been rehabilitated. Had they remained at Oakalla the percentage would have been much lower. Eighty per cent. salvage is very good salvage indeed and the institution that can accomplish such good work should not be closed up while it has work to do.

Farmers Heard

Egg Subsidy Plan Viewed With Doubt

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
 VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Dr. K. C. MacDonald, minister of agriculture, views with a dubious eye Ottawa's system of production bonusing.

"I don't know where Ottawa is going to get with this subsidizing," he said. "They have a nicely painted new boat, but they'll be getting into shallow water pretty soon where the fresh paint will be scraped off."

The doctor made the foregoing observation during a general discussion in the agricultural committee, where the Advisory Board of Farmers' Institutes was pressing for provincial subsidies for various products.

SUBSIDY ON EGGS.

The farmers asked for a subsidy on eggs to bring them to a parity with the prices and conditions of production in Eastern Canada; they wanted the provincial subsidy on lime, raised from 40 cents to \$1 a ton; and they asked for assistance in respect of grain.

An anomaly developed when the institutes asked for assistance in respect of grain. For years the government has been importuned by farmers to obtain lower freight rates on feed grains.

The Dominion Government absorbed the freight rates on feeds from the prairies, and today the grain growers of Fraser Valley and other places in the province can not market their feeds in competition with freight-free prairie products.

ASKS FOR DATA.

Dr. MacDonald wanted reliable data on what is a basic price for egg production. He said some farmers told him that it cost 21 cents a dozen; others averred that they could get by if they could sell for 14 cents.

One delegate answered that a hen would eat 150 lbs. of feed—costing \$3 per 100 lbs., before she said an egg. It required 144 eggs for her to pay her board. An average production from a good bird was 176 eggs annually.

D. E. McKenzie, New Westminster, asked the government to obtain permits for Fraser Valley farmers to export oats to United States. He said that although there was no sale for oats here, they could be sold to American buyers at \$30 a ton f.o.b. the barn and in U. S. funds.

NO INCREASE IN SALARY SCALE

CLOSE 23 SCHOOLS; NO TEACHERS

Temporary Certificates Granted Partially Trained Teachers

By B. A. McKELVIE

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
 VICTORIA.—Such is the shortage of teachers in British Columbia at present that 23 schools have had to be closed, Hon. H. G. Perry, minister of education, told the Legislature on Tuesday.

In order to obtain teachers to meet the crisis "between 25 and

40 temporary certificates have been issued recently. These have been given to persons who may be good teachers but who haven't obtained the requisite certificates in the past."

Advisability of setting up a "student-teachers" course in high schools was advanced by Mrs. Grace MacInnis, C. C. F., Vancou-

ver. The suggestion was welcomed by the minister who said he would discuss it with the superintendent of education.

E. T. Kenney, Skeena, told of the difficulties confronting rural districts in obtaining teachers. Appointments should be made by school inspectors instead of rural school boards.

NO SALARY INCREASE.

The government "reluctantly" has decided against making provisions for increasing grants for teachers at the current session, the minister reported.

The B. C. Teachers' Federation had asked that the minimum salary for rural teachers be advanced from \$780 to \$900 a year and that city salaries be raised in proportion.

The government already was supplying grants up to \$680 for rural teachers and was unable to increase its assistance at present. It was not prepared to place an extra burden on school boards by ordering an increase in the minimum wage, explained the minister.

SPEEDING UP PLAN.

Hon. Mr. Perry said he would "take under consideration" a suggestion by Alex Paton, Conservative, Vancouver-Point Grey, that the education system be "speeded up" in view of wartime labor shortages.

Mr. Paton said he understood that during the depression period the training period for students was extended by one year "to keep children in school as long as possible."

Continuance of this extension when young men and women were anxious to complete their educations as quickly as possible was adding unnecessary expense to the educational system, providing an added burden for parents, and proving a hardship to students.

UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE DOME

Christmas Tree Farms Planned By Provincial Chief Forester

By B. A. McKELVIE.

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
 VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—British Columbia's chief forester, C. D. Orchard, may not look like Santa Claus—in fact he doesn't, especially now when he is nursing a hand minus a finger or two as the result of an argument with a buzz saw—but he may prove to be a gift-giver to farmers.

The chief forester has worked out a scheme for the utilization of logged-over forest lands for the production of Christmas trees. He proposes that farmers and bona fide settlers may lease contiguous crown lands for the growing of Christmas trees. It is a new field of enterprise that Mr. Orchard envisions, and a profitable one as well. Rentals will be paid to the government on a royalty basis.

Hon. Harry Perry stepped in to the ministry of education just in time to meet some really big problems. First of all there is a worry that has not been present for many a long day. It is a shortage of teachers. So serious has this become that 23 schools have been closed. It was only a few years ago that there was such a surplus of teachers that the fees for the Normal schools were raised to discourage young men and women from entering the teaching profession. Now the suggestion is to reduce the cost of Normal tuition—but that will not help greatly, for one of the schools is being taken over by the Dominion.

Mr. Perry's announcement that the taxation issue is to be reviewed will be welcomed in all quarters of the province, for the demand for a broadening of taxation in order to relieve land from bearing the costs of education has been a long and insistent one.

For half an hour members of the Legislature argued over the reduction of \$10,000 in the vote for physical education. Tom Uphill, Fernie's philosopher member, brought it to end when he exploded: "Mr. Speaker, if there were more woodsheds and bucksaws in use today, as there were when you and I were

young, there wouldn't be any need for this vote at all. And that might go for women as well as boys."

Tom's reference to the women came after the minister of education had mentioned that many women were taking recreational exercises in order to reduce weight.

Harold Winch, opposition leader, thought that there would be more need for this form of exercise, and reminded the minister that the ban on rubber had resulted in a shortage of girdles.

Under Prov. Secretary

Move Old Age Pensions Office To New Dept.

By B. A. McKELVIE.

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
 VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Legislation to move administration of the Old Age Pension Act from the Workmen's Compensation Board to the provincial secretary's department was included among five government bills introduced in the Legislature on Tuesday.

The amendment to the Old Age Pension Act authorizes Hon. G. S. Pearson to administer the act and appoint "such officers, clerks and employees as are required for the efficient administration of the act."

A bill amending the Poll Tax Act, also introduced, will extend to veterans of the present war exemptions enjoyed by veterans of the last war.

Another bill amends the Iron and Steel Bounties Act to extend the period under which a bounty of \$2,000,000 for iron and steel production in British Columbia may be granted by the government from five years to 10 years. The bounty total is not changed.

The other bills make technical changes in the Forest Act and the Local Improvement Act.

Farmers Ask For Bounties

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—(CP)—Farmers representing all sections of British Columbia today brought their problems before the Legislature's agricultural committee.

The advisory board of B. C. Farmers' Institutes comes to Victoria each year to ask the government to do something to help the people on the land.

This year they ask that bounties on predatory animals be set as follows: Cougars, \$30; wolves, \$20; coyotes, \$5. They want a farmer on the game board.

The farmers are also asking that school taxes on land and personal property be abolished and that the provincial treasury, as it once did, shoulder the entire cost of education out of consolidated revenue, "and thus equitably distribute the cost of education on ability to pay."

Mining Men and Brokerage Officials Urge Revision of Securities Frauds Legislation

SEEN AS CURB TOPROSPECTOR

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Announcement was made by Frank Putnam, chairman of the mines committee of the Legislature, that it is not the intention of the committee to conduct "a full scale investigation" into the operations of the Securities Act, at this time.

"The mining committee has merely asked those who allege that the Securities Act does stand in the way of development to be more explicit and state wherein it is detrimental to the mining industry, giving evidence if any," Mr. Putnam said.

Representatives of British Columbia's mining industry and the Vancouver Stock Exchange will go to Victoria tonight to lay their views on the Securities Frauds Prevention Act before members of the Legislature's mining committee.

The delegation will be headed by A. N. Wolverton, president of the Vancouver Stock Exchange.

Among those who planned to go was A. E. Jukes, president of the B. C. Chamber of Mines, who was in Victoria last week with C. P. Browning of Britannia Mining & Smelting Company; A. S. Baillie of Granby Consolidated, and others protesting against retention of the 2 per cent. mining tax.

NUISANCE, HANDICAP.

Dr. W. B. Burnett, head of Cariboo Gold Quartz Mines and a former chairman of the Chamber of Mines and of the Board of Trade's mining bureau, was forced to cancel arrangements for the trip because of the necessity to go to Wells with O. H. Solibaake, Cariboo director.

But Dr. Burnett made it clear to The Vancouver Daily Province that he was in favor of drastic revision or repeal of the Securities Act.

"The law has been a nuisance and a handicap," said Dr. Burnett. "The criminal code and the Companies Act give all the protection needed by the public. I can not think of a single worthwhile accomplishment of the present provincial law."

NO NEW MINES.

Mr. Wolverton said that many mining men blamed the securities legislation for the fact that 90 per cent. of all British Columbia's gold production was from the same mines that produced 10 years ago, and that in that period only one new gold field had been developed in the province.

"Many are of the opinion that the law has contributed to the present low state of prospecting by depriving the mine-seeker of all financial incentive," said Mr. Wolverton.

Sidney Norman, well-known mining writer, is already in Victoria urging revision of mining laws, co-operation in a campaign to enable the Kootenay country to ship lead, zinc and silver to the United States duty free.

"The situation," he says, "is this. Trill smelter, the only former outlet, and the only smelter of its kind in Canada, is under contract, at very low prices, for its output of lead and zinc, to the British and Canadian governments.

coming from the great Sullivan mine, in East Kootenay, and it is unable to take care of customs shipments.

AREA ALMOST DESERTED.

"Thus in contrast to conditions existing during the First World War, the Slocan-Ainsworth-Lardeau-Duncan area is practically deserted, although those best qualified to judge believe that it is capable of important additions to the more than \$100,000,000 already produced.

Only two mines are in operation now—the Lucky Jim and Standard-Mammoth properties—both of which are shipping zinc concentrate, which in the case of the latter is being recovered from Slocan Lake, into which it was dumped by former operators before zinc became a saleable commodity.

Politics and Appointments

IN the discussion of the estimates of the attorney-general's department in the Legislature on Monday, Mr. T. D. Pattullo asked Mr. Maitland if, when it came to the making of appointments, the C. C. F. would be considered. Judging from the ability members of the party display in the House, Mr. Pattullo added, they should get all the appointments.

Mr. Maitland's reply was quick and sharp. The C. C. F. had had its opportunity to join the government and help direct the making of appointments, he said, but had refused.

Mr. Pattullo was obviously attempting to bait the attorney-general, and so the reply was perhaps good enough for him. It is to be hoped, however, that Mr. Maitland in his answer was not also giving voice to government policy.

Partisanship and patronage have long been the curse of administration in British Columbia and it had been expected that, under the new coalition government, they would find no place. In the making of appointments only efficiency and merit should count. The political leanings of the applicant or the applicant's friends should have no weight whatever.

"To Do With Liquor"

THE people of British Columbia will note with great interest the declaration on liquor policy made by Attorney-General Maitland in the Legislature this week.

"I don't want to have anything to do with the buying of liquor," said Mr. Maitland. "I don't want people coming to me about agencies. I don't want to have anything to do with the selling of liquor. The Liquor Board is responsible to the Legislature, and I want it to stay there."

It will be a good thing for the belated cause of good government in this province if the new attorney-general is able to enforce this declaration of government policy. Because it will be something new in our public affairs.

It will be something new if British Columbia can find honest cause to say that liquor politics are no longer mixed up with all sorts of skull-duggeries to the detriment of all our other politics.

It is time we had a cleaner bill of health in the administration of our liquor laws. It is time that a chief law officer of the crown should be able to assure us with absolute fidelity, for instance, that no part of the price of government-controlled liquor is a rake-off for the campaign funds of any political party.

It is the insidiousness of this thing that nothing can be proved about it and that almost certainly no servant of the government dishonestly profits by it. Yet it is a system that is notorious in the legend of our politics and that will remain notorious until a new order of things is established.

So the friends of good government in this province, who are the great majority of its people, will accept the attorney-general's present declaration as an earnest of good intentions and a promise of honest performance.

And the Government Liquor Board, which undoubtedly knows something of the veiled interference of politics with its lawful function in the past, will also be glad to believe that there is to be something like a new deal.

C.C.F. Moves to 'Democratize' U.B.C.

Governing Board

'NO CONTROL,' SAYS MINISTER

By PAUL MALONE.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, led a C.C.F. attack on administration of the University of British Columbia at a meeting of the Legislative supply committee Tuesday night with an announcement she will sponsor a bill "which has as its purpose the democratizing of the board of governors."

Hon. H. G. Perry, minister of education, admitted that although the Provincial Government annually allots a grant providing half the income of the University it has no direct control over its administration.

He had always recommended, the minister said, that the Legislature should have some measure of control and be able to study in detail expenditures of provincial boards receiving grants from the government.

BEYOND CONTROL.

"It is a fine thing to say that these boards should be beyond the realm of politics, but when you take them out of politics you put them beyond control of the Legislature," stated Mr. Perry.

Charging that the University appeared to be operating in "a sacrosanct vacuum," Mrs. Steeves maintained the institution should be "more democratically administered."

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, said the Legislature seemed to be "subsidizing a class of society that can afford to pay for itself."

Hon. Mr. Perry explained that the province named six of the nine governors of the U. B. C. and the senate three others. The University had presented estimates of \$870,000 this year; of which \$410,000 was to be raised by student fees, and \$431,990 through the provincial grant. Short of a change in the Univer-

sity Act, the Legislature could not require the University to do anything; not even to report to the House on how the grant was expended.

HOME ECONOMICS.

Of the \$431,000 vote, \$413,000 is a general grant; \$12,000 for teacher training; \$990 for reduced interest in the stadium buildings and \$6000, a new vote for vocational education and rehabilitation of discharged and returned men.

In the debate that followed, Flight-Lieut. L. H. Eyres, Mrs.

L. F. Jamieson, Mrs. T. J. Rolston, Mrs. Nancy Hodges and Mrs. R. P. Steeves pressed hard for the institution of a faculty of home economics at the University. Home economics, they pointed out, was taught in the high schools, but came to a dead end there. Students wishing to follow the course had to leave the province to do so.

Mrs. Rolston and Mrs. Hodges pointed out that \$17,000 had been collected by women's organizations to assist the creation of such a faculty; but that, while

promises had been made, nothing had been done about the matter.

Closer co-operation with research in agriculture; more consideration of the position of country students, under special costs to attend; a department of sociology and other suggestions were made, before the vote was finally allowed to pass, unchanged.

Dr. Joseph Gillis, Liberal, Yale, endorsed a complaint by Mrs. Steeves that fees at the University were too high.

Full Dress Debate On Doukhobor Issue

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Government and opposition members of the Legislature joined Tuesday night in asking for a full dress discussion of the Doukhobor situation in B. C. before the end of the session.

T. A. Love, Conservative, Grand Forks, who introduced the question, said some Doukhobors in the Grand Forks district had gone to jail rather than submit to registration.

Harold Winch, C. C. F. leader, asked for postponement of the discussion to enable an absent C. C. F. member to speak on the subject. Hon. H. G. Perry, minister of education, agreed the question should be discussed later.

MAY BE MILITARY HOSPITAL

Ottawa Takes Over Victoria Normal School for War Aims

(By Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Victoria's Normal School has been requisitioned by Ottawa for war purposes, it was announced in the Legislature by Hon. H. G. Perry, minister of education.

It was while he was speaking on estimates that the minister was handed a note by Premier Hart. "I have just been informed by the Premier," the minister stated, "that Ottawa requires the Normal School in Victoria."

The purposes to which the big building will be put were not indicated, although unofficial reports say it will be a military hospital.

The announcement came as the minister was discussing the suggestion of Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, that the two Normal schools be merged.

"I do not know anything about the Victoria school," she said, "but I do know that many people in Vancouver consider that the graduates from the Normal School in that city are better trained as teachers than those who graduate from the University."

E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, was of opinion that normal fees should be reduced to encourage more young people to enter the teaching profession. Better provisions should be made for rural teachers, he declared. At present they were trained in the country districts and then went to the cities. The reverse should be the case.

Fifty of the 70 students in the Victoria Normal School will be transferred to Vancouver for the completion of their courses, according to tentative plans. These are students from the interior of British Columbia. The 20 Victoria and Vancouver Island students will be taken care of in temporary quarters, to be arranged in Victoria.

The Model School classes of children drawn from Oak Bay and Saanich municipalities will be accommodated in other schools.

Especially for Schools

PLAN REVISION OF TAX SYSTEM

By B. A. McKELVIE.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—The whole question of taxation and especially in respect of education, will be reviewed this year, Hon. H. G. Perry, minister of education, told the Legislature on Tuesday afternoon.

The announcement of policy came during the discussion of the amount of \$450,000 in the estimates of the department of education as a grant in aid to municipalities and school districts.

Former Premier T. D. Pattullo candidly admitted that the previous government had approximated the grant to cover the additional costs imposed on school boards by the compulsory contributions to the Teachers' Pension Fund.

LOST \$250,000.

A preliminary grant of \$250,000 had been given to school boards. This had been increased, as for last year, to \$450,000, but at the same time the new impost amounted to \$438,000. "So," added Mr. Pattullo, "you see the municipalities and school districts are really worse off by \$250,000 in this new budget."

Roderick C. MacDonald, Conservative, Dewdney, said municipalities and school districts should not have been assessed anything for teachers' pensions. The fund had got into a deplorable state, but this was due to the laxity of the government in permitting it.

The Incredible Statute

NOTHING will be done in this session of the Legislature to provide for compulsory motor car insurance. That is the answer to Mr. Kenney, M.L.A. for Skeena, who has been foremost in raising the question in the House.

Mr. Kenney will have much company in his disappointment. For the answer given, while it did not explicitly say so, leaves little doubt that nothing will be done at all. That is to say that nothing will be done to improve the present worthless law on our statute books which offers no protection for anybody against the financially irresponsible motorist.

The war and the public preoccupation with it is no excuse for the government and the Legislature in this business. This is a long-standing item of undone public business about which something might have been done at this time. It can only be supposed that the vested interests in the present wholly unsatisfactory condition of affairs have again been influential enough to prevent any attempt at improvement.

The public controversy upon this subject has been so complicated and bedevilled with special pleading, mainly on the part of the insurance companies, that it is hard for a plain man not to be bewildered. But it ought to be possible to insist that a very simple proposition is essential here.

That proposition is that no operator of any motor vehicle should be allowed to operate his dangerous machine on the public highway unless he is properly insured against his liability for the injury or damage that his vehicle may cause to the person or property of anybody else.

There is no such protection in the present law of British Columbia. All there is is a wretched thing, tagged on as an afterthought to the Motor Vehicle Act. This phony "responsibility" law says that if you kill somebody else on the road, or injure somebody, or damage his property, and if judgment of the court is given against you, then you shall not be allowed to go out and do it again until you have given evidence that next time the next victim will be able to collect from you.

Do you say that it is incredible? Well, it ought to be, but that is the sorry state of the law that this Legislature, with time on its hands to argue about everything, will do nothing about.

UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE DOME

C.C.F. Counter-Offensive Delays House Prorogation

By B. A. McKELVIE.

Vancouver Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—Prorogation, originally planned for Friday, may not be reached until Wednesday.

On Tuesday the C.C.F. staged a five-hour filibuster on the estimates of Hon. H. G. T. Perry, minister of education. It was obviously—and admittedly—a comeback at the minister for his attack earlier in the session upon the tenets of Socialism as expounded by the C.C.F.

Strange things happen in this Legislature.

The unexpected is always just round the corner, but the incident of Wednesday afternoon took all but one member entirely by surprise. The one member was E. E. Winch—Winch the Elder—and he provided the surprise. It was commendation of Herbert Anscomb, minister of mines.

Mr. Winch for years has held Mr. Anscomb up as the nearest thing to embodied capitalism that he could find in the Assembly. Mr. Anscomb has regarded Mr. Winch as the very embodiment of ultra red Socialism. They have rowed—good-naturedly—for years.

Yesterday, however, the white-haired member for Burnaby rose to compliment the minister. He read a letter he had received from Mr. Anscomb upon his taking office as minister of mines and of trade and industry. It had requested the advice of the member. This, said Mr. Winch, was something new. He appreciated it.

Mrs. Tilley Rolston—The government felt the hand-writing on the wall.

R. C. MacDonald—A woman shouldn't get married if she can't teach her daughter how to cook.

Sumas reclamation work cost a total of \$8,160,456, Leslie Eyres was told in the House. Total receipts to the first of the present year were \$648,233, leaving a balance of \$7,512,223. For this huge sum there are now, after 20 years of effort, 808 settlers on the area. Some 1300 acres of reclaimed lands remain to be sold. This means that each settler represents a net outlay on the part of the government of \$9296.

The city of Victoria has grown by two acres in the past 20 years. W. T. Straith, Victoria member, boasted to the Legislature of this fact. He asked that the city be formally allowed to annex the two acres so that it could legally impose taxes. A bill passed

second reading to permit the Queen City to be enlarged by the two-acre fill in the harbor.

Louis LeBourdais rose in defense of "chechako prospectors." They might be green as grass, but sometimes they made gold.

He told of an Irish policeman from Chicago and a window dresser from Lancashire, who came into Cariboo. They camped where old wiseacres said there could be no gold, and they prospected in the vicinity just because it was close to their tent.

They found gold, but the local lads would not believe that it came from their diggings—as they knew there just couldn't be gold there. But there was gold, and something like \$500,000 was taken out of the greenhorns' mine.

PROTEST LAUNCHED ON MOVIE CHANGE

VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—Birt Showler, president of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, arrived in Victoria today to protest against a proposed amendment to the Fire Marshal Act that would nullify a regulation calling for presence of two projectionists in projection rooms of theatres with a seating capacity of more than 450.

The amendment is sponsored by Louis LeBourdais, Cariboo.

Independent operators of theatres in Vancouver said today they took the view that one projectionist is enough for one machine.

Projectionists are paid \$1.30 to \$1.60 an hour and on the average work 27 hours a week, and make from \$35 to \$45 weekly.

Granville street theatres seat from 800 to 2700 persons. There are practically no picture houses in the city seating less than 450 persons, although one or two on the outskirts took out some of their seats when the Fire Marshals Act was amended, so they could carry on with one projectionist.

George J. Gerard, a delegate of the Projectionists' Union in the Trades and Labor Council, charged Tuesday night that the attempt to amend the act again was a "squeeze play" by big interests willing to jeopardize the safety of movie goers for the small saving made by discharging one operator. He pointed out that projectionists were beyond the age of military service.

Anscomb Refuses to Repeal British Columbia's

Blue Sky Law

CRIMINAL CODE 'NOT ENOUGH'

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
 VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—As far as he was concerned, he would not recommend the repeal of the Securities Act, Hon. Herbert Anscomb, minister of mines, bluntly told the Legislature on Wednesday.

Tom Love, Grand Forks, and several others had declared that the Securities Act was hindering the development of mining. "I will not recommend its repeal," said Mr. Anscomb. "My honorable friends when they urge it forget that the Securities Act is not limited to mining, but extends over all manner of enterprises."

ATTACKS ENGINEERS.

"What they urge—or mean to do—is that it should be repealed as it applies to mining, but I don't know about that." He went on: "It has been said that the Criminal Code would give protection. The code comes into effect after an act is committed; the Securities Act tries to prevent improper practices."

Mr. Love levelled an attack on resident mining engineers. He said that they did not encourage mining. Their reports were of such a character as to deter investment in properties.

Mr. Anscomb—As long as I am minister of mines, I don't want any engineer to say "yes" when he should say "no."

Mr. Love was also replied to by W. J. Asseltine, former minister of mines, who defended the resident engineers as being men of high calibre, who would only put in their reports what they saw. It would be a sad day for British Columbia if the government sought to employ engineers who would "try to lure money" by their reports.

Dr. T. D. Pattullo also spoke in commendation of the work of the resident engineers.

Scandal Denied 'FERRY CASE' IS EXPLAINED

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
 VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—The story of an old ferry on the Arrow Lakes that was sold by the public works department for \$20 and was then hired back at \$8 per day with a tug at \$4 per hour to pull it, was told in the public accounts committee this morning.

The C. C. F. members of the committee did the questioning. The story brought out was that W. J. Armstrong, mechanical superintendent of the public works department, condemned the ferry at The Needles. It was offered for sale.

One advertisement was inserted in a local paper and notices were exhibited in public places calling for bids on the boat.

The only tender received was from the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company, with which Capt. C. S. Leary, M.L.A., at the time minister of public works, was associated. The bid was for \$20 and the sale was made at that figure.

HIRED BACK TWICE.

Later, owing to the necessity for supplying a substitute ferry at Castlegar during repairs to that craft, the government approached the pole company and hired the old craft, from which the machinery had been removed, and the company's tug to pull it.

It was employed for 16 days. Later the government again employed the old barge for "from three weeks to a month" on the Columbia River.

While he had condemned the craft he knew that it was safe enough to operate temporarily, Mr. Armstrong told the committee.

"HONORABLE" PURCHASE.

Capt. Leary, who is a member of the committee, declared that the purchase was made by his company in an honorable manner without any thought of ever leasing it to the government. It was required for carrying lumber.

The hull was in such bad shape that it required the expenditure of \$500 before it was serviceable. The old boat was half submerged when the Pole Co. acquired it, he stated.

Instead of being criticized, the Pole Co. should be commended, he thought, for leasing the boat—at a low rate—back to the public works department, a situation of great inconvenience to the public had been obviated during the time the Castlegar ferry was replaced.

It was just a case of "sculduggery" about the table, he said, glaring at the C.C.F. members.

TO HIS OWN DEPARTMENT Explains Pensions Transfer

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
 VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—Administration of the Old Age Pensions Act in British Columbia is being removed from the Workmen's Compensation Board. It will be administered in the department of the provincial secretary.

In moving second reading of a bill to effect this change Hon. George S. Pearson, provincial secretary, paid high tribute to the manner in which the Workmen's Compensation Board had carried on, not only in respect of the handling of old age pen-

sions, but in efficiently administering their own act.

The board itself was anxious to get rid of the burden of old age pensions, the provincial secretary said. It was also felt that the pensions could be effectively handled within his department. There were times it was felt that the government should have greater control over matters pertaining to old age pensions. This was particularly so in the matter of interpretations of grounds for pensions. The board had full say.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Victoria, suggested that the new organization should be instructed that it would be better to err on the side of generosity in dealing with the claims of aged individuals.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch declared the bill was complete justification of the stand of the C. C. F. three years ago when that body had urged the setting up of a definite organization to deal with this class of pensions.

Dr. T. D. Pattullo urged that pressure should be brought on the Dominion Government to call a conference of provinces to fully discuss the whole subject of old age pensions.

Gray Can Only Hope For Better Fraser Valley Weather

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
 VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—Payments of interest and sinking fund instalments due to dyking districts in the Fraser Valley will be deferred as a result of a bill introduced by Hon. A. Wells Gray, minister of lands and given second reading.

The minister explained that the measure was made necessary by the loss suffered by farmers during the bad weather of last fall. It was expected that they would be able to meet their next instalments. The deferred payments will be set back to the end of the payment schedule, which has about nine years to run.

"Does the minister ever expect favorable conditions to exist in the Fraser Valley?" quizzed Dr. T. D. Pattullo.

Hon. Mr. Gray—I can't guarantee good weather, but expect it next year.

L. H. Shepherd—Hope springs eternal. . .

Move to Cut Projection Staff

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
 VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—Three hundred projectionists are affected by an amendment proposed by Louis LeBourdais, Cariboo, to the Fire Marshal's Act.

The amendment would repeal the provision inserted into the act in 1939, compelling the attendance of two projectionists in moving picture theatres having more than 400 seats at all times.

Projectionists have started a lobby to defeat the amendment, while those interested in trying to secure its passage are also active.

Mr. LeBourdais vigorously opposed the 1939 amendment that compelled the employment of double staffs of projectionists at motion picture theatres.

To Meet Crisis DEPARTMENT POWER LARGER

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
 VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—Under the present laws, the fisheries department of the province could not refuse licenses to Japanese fish buyers, Hon. George S. Pearson, commissioner of fisheries, told the Legislature. He was discussing an amendment to the act that would permit of wide discretionary powers being given to the department for the refusal of a license to any person.

He explained that Dominion legislation stood in the way of specifically banning Japanese, but that the desired effect could be obtained by an amendment to the provincial act such as he was proposing.

An amendment to the Evidence Act, which was given second reading, gives courts the authority to accept as evidence photostatic and photographic copies of documents.

The amendment also provides that barristers and solicitors who have been disbarred may not act as commissioners for taking oaths.

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LESS PER CAPITA

B.C. Liquor Consumption Less

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—British Columbia is consuming less liquor, per capita, than it did 10 years ago, official figures disclose.

Sales totalling \$17,590,252 to the 809,000 residents of the province in 1941 works out at approximately \$21.73 compared with sales amounting to \$16,498,692 in 1930 to the 694,000 British Columbians of that day. This was at the rate of \$23.76 per head, or \$2.03 more than it was last year.

The value increase in the sale

of liquor in comparative years of 1930 and 1941 was 7.2 per cent. In the same years there was a jump of 38.99 in provincial revenues; gas tax collections had jumped by 246 per cent—from \$1,086,346 to \$3,759,629—and motor fees and licenses jumped by 45.5 per cent.

The per capita consumption of liquor, as shown by Liquor Control Board records, of \$21.73 annually works out at less than 6 cents a day per head—or one bottle of beer every three days, based on the L.C.B. price of \$2.10 per dozen.

MAJORITY RULE SOUGHT

Moves to Force Bargaining

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—A bill that would compel B. C. employers to negotiate collective bargaining agreements with trade union organization nominated by majorities of their employees was introduced in the Legislature Wednesday by Colin Cameron, C.C.F. whip, Comox.

The bill, seeking an amendment to the B. C. Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, aims at implementation of recommendations made to the legislative labor committee this session by trade union delegations.

Union spokesmen, addressing the committee, claimed the act in its present form enables unwilling employers to "stall" and attempt to set back organization by suggesting company unions and other alternatives.

The proposed amendment states:

"The (provincial) minister of labor shall, upon receipt of application by two officers of a trade union, supported by statutory declarations to the effect that they have been requested

by employees to make such application, conduct a secret ballot within seven days of receipt of such application. . .

"Any question of interpretation or application of this section shall be settled by the minister."

Another bill introduced by Mr. Cameron seeks a ruling that industrial settlements consisting of 50 or more persons in an area of one square mile, shall be considered "public settlements," with all roads, streets and passage ways therein deemed "public thoroughfares."

The act would affect factory, cannery, logging, mine, sawmill and other industrial settlements outside municipalities.

Mechanics' Lien Act Bill Defeated

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—A private bill seeking amendment of the Mechanics' Lien Act to extend the period in which workmen could file claims from 31 to 60 days, died on the order paper Wednesday after Attorney-General Maitland had questioned its merits.

The bill was introduced by Samuel Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle.

Mr. Maitland argued the amendment would prove more beneficial to unethical contractors than to workmen. Such contractors habitually delayed payment until just before a lien was to be filed. Workmen concerned hesitated to file liens while there was a chance they would be paid without them.

Adoption of the bill would give contractors an extra 30 days in which to delay payment before liens were filed, Mr. Maitland said.

When the second reading vote was called, Mr. Speaker declared the motion lost.

Subsidy Urged

WOULD ASSIST PROSPECTORS

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—Government members joined opposition spokesmen in the Legislature Thursday in urging increased encouragement for prospectors, during consideration of department of mines estimates.

C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch suggested B. C. should follow the policies of Australian Commonwealth and state governments—subsidization of prospectors, with the government collecting a share of returns.

Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, protested against a reduction in the estimates of the vote for mine trails and roads.

"Mining development in the past has been just as fast and no faster than available transportation," he said.

CITES PRECEDENT.

Endorsing Mr. Winch's suggestion, Mr. LeBourdais said that in B. C.'s early days the government subsidized prospectors and in return collected 50 per cent of their earnings.

W. J. Asselstine, Liberal, Atlin, former minister of mines, suggested school children should devote "four or five periods a week" to studying identification and assaying of minerals.

"This would be far more valuable than the study of Hannibal's accomplishments," argued the former minister.

Hon. Herbert Anscomb, minister of mines, reported that he agreed that prospectors should be given "all possible encouragement," but the problem of giving them financial support was "an extremely difficult one."

WORKS WITH OTTAWA.

The B. C. mines department, Mr. Anscomb said, was working closely with the federal metals controller at Ottawa.

Premier Hart promised "an early statement" in response to a question by H. W. Herridge, C.C.F., Rossland-Trail, on results of conversations between cabinet ministers and Dr. G. S. Hume, federal geologist, on potentialities of the government oil project at Commotion Creek.

SAY FRAUD ACT HURTS MINING

VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—A. N.

Wolverton, president of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, claimed at a legislative mining committee meeting today that the Provincial Securities Act is blocking development of B. C. mineral resources.

Mr. Wolverton led a delegation of mining men and Vancouver Stock Exchange members seeking amendment or repeal of the act.

In its present form, Mr. Wolverton said, the Securities Act made it "virtually impossible" for prospectors to obtain financial backing. As a result, prospecting was at a low ebb and no new properties were being discovered.

A. E. Jukes, president of the B. C. Chamber of Mines, protested there were "too many dictatorial powers in the act."

E. K. Debeck, administrator of the act, said the only appeal from his decision was to the attorney-general of the province.

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland suggested there should be an appeal to the courts, but members of the delegation replied expense and delay involved in court actions would nullify any advantage.

Harold Lakes of Nelson, president of the Chamber of Mines of Eastern B. C., was also at the hearing.

For some time the Chamber of Mines has urged, by resolution and otherwise, that the Security Frauds Prevention Act should be withdrawn or amended, claiming it has kept capital away from prospective or developing properties.

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Burnaby, Be Tough

THE ratepayers of Burnaby are asking for the restoration of municipal self-government, and there is no good reason why they should not have it. The municipality was in default but has made an agreement with its creditors and refunded its debt. It is in default no longer and is as much entitled to manage its own affairs as is Vancouver or Victoria or any municipal unit in the province.

No doubt the people of Burnaby will have their municipal franchise restored. But they must remember that with the franchise will come responsibility—personal responsibility. One reason why Burnaby lost its right to govern itself and was put under a commissioner was that its ratepayers were too lax. They did not keep a sufficiently strong rein on their councillors. They went into debt too easily.

If they follow the same course again they will fall into difficulties again, for Burnaby must remember that it is to a very large extent a dormer municipality and the path of a dormer municipality is a rough one. Its revenues are always low and the demands upon them always high. So it is necessary for the council to be tough with the dollars and for the ratepayers to be tough with the council.

The Spirit and the Law

AN amendment to the Old Age Pensions Act, introduced in the Legislature this week, authorizes Mr. Pearson, in his capacity as provincial secretary, to remove the administration of old age pensions from the Workmen's Compensation Board and to take it directly under his own charge.

This move may mean much or nothing at all to the persons chiefly concerned, the old age pensioners themselves, but nothing is so far forthcoming to show that it means a great deal. The essential question is not one of moving administration from one department of government to another but it is a question of moving the spirit of administration.

For there is abundance of evidence to support the widespread complaint that the Old Age Pensions law is very much what the provincial administration boards, in collaboration with the Ottawa department of labor, have made of it.

What they have made of it, this is the essential complaint, is something far removed from the original humane intention of the law.

The charge is, and so far it is not effectively rebutted, that the original spirit and intention of the act has been stifled in the gradual accretion of regulations, made by successive provincial and Dominion departments, validated by orders-in-council that have not been sufficiently reviewed by Parliament and the legislatures.

This is not to say that Mr. Pearson, who has the reputation of a humane man, may not be able by this change of administrative departments, to improve the lot of the old age pensioners. But it is to insist that a mere change of departments can do little to effect such an improvement.

The effective law, such as it is, is the product first of all of concurrent legislation between the Dominion and the provinces and in its development of concurrent administration. Parliament can not absolve itself of primary and ultimate responsibility here.

Mr. Pearson could do nothing better than to hammer at the bureaucratic doors of Ottawa until Parliament is obliged to take notice.

To Give Cities Power

MAY LEVY TAX TO PAY A.R.P.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Feb. 6.—Authority for municipalities to levy for and expend funds on A.R.P. work, civil protection and disaster relief is contained in a bill entitled "Municipalities Civil Protection Enabling Act" to be introduced by Municipal Minister A. W. Gray. He has given notice of his intention of introducing the measure.

At present there is no authority for the expenditure of municipal funds on such work. The bill not only will permit councils to spend moneys, but to co-operate with other governments in similar works.

It is not yet clear at City Hall if the new legislation will have any effect on the city's tax rate this year.

DECLINES COMMENT.

At present, the city is without legal authority to levy taxes for civil protection purposes, and while the government's bill will overcome this obstacle, it is not by any means certain that the City Council will agree to any large outlays of civic money for this purpose.

As the bill is not mandatory, merely giving permissive power to make A.R.P. expenditures, it does not follow that the council will be obliged to authorize such costs.

In previous discussions several aldermen have taken the stand that A.R.P. should be a provincial and federal responsibility. Mayor Cornett declines to comment on the situation pending further information from Victoria on the distribution of A.R.P. costs.

Davidson Opposes A "Welfare Home"

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Feb. 6. — Dr. George Davidson, provincial welfare director, told the legislative social welfare committee today that he was opposed to "institutionalization" of welfare dependents except "as a last resort."

"Institutionalization, in my opinion, is the very last thing. We were all born to live in a natural, family environment and as long as we can leave cases in such environment there is no problem of readjustment to be faced," Dr. Davidson said.

The welfare director admitted many old age pensioners were experiencing difficulty in finding home accommodation. Some of them would be better off in institutions but there was no room for them.

Dr. Davidson approved a suggestion by Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, that a "cottage plan" be established for old-age pensioners.

UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE DOME

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Ex-Premier Tries to Shepherd Erstwhile Followers In Oil Debate

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1. Dr. G. S. Hume, federal geologist, has advised the government it is unlikely oil could be drilled before the government makes a final decision on the future of the well.
2. Dr. Hume has recommended that a further 1000 feet be drilled before the government be struck at Commotion Creek until a further 3000 feet was drilled. (Depth of the well now is 5500 feet.)

COST GOES UP.

3. The original drilling contract called for payment of \$22.50 a foot but cost of further drilling will be between \$60 and \$70 a foot.

4. The former government advanced special grants of \$50,000 and \$25,000 to the drilling company after a drill "bit" was lost.

5. In addition to the \$100,000 voted for future drilling in the 1942-43 estimates, a further \$125,000 is available in unexpended funds.

6. The government has not decided whether it will continue drilling indefinitely or whether it will open up the field to private companies.

7. If private companies are allowed to drill, they will be subject to a maximum royalty of 15 per cent. of gross proceeds. The former royalty was 2½ cents per 35 gallons.

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Mr. Anscomb explained that the expert advised that drilling of a further 1000 feet would reveal if the "dip" in strata impeding drilling were such that further effort would be inadvisable.

The minister said that the vote in the estimates, plus the unexpended \$125,000 would be sufficient to cover cost of further drilling recommended by Dr. Hume.

"I am not saying that the government definitely proposes to drill. I do say that this is the most difficult problem facing the government at present," Mr. Anscomb said.

The government was seeking amendment of the Oil and Petroleum Act to open up the field if it decided not to continue drilling itself, he explained.

Wismer Defends Securities Act

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"If you are going to carry on mining in this province you have to protect the public that puts the money into the industry," Mr. Wismer declared.

Charles S. Henley, Victoria broker, who also appeared to defend the Securities Act as being for the protection of the public, confided to the members: "Ninety per cent. of people who put money into mining shares lose it." Any protection that the government can provide should be given to the public, he added.

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Dispatched 'Tough Little Guy' To Fernie After Aid Scandal

(By The Vancouver Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)
 VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Relief frauds at Fernie would have been "the greatest scandal in this province" if they had been revealed fully to the public, Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, declared Friday at a meeting of the Legislative supply committee.

The minister made the statement during a sharp clash with Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, arising from Mr. Uphill's claim that political patronage had played a role in relief prosecutions at Fernie.

Mr. Uphill charged:
 1. Chief offenders in the relief frauds were "adherents of the Liberal party."
 2. A relief applicant was "driven to the asylum" by a provincial relief investigator.
 3. The government purchased "a ton of nails from a disciple of Mussolini" without "giving Britishers" an opportunity to tender.
 4. "Scandalous things were still going on" at Fernie.

Mr. Pearson asserted:
 1. A Fernie man was drawing relief for a son attending university.

2. The M.L.A. for Fernie was "not entirely clear," as far as "using influence" was concerned.

"YOU BET I DO."

The dispute began when Mr. Uphill asked Mr. Pearson if he accepted responsibility as minister in charge of unemployment relief for the appointment of James Shilling as relief administrator in Fernie.

"You bet I do . . . The reason I sent Shilling there is because

he is a tough little guy. That's why," replied Mr. Pearson.

"The payment of unemployment relief in Fernie was a scandal . . . The whole town was relief-minded. . . . You ought to thank me for having sent Shilling to clear up the situation," continued the minister.

Some of the offenders had been prosecuted and sent to jail, he added.

Mr. Uphill interjected: "They were adherents of the Liberal party. . . . Shilling will have to admit that."

There were cases of people getting relief, the M.L.A. charged, "purely and solely because of their political affiliations."

"Some of the most scandalous things are still going on there," he added.

Mr. Pearson—I defy you to prove Shilling gave relief to any one because of their political affiliations.

Mr. Uphill said he was not "condemning" the minister—"it was the persons he sent in who caused the trouble."

New Teachers' Pension Setup

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
 VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Under an amendment to the Teachers' Pension Act a new system of payments into the fund by teachers will be set up.

At present teachers' contributions are fixed at a straight 4 per cent of salaries. This means that collections are usually in odd amounts, and these change frequently with slight advances in salary schedules. It is intended to classify salary groups and collect stated amounts for each group. Thus each teacher within a particular group will pay the same amount each month.

On salaries to \$100 per month, the deduction will be \$3; from \$100 to \$125 a month, \$4; and up to \$150, \$5. With each additional \$25 earned monthly, a deduction of \$1 will be made.

Mrs. Steeves Fears Ambulance Chasers Benefit

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Attorney-General R. L. Maitland explained the amending bill would restore a legal right formerly held by B.C. car passengers. The bill passed second reading.

"I'm afraid this amendment would give rise to a great deal of ambulance chasing by unscrupulous lawyers. . . . I think it would lead to a lot of litigation and trouble," protested Mrs. Steeves.

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(By The Vancouver Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)
VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Relief frauds at Fernie would have been "the greatest scandal in this province" if they had been revealed fully to the public, Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, declared Friday at a meeting of the Legislative supply committee.

The minister made the statement during a sharp clash with Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, arising from Mr. Uphill's claim that political patronage had played a role in relief prosecutions at Fernie.

- Mr. Uphill charged:
1. Chief offenders in the relief frauds were "adherents of the Liberal party."
 2. A relief applicant was "driven to the asylum" by a provincial relief investigator.
 3. The government purchased "a ton of nails from a disciple of Mussolini" without "giving Britishers" an opportunity to tender.
 4. "Scandalous things were still going on" at Fernie.
- Mr. Pearson asserted:
1. A Fernie man was drawing relief for a son attending university.
 2. The M.L.A. for Fernie was "not entirely clear," as far as "using influence" was concerned.

"YOU BET I DO."
The dispute began when Mr. Uphill asked Mr. Pearson if he accepted responsibility as minister in charge of unemployment relief for the appointment of James Shilling as relief administrator in Fernie.
"You bet I do . . . The reason I sent Shilling there is because he is a tough little guy. That's why," replied Mr. Pearson.
"The payment of unemployment relief in Fernie was a scandal. . . The whole town was relief-minded. . . You ought to thank me for having sent Shilling to clear up the situation," continued the minister.
Some of the offenders had been prosecuted and sent to jail, he added.
Mr. Uphill interjected: "They were adherents of the Liberal party. . . . Shilling will have to admit that."
There were cases of people getting relief, the M.L.A. charged, "purely and solely because of their political affiliations."
"Some of the most scandalous things are still going on there," he added.
Mr. Pearson—I defy you to prove Shilling gave relief to any one because of their political affiliations.
Mr. Uphill said he was not "condemning" the minister—"it was the persons he sent in who caused the trouble."

New Teachers' Pension Setup

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Under an amendment to the Teachers' Pension Act a new system of payments into the fund by teachers will be set up.

At present teachers' contributions are fixed at a straight 4 per cent of salaries. This means that collections are usually in odd amounts, and these change frequently with slight advances in salary schedules. It is intended to classify salary groups and collect stated amounts for each group. Thus each teacher within a particular group will pay the same amount each month.

On salaries to \$100 per month, the deduction will be \$3; from \$100 to \$125 a month, \$4; and up to \$150, \$5. With each additional \$25 earned monthly, a deduction of \$1 will be made.

Mrs. Steeves Fears Ambulance Chasers Benefit

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 7. — Proposed amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act to enable "gratuitous" passengers involved in accidents to sue drivers for "gross negligence," was opposed in the Legislature Friday by Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver.

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland explained the amending bill would restore a legal right formerly held by B.C. car passengers. The bill passed second reading.

"I'm afraid this amendment would give rise to a great deal of ambulance chasing by unscrupulous lawyers. . . . I think it would lead to a lot of litigation and trouble," protested Mrs. Steeves.

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Civil Service Act Never 'Really Operative' in British Columbia, Admits Minister

DENIES 'BOSS' SYSTEM RULES

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—The provincial Civil Service Act has never been "really operative" in British Columbia, Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, said Friday at a meeting of the legislative supply committee.

He clashed with Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, and Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, on the procedure for appointment of provincial civil servants.

PATRONAGE CHARGE.

Mr. MacNeil charged there was "a general belief prevailing in B. C." that "political bosses" and M.L.A.'s used "patronage" to obtain appointments of friends.

"We have a Civil Service Act in B. C., but to my astonishment one minister after another gets up and admits he snaps his fingers at the act. It is highly demoralizing when ministers do not observe the law," the C.C.F. member said.

If ministers were not prepared to recognize the act, it should be changed, Mr. MacNeil argued.

"All public officials should be in a position to carry out their duties without fear or favor. They can't do this when their livelihood depends on the whim of some political boss," he added.

MADE BY MINISTER.

Mr. Pearson said he agreed with Mr. MacNeil that the Civil Service Act should be changed in regard to method of appointments.

The minister said, in theory, appointments were made by the Civil Service Commission, but actually they were made by the minister.

"The act has never been really operative in B. C.," stated the minister.

"Don't think for a minute that appointments in my departments are made by political bosses. I have no use for political bosses," he asserted.

The minister said efficiency demanded that he have control of appointments in his departments.

The clash between Mr. Pearson and Mr. Uphill centred on the minister's appointment of a relief official in Fernie.

UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE DOME

C.C.F. and Sincerity; Uphill And Truth; Winch and 'Scrag'

By B. A. McKELVIE.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Hon. George Pearson did not say that the C.C.F. was playing for publicity. No, indeed; all he said was that, "I am not going to say that my honorable friends in the opposition are talking for effect and publicity."

But Arthur Turner, member for Vancouver East, and one of the leaders in the party, declared that the minister had imputed something. He had suggested that the earnest efforts of the C.C.F. members were for effect.

He wanted the minister to withdraw the insinuation.

"But I didn't say that the honorable members were seeking publicity," replied Mr. Pearson with an air of innocence. "I said that I would not say that they were."

The incident closed for the time, but Mrs. Grace MacInnis raised it later. She said that the new members of the opposition might be clumsy, but they were sincere, and she did not think that anything else should be imputed to them. They were not publicity seekers.

INCREASE FOR BELL.

Adam Bell, deputy minister of labor, is now getting "union" pay. His salary has gone up by \$300 annually, putting him in rank with other deputies who draw around \$400 a month. Mr. Bell was getting less than the others. He had wanted more, but in the hard times of the past few years had to be content.

"When I was fired," Labor Minister Pearson explained, "and someone else was in charge, the change was made, and it was promised to Mr. Bell."

The House passed the item without further comment—and the labor deputy's wages are now up to scale.

TRUTH PHILOSOPHY.

"My future is spotless," Tom Uphill assured the House on Friday night. "I never tell an untruth—except when the truth won't answer." But these few lapses were never to the detriment of the aged, or needy, he declared. He could not say the same for some government "understrappers."

Ministers and deputies and higher officials were always courteous to him, but not so some others. He said that he had been told by the relief administrator in Victoria that elderly men on relief would not be required to work in winter weather. But that "kind-hearted man Shilling, from Nanaimo," who was in charge at Fernie had interfered and said "they got to work."

SCRAG'S MEANING.

Labor Minister Pearson learned a new word on Friday. It is "scrag." Harold Winch, opposition chief, used it. He said he would like to see a law passed to "scrag" certain individuals.

"What does it mean?" asked Mr. Pearson.

"It's what you do to a chicken's neck before you chop it off," elucidated Mr. Winch.

Scores Reports

No Shortage Of Labor Here Claims Winch

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—There is no shortage of labor in Vancouver and Victoria, Harold E. Winch, C.C.F. leader, told the Legislature Friday night. Hundreds of men may be seen any morning crowding about the industrial plants of Vancouver looking for work.

"I wish that the minister had the power to put through a law to 'scrag' those industrialists—and some parliamentarians, too—who give out ponderous statements about there being a shortage of labor," he declared.

The declaration of the opposition leader came during the course of a general discussion of unemployment matters during consideration of the minister of labor's estimates.

QUESTION OF POLICY.

"Is it the policy of the department to compel men of 60 and 65 on relief to work in severe winter weather?" queried Grant MacNeil.

It was not, the minister replied.

Mr. MacNeil pressed once more, as he had on several occasions during the session, for an enlargement of the government employment service. He especially advocated placement of officers who would seek to find situations for elderly individuals.

Mr. Pearson said he understood that the Dominion intended to give special attention to finding employment for elderly workers.

"REJECTED AT 50."

Tom Uphill, Fernie, stated that men of 50 could not find employment in British Columbia coal mines, "and they look at you twice if you're around 45," he added.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Yale, came to the defense of elderly men. It was foolish to suggest that a man of 55 could not do a good day's work. "The majority of men at 55 are as good as those of 35 from a physical standpoint."

In the coal mines at Merritt 75 per cent of the miners were over 60, stoutly asserted the doctor.

"Are they at Princeton?" queried Mr. Uphill.

"Oh, they are organized there," answered the Yale member.

Housing Pacts To Be Validated

VICTORIA, Feb. 7. — (CP) — Wartime housing contracts entered into between British Columbia municipalities and War-time Housing Ltd. will be validated by amendments in the Municipal Act, it was explained in the Provincial Legislature. In the same measure, cities are being given power to set up reserves for works equipment and depreciation, and leave to enter group insurance agreements on municipal risks of any nature.

Sitting in double periods, the House last night adjourned for its fifth week-end recess, with prorogation expected by Wednesday.

By definition in amendments to the Trades School Regulation Act, the province is taking authority to include schools of accountancy, commercial and industrial art, advertising, business management, general and specialized manufacturing, mechanical dentistry, laboratory attendants and technicians, pharmacy, photography, personal service, chiropody, radio, electrical, therapeutics, salesmanship, journalism, story-writing, home and nursery service in the list of regulated schools of trade.

WOULD KILL MEANS TEST

Aid Plan for Unemployables

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Possibility that the unemployables now in receipt of assistance from the government may be removed from the jurisdiction of the relief administrator and be brought within the scope of the provincial secretary's department, was admitted by Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves said these men and women, unable to longer work to maintain themselves, should not be considered as relief cases. They should be given provincial allowances through the provincial secretary's office, and not be subject to these periodical "Means tests" by local relief officials, who

thought that they might be able to do a day's work or so.

The minister said it was possible that some change in administrative control might be made. A difficulty was that municipalities contributed to the amounts paid, and therefore were entitled to some say in the matter. "The whole amount should be paid by the province," said Mrs. Steeves. "This would not only clarify the situation, but would help the municipalities."

C.C.F., Pearson Clash

HARSH WORDS ON LABOR LAW

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Charges that he was "dictatorial" and was "stalling" were made by C. C. F. members against Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, when the minister refused to accede to opposition demands that the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act be opened for consideration of amendments asked for by organized labor.

"Nearly every trades union in the province is dissatisfied with the act," declared Herbert Gargrave, Mackenzie.

E. E. Winch, Burnaby,—You said that there were many things in the act you would like to see altered; things you had found as a result of its operation. Why not bring those amendments forward now?

STUDY NEEDED.

Mr. Pearson explained that he had not had time to do so, and he did not think that they should be brought forward without further consideration.

"You—YOU—haven't considered them—YOU!" screamed Mr. Winch. "You haven't considered this the proper time! But scores of labor organizations have." The minister's attitude was dictatorial, in the opinion of the Burnaby member.

Grant MacNeill, Vancouver-Burrard, said that the act did not protect workers from discrimination. He knew skilled workmen who had been blacklisted because of their activities in union matters.

He had only returned to the labor ministry after the session started on December 6 and had been away at Ottawa for a considerable time since then.

"I'm going to suggest that its time the minister stopped stalling," declared Colin Cameron, Comox.

"I'm not stalling," indignantly denied Mr. Pearson. "I'm trying to work for the good of all the workers in this province."

He added that the act was designed to benefit the workers rather than strengthen the position of professional organizers.

A Ceiling on Taxes

A BILL introduced in the Legislature by Hon. Wells Gray gives British Columbia municipalities power to do various things in connection with air raid protection, and, incidentally, the municipalities are accorded the privilege of raising the money to pay for the things they do.

It is highly desirable that the municipalities should be empowered to do the things they deem necessary for their own safety and which the senior governments are not disposed to do for them. And, of course, expenses incurred must be met.

It is highly desirable, at the same time, to remember that the war has seriously circumscribed the ability of the people to pay more local taxes. It is true the national income has risen. But the Dominion is taking all the increase and more in the way of taxes and loans. It has placed a ceiling on wages and salaries; so there is no relief in that direction. And the war has reduced the income of numerous businesses and wiped out some altogether.

The Dominion authorities are impressing upon individuals everywhere the duty of spending less. It is just as important that provincial and municipal governments spend less. Even if the Dominion does not place a ceiling on local taxation, the local governments might well consider doing so.

Old Age Pensions

MINISTERS RAP LADY MEMBER

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Mrs. Grace MacInnis, C. C. F. Vancouver-Burrard, drew sharp replies from the cabinet ministers in the Legislature on Friday night when she questioned effectiveness of the government's old age pension policy.

Describing the \$5 old age pension bonus as only "a quarter or half a loaf" when pensioners were entitled to "a full loaf," Mrs. MacInnis advocated a "return to the original humane intention" in administration of the Pension Act.

Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson, whose department has taken over administration of the act in B. C. accused the C. C. F. member of minimizing effects of the bonus.

The Provincial Government, he said could not change the regulations governing administration of old age pensions. These had been formed by an inter-provincial conference and they could not be changed unless a new agreement was reached with the other provinces.

"I would love to see the honorable lady member try to persuade the other provinces to change the regulations," Mr. Pearson said.

Education Minister H. G. Perry alleged Mrs. MacInnis was "depreciating what we have done" and subjecting the government to "carping criticism."

The B. C. Government now was paying 36 per cent. of the cost of old age pensions although it was called upon by its agreement with the Dominion Government to pay only 25 per cent, Mr. Perry stated.

Mrs. MacInnis replied there was "nothing in the regulations to prevent their interpretation being more lenient."

Hon. J. L. Ilsley, federal finance minister, had advised that the Provincial Government "can go as high as it likes in increasing its share of the pensions," she advised.

Seek Substitutes

Jute Shortage Hits Spud Men

(Special to The Daily Province.)

VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Increased use of boxes and crates for shipping B. C. potatoes and onions was recommended today by the legislative agricultural committee after hearing J. B. Munro, deputy minister of agriculture, testify that cost of sacks had doubled in a year.

A serious shortage of jute and all fibre materials has resulted from the war in the Pacific, Mr. Munro said.

PRICES DOUBLED.

Hemp and other fibre products formerly were imported from the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies and Japan, he explained.

"Crates cost approximately twice as much as sacks but the increased protection they give provides good value. Greater use of them would be an aid to the B. C. lumber industry," the deputy minister advised.

Paper sacks were useful for potatoes and onions in the current emergency but their inability to withstand moisture decreased their value, he added.

BEWARE POOR SOIL.

H. W. Herridge, C.C.F., Rossland-Trail, advocated liaison between the provincial land and agricultural departments to discourage settlers from attempting to develop poor soil.

Fit-Lt. L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, read a letter from the Chilliwack Board of Trade suggesting that fruit and vegetable supplies for the armed forces should be purchased directly from the producers.

Pattullo Was Prime Minister, Hart Is Premier

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, complained to the Legislature Friday night people have been accusing him of "taking on airs," because when he led the government he preferred the title "Prime Minister" to "Premier."

"Both titles mean the same thing. They both mean chief," said Mr. Pattullo.

Premier Hart, who does not use the "Prime Minister" title, advised the member for Prince Rupert to "read the Constitution Act."

Previously, Mr. Pattullo had accused Attorney-General R. L. Maitland of "bragging and banging" about the present government's generosity and finesse in completing the Dominion-Provincial income tax agreement.

The former Prime Minister claims the previous government, which he led, was responsible for the agreement.

To Transfer Pensions

VICTORIA, Feb. 9.—Provision is being made by an amendment to the Civil Service Superannuation Act for the preservation of accrued superannuation rights to provincial civil servants who are transferred to the Dominion service.

When the Dominion Government set up unemployment insurance, it took over a number of civil servants who were pay-

ing into the provincial fund. Similarly it is possible that some of the income tax staff of the province may be transferred to the federal service.

The legislation provides that the payments made by the employee, plus the amount of government contribution will remain fixed as at the time of leaving the provincial service, and will earn interest from that date until the final retirement of the pensioner from federal service.

Powder for Prospectors

VICTORIA, Feb. 9.—Bona fide prospectors can obtain powder by applying to the mining recorders or to the provincial office in their districts, W. J. Asstine, former minister of mines, told Dr. J. J. Gillis, Yale, in the Legislature. Dr. Gillis said that prospectors could not obtain powder since the war.

UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE DOME

C.C.F. DRAPE MAITLAND'S DESK

Opposition Members Express Delight at Defeat of Meighen

By B. A. MCKELVIE.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—Echo of the South York by-election, in which Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen was defeated—C.C.F. members of the Legislature decorated the desk of Attorney-General R. L. Maitland with crepe.

The C.C.F. group paraded into the chamber after supper adjournment with the women wearing red bandeaux and the men red buttonholes.

Tempers are fraying slightly at the edges as the House drives into its final week in an effort to get through by Thursday or Friday at the latest.

Louis LeBourdais, Cariboo Liberal and a private in the sig-

nal corps, took a dig at the citizens of Victoria. It was while an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act providing for restoration of the right of a free passenger to enter suit against the driver of a car in which he was injured was being discussed.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves remarked that it might prevent people from giving rides to soldiers.

"The people of Victoria need not fear," the Cariboo member acidly interjected. "They don't pick up soldiers."

T. D. Pattullo, former Premier, sprang to the defense of the drivers of Victoria. "I pick the lads up," he declared. "Why, the other day I stopped and picked

up a private in the Air Force. "When he got into my car he said that he was on the way to get married. I was pleased to be able to give him a ride. And I gave him a wedding present of five dollars as well."

Provincial Secretary George Pearson obtains his salary from the department of labor. When the estimates of the provincial secretary's department came up for discussion he pointed to the fact that there was no salary vote for the minister included. "Well," chimed in Burnaby's E. E. Winch, "that's the first time I've seen a minister listed for his proper salary."

The white haired Burnaby member has discovered that 65 men and three women over superannuation age were in the public service. He called them "old fogeys" and said they should give way to younger men and women.

"Old fogeys," snorted Dr. T. D. Pattullo, "Why should old fogeys be elected to the Legislature then?"

Mr. Winch—We should all ask ourselves that question.

Motor Act Change

Right to Sue Now Restored

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—The provision in the Motor Vehicles Act which debarred a free passenger from collecting damages from the driver or owner of the car, was removed from the statute on Monday.

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland piloted the amendment through committee and third reading. He explained that several years ago the act was changed so that the right of an injured free passenger to collect damages by suit was removed.

He submitted an amendment that gave the right of action to those who could establish "gross negligence" on the part of the driver.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, North Vancouver, and Colin Cameron, Comox, argued that the amendment would seriously operate against workers who carried their fellows to work.

Harold Winch, opposition leader, took issue with his C. C. F. followers. He thought that the act should be changed to permit of a poor person, perhaps permanently injured through the gross negligence of a car driver, recovering damages.

PUBLIC WORKS GRANTS LISTED

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—Allocation of funds for roads, bridges, ferries and wharves throughout the province for the ensuing year was announced in the Legislature Monday night as follows:

Roads—Alberni \$22,000, Atlin \$18,000, Burnaby \$10,000, Cariboo \$63,000, Chilliwack \$28,000, Columbia \$30,000, Comox \$34,000, Cowichan-Newcastle \$30,000, Cranbrook \$25,000, Delta \$25,000, Dewdney \$37,500, Esquimalt \$33,000, Fernie \$23,000, Fort George \$42,000, Grand Forks-Greenwood \$36,000, Kamloops \$41,000, Kaslo-Slocan \$34,000, Lillooet \$35,000, Mackenzie \$21,000, Nanaimo and The Islands \$25,000, Nelson-Creston \$45,000, New Westminster \$40,000, North Okanagan \$31,000, North Vancouver \$35,000, Omineca \$45,000, Peace River \$30,000, Prince Rupert \$15,000, Revelstoke \$29,000, Rossland-Trail \$18,000, Saanich \$21,000, Salmon Arm \$29,000, Similkameen \$35,000, Skeena \$20,000, South Okanagan \$30,000, Vancouver-Point Grey \$50,000, Yale \$25,000; total roads \$1,005,000.
Supervision \$57,610, ferries \$300,000, bridges \$490,000, location of roads \$30,000, snow removal \$65,000, machinery \$73,000, Prince Rupert wharf \$900, contingencies \$79,360, municipal roads (classified) \$10,000; total \$2,119,570.

Ten Bills Receive Third Reading in Hour

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—The Legislature got down to business in good style Monday afternoon when ten bills were given third reading and seven were read a second time in one hour.

Those which passed the committee stage and were given final reading were: Amendments to the Iron and Steel Bounties Act, Forest Act, Public Libraries Act, Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act, Water Act, Apprenticeship Act, Trade Schools Regulation Act, Provincial Home for Aged Act, Mental Hospitals Act, and Motor Vehicle Act.

Provincial Lab. Here Is Called "Fire Trap"

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—The Provincial Laboratory (Institute of Preventive Medicine) on Hornby street in Vancouver is housed in "a fire-trap," Arthur Turner, C. C. F., Vancouver East, asserted in the Legislature Monday.

Valuable equipment in the laboratory is not insured, Mr. Turner said.

Inadequacy of facilities had resulted in at least one employee contracting "a serious disease," the C. C. F. member stated.

Health Insurance Plan to Be Revised

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—Simplified plans for health insurance are being devised, Hon. George S. Pearson, provincial secretary, told the Legislature during an attack upon a vote for the continuance of the commission.

He explained that Dr. W. T. Barrett, chairman of the board, was studying possibilities of an insurance plan that might be acceptable to the Legislature.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, North Vancouver, said that she had been a strong advocate of state health insurance, but she thought that surely the commission had gathered all the data necessary since the former scheme was dropped in 1937.

Mr. Pearson—It is not information on other schemes that is being gathered, but a simplified form of insurance that is being worked upon, one that would be less expensive and more acceptable.

Income Tax Measure Presented by Premier

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—Legislation implementing the agreement between the province and the Dominion in respect to collection by the Dominion of income and corporation taxes for the duration was presented to the Legislature by Premier John Hart on Monday.

The bill provides for the payment to B. C. of \$12,048,367 by the federal treasury; guarantee of gasoline taxes imposed by the province not falling below \$3,763,625, the figure collected in 1940-1941; and the refund of the 1 per cent payroll tax to the public on collections for the first six months of 1941.

Post-war Rehabilitation Council, First in Canada, Set Up by Premier Hart

Group of Twelve Will Study Projects for Returned Men

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—British Columbia's post-war rehabilitation legislation—the first of the kind in Canada—was introduced by Premier John Hart Monday afternoon.

It provides for the setting up a council of twelve persons to be known as the "Post-war Rehabilitation Council, to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

While it is not stated specifically in the bill, it is understood that it will include representatives of the different parties included in the composition of the Legislature.

Provision is made for a permanent paid council, if necessary.

FOR NEW INDUSTRY.

Powers set out in the bill cover a wide range of studies for report to the Legislature. They include compiling data and making estimates of the probable number of returned men and

workers displaced in industry when the war ends.

The council is also instructed to co-operate with the Dominion and municipal governments and organizations working to the same end.

The council will "enquire and report on and advise in the establishment of any industries in British Columbia where it appears that such industries can profitably be carried on; consider and report on scientific researches in connection with or for the promotion of primary or secondary industries," and "to ascertain the future possibilities of the various phases of farming in different parts of the province with a view to supplying the demands for farm products on profitable available markets."

PATTULLO OBJECTS.

T. D. Pattullo, Prince Rupert: "It is hardly fair for the member from Dewdney to make ex parte statements like that when the men he attacks are not here to defend themselves. The board was set up to act like a court and like a court should be above criticism."

Dr. Gillis: "I said when the board was formed that the chairman was not fitted for the position. I have had experience with the board, and I know they won't listen to anyone—not even to their own superintendent. They are not doing their duty by the people."

B. C. UTILITIES BOARD SCORED

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—R. C. MacDonald, Conservative, Dewdney, made another slashing attack on the Public Utilities Board, in which he was joined by Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, and Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle.

Mr. MacDonald recited the grievances which he said Fraser Valley municipalities had had with the B. C. Power Corporation in the past. In view of such difficulties he had strongly advocated the formation of a public utilities commission, but now he wanted to see it abolished, and control over electric power rates vested in the Water Act administration.

RECALLS CASE.

He had brought a case before the commission last year and was told that nothing could be done until after the war, or at least until after the appraisal of the B. C. Electric Railway Company had been completed.

"The commission is supposed to be appointed to look after the people, but they are not doing it," he charged—"if there is any department of government that should be investigated it should be the Public Utilities Board."

The members composing the board had not previous experience in public utilities, yet the chairman was being paid \$10,000 a year and the other commissioners \$7500 each.

Grant to Vancouver Hospital Head Protested

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, protested in the Legislature Monday night against payment of an annual salary grant of \$3000 to the superintendent of the Vancouver General Hospital.

Dr. Gillis said he understood the grant was in addition to the superintendent's \$13,000 salary.

"It is time this grant was discontinued. We haven't been given any advice by the doctor for years," Dr. Gillis said.

Provincial Secretary G. S. Pearson said the grant was made to help complete a salary agreement with the official when he took the post.

Salary Survey

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—The government will make a survey of the civil service to studying the relativity of salary schedules, Hon. George S. Pearson, provincial secretary, told Grant MacNeill, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, in the Legislature Monday night.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, suggested that at the same time a review be made of the payments to those in receipt of pensions under the superannuation funds.

Pharmacists Hit

CURB ON DRUG STORES URGED

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch, speaking in the Legislature Monday, demanded "a thorough investigation of the pharmaceutical situation" in British Columbia.

Asking for amendment of the Pharmacy Act to place control of pharmacy under the department of health, Mr. Winch alleged:

1. Drug store operators are taking advantage of the Pharmacy Act to operate "general stores" after "lawful hours."
2. Drug store operators are employing apprenticeship regulations to "evade" terms of the Minimum Wage Act.
3. "Too many druggists are diagnosing illnesses" and recommending ineffective patent medicines.

DEPARTMENT STORES.

"The Pharmaceutical Council doesn't deal with pharmacy," said Mr. Winch. "It deals with a commercial drug store business. Ninety to 92 per cent. of their business is not concerned with pharmacy. Drug stores today are like department stores. The Pharmacy Act is being used for the purpose of keeping general stores open after lawful hours."

Although pharmacy apprentices began work for \$6 a week, in most stores they were unable to study prescription filling due to other demands made on their time, he asserted.

CITES VICTORIA CASE.

A Victoria woman sought advice of a drug store operator on value of a patent medicine. He told her it was worthless and refused to sell it to her.

"He was an honest man. But the woman was quite huffed. She went to another store."

"The salesman there not only sold her three bottles of the same medicine, he obtained a testimonial from her before she had a chance to use it."

Members Clash

ATTACK LEARY ON PATRONAGE

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—Capt. C. S. Leary, former minister of public works, and Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, clashed in the Legislature Monday night over C.C.F. charges of road work "patronage" in the former administration.

Mr. Cameron charged that Mr. Leary, as minister of public works, had disregarded requests for road repairs in the Comox constituency.

The C.C.F. member said that when Mr. Leary visited the constituency he avoided him, preferring company of "two Liberal heelers."

Mr. Leary replied no representations had been made him on behalf of Comox by Mr. Cameron.

NOT THE TRUTH.

"I'm sorry to say that the honorable gentleman is not telling the truth," said Mr. Cameron.

"You made no personal representations," Mr. Leary asserted.

Samuel Guthrie, C. C. F., Cowichan-Newcastle, said road work patronage in his constituency had been so flagrant the Duncan Chamber of Commerce had registered a formal protest.

H. W. Herridge, C. C. F., Rossland-Trail, suggested public works units should be based on "geographical considerations" rather than on constituency lines.

PATTULLO WARNING.

All three C. C. F. members praised a promise by Public Works Minister Rolf Bruhn that patronage would not be countenanced by the new administration. (See Page 11).

Former Premier T. D. Pattullo warned that unless the government was prepared to "borrow from the capital account" to maintain roads there would be "deterioration worth millions of dollars."

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, endorsed Mr. Pattullo's warning, arguing that "too much economy now will prove costly later."

ASKS INVESTIGATION.

Charging that in the past the administration of the public works department in the Fernie district had been corrupt, Tom Uphill, Fernie member, asked that an investigation be made into his allegations.

A tried and trusted road foreman had been approached prior to the last election by a political boss, who told him he would be expected to devote a part of his time to furthering the boss' political campaign.

"When he refused, he was fired," Mr. Uphill said.

He was replaced "by a most inefficient man," who had since smashed up a government truck. Road work had been done in such a poor manner that a main highway was washed out, holding up traffic for days.

*Low Bid Passed Up***HOUSE PROBES
BRIDGE AWARD**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—In justification of the construction of the Marblehead bridge across the Lardeau River, Capt. C. S. Leary, former minister of public works, quoted to the public accounts committee, a letter written in 1931 by the Conservative Association of Kaslo, urging its immediate construction.

It was disclosed at the committee hearing that the Big Bend Cedar Pole Co. of Nakusp, with which Capt. Leary is associated, supplied the timber, although the tender of that company was \$200 above that of the Alberta Lumber Co. of Vancouver.

This, it was explained by F. H. Harrison, purchasing agent, was not unusual. It was customary to give preference to a tenderer close to the work if the difference between bids was not great.

DID NOT SET POLICY.

Arthur Dixon, deputy minister of public works, said that as a subordinate official of government he had nothing to do with setting of policy. Once it had been decided to construct a bridge, he advised upon the proper site for the work.

Capt. Leary—I made the decision to build it.

Although a number of firms had been invited to tender on supplying the timber, Mr. Harrison said, only two had done so—the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company at \$3106, and the Alberta Lumber Company at \$2906.

Harold E. Winch, C.C.F. leader, asking about construction of a trestle on "A" avenue in Kaslo, said that he had been informed that F. Rushton of Nakusp had the hardware for the trestle delivered on the job before the date set for tenders to be opened. Mr. Rushton received the business.

TENDERS DETOURED.

Mr. Harrison said the tenders should have been returned to the purchasing agent's office. They actually went to the public works department and it was some days after the acceptance date that he obtained them.

"If they had come to us, Rushton would not have received the business," he commented.

The purchasing agent explained that he no longer took the advice of local public works officials on what mills were situated in the district from whom bids might be expected. He now asked the forestry service to advise him, and then requested tenders from all mills in the area where the work was to be done.

Complaint was made by Grant MacNeill, C. C. F., Vancouver-Burrard, that piling had been obtained for the Kaslo trestle from Nakusp, when it could have been obtained at the bridge site.

This piling Herbert Herridge, C. C. F., Rossland-Trail, said belonged to a man named McInnis.

*In the House***Legislature
Sets Record—
Up Till 1:15**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—With prorogation expected Thursday or Friday the Legislature established the sessional record for late sittings today by sitting until 1:15 a.m.

Drowsiness crept over the House as C.C.F. M.L.A.'s maintained a chain of arguments for a bill seeking amendment of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to compel employers to bargain with unions supported by majorities of employees.

With yawns increasing steadily and gallery attendance dwindling to nil, the debate was adjourned by Mrs. Grace MacInnis, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard.

Authorizes Alimony

With the passage of the amendment to the Court Rules of Practice Act, the Legislature is providing statutory authority for the payment of alimony and also for the taxing of lawyers costs.

Attorney General R. L. Maitland, K.C., explained that for years courts had been awarding alimony, but there existed no authority in the statutes of the province for it.

Similar conditions existed about the legality of taxation of lawyers' bills, so this was included in the measure.

For War Damage

Amendment to the Insurance Act, providing for the insertion of a clause in policies exempting the insuring companies from liability for war damage, aroused no discussion in the Legislature.

Attorney-General Maitland explained that it cleared away doubt. If the policy expressly states that such damage is included in the insurance, then it may be collected upon.

Withdraws Bill

Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, told the Legislature Tuesday he was withdrawing "at least for a year" a bill he introduced to amend a section of the Fire Marshal Act necessitating presence of two projectionists in projection rooms of theatres with seating capacities of 450 or more.

Mr. LeBourdais gave no explanation of his decision.

For General Hospital

The Legislature gave third reading to a bill enabling the city of Vancouver to borrow up to \$275,000 for payment of a new wing of the Vancouver General Hospital, and up to \$60,000 for repayment of loans made for sewer construction.

The University

CHANCELLOR McKECHNIE has given a very good reply to the suggestion that the University should be more democratically administered or that it should be brought more under the control of the Legislature.

The people of British Columbia, who, directly or indirectly, meet the costs of the University, have every right to have the sort of University they want, and they can make their desires felt through the Legislature, which they elect. They can say and should say what they want. But they would be very foolish to attempt to direct the affairs of the University in any detail or to bring it under political control.

The government and the Legislature have, at present, all the control over the University that is desirable or necessary. The University is administered by a board of eleven governors. Two of these, the chancellor and the president, are members ex-officio. Of the other nine, three are elected by the senate and six appointed by the government on recommendation of the minister of education, who is a member of the Legislature and responsible to it.

Besides, the University estimates, prepared by the board of governors, in consultation with the deans and heads of departments, are submitted to the minister and adopted by the Legislature. The University Act, under which the University operates, is a statute of the Legislature. It was passed by the Legislature in the first instance, has been amended several times and can be amended again.

The board of governors has charge of finance, of appointments to the faculty and of policy in general. The senate, consisting of some ex-officio members, of some appointed by the government and of others representative of the faculty, of convocation, of the affiliated colleges and of the teaching profession, is the executive body charged with disciplinary jurisdiction and with carrying out the curriculum.

The University is conducted very much as most other provincial universities are, and, with the limited means at its disposal, has been doing very well. The criticisms that are offered have mostly to do with charges that it is not doing all the things it ought to be doing, and the administration would probably agree with most of these. But it lacks the accommodation and the funds necessary for expansion.

More popular control would not bring the accommodation or the funds and might easily interfere with the efficiency of the institution.

Company Town Bill Stirs Row

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Charges of "Fascism in our midst" and "foul slander" were hurled in the Legislature after midnight Tuesday while a C.C.F. bill "to provide free access to company towns" was under discussion.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, who sponsored the bill, said restrictions on entry to company towns frequently had prevented him from consulting constituents in the settlements.

Claiming the principle of companies controlling roads and sidewalks in company towns constitutes "Fascism in our midst," C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch said provincial police had stopped him on public highways and told him he could go no further without company permission.

Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, said that in industrial settlements "police, preachers and postmasters" were controlled by the companies.

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland replied Mr. Uphill's reference to police constituted a foul slander on the provincial police commissioner.

Premier John Hart termed the Labor M.L.A.'s reference to "preachers" as "nonsense."

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, claimed his friends in "company towns" met him after dark "for fear of intimidation from the employers."

Mr. Maitland said Mr. Cameron's bill was unnecessary because all complaints made by C.C.F. members could be rectified under terms of the Company Towns Regulation Act.

On a division, the Cameron bill failed to pass second reading. The vote was 31-15, with Mr. Uphill voting with the C.C.F.

Cassidy Reports Now Tabled

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—(CP)—The much-discussed Cassidy reports on British Columbia's social services have been tabled in the Provincial Legislature by Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson.

The two reports were prepared by Dr. Harry M. Cassidy when he was director of social welfare. Two years ago the C.C.F., by resolution, asked that they be given to the Legislature, but the Pattullo government, on division, killed the motion after opposition by former premier Pattullo and former provincial secretary G. M. Weir, both of whom said the Cassidy reports were merely the opinion of one person.

This session opposition leader Harold Winch again put a resolution on the order paper, asking for the Cassidy reports.

Before the House got around to discussing the resolution, however, Mr. Pearson filed the reports. Mr. Winch now will withdraw his resolution and study the reports.

Income Tax Bill

SIROIS PARLEY ECHOES HEARD

By PAUL MALONE.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Echoes of the Sirois conference sounded in the Legislature Tuesday night as the Dominion-Provincial Income Tax Agreement Bill passed second reading.

W. A. C. Bennett, Conservative, South Okanagan, clashed with former Premier T. D. Pattullo when he claimed the province could have made "a better bargain" at the Sirois conference if discussions had been continued.

If British Columbia had accepted the Dominion's suggestions then, maintained Mr. Bennett, it would have obtained satisfactory compensation for surrender of the income tax and at the same time have been relieved of the cost of unemployment relief.

Mr. Pattullo denied a charge by Mr. Bennett that the British Columbia delegation had refused to discuss the Dominion's proposals.

"The Dominion Government refused to vary its arbitrary agenda. This would have meant the loss of our income tax rights," the former premier said.

R. C. Macdonald, Conservative, Dewdney, complained the failure of the conference had been costly for municipalities.

Mr. Pattullo said Mr. Macdonald would "get in a mess" if he continued discussion of the conference.

"We couldn't be in any worse of a mess than you got us into," snapped the member for Dewdney.

OBJECTS TO "QUISLING."
The former premier stated he had been "villified across Canada" and had been described as "a Quisling" for his attitude at the conference.

His attitude, Mr. Pattullo said, was dictated by determination to protect British Columbia's interests in the post-war years.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, argued that the agreement might prevent British Columbia from taking leadership in Canada's war effort by stripping it of its medium for providing "equity of sacrifice" and "contributions of wealth."

OTTAWA "IN CONTROL"
"This bill places the Dominion Government in complete control of our major sources of income—when we agree to it we will have surrendered to the Dominion Government our most important taxation power."

Results of the by-election in South York, in which the C. C. F. candidate defeated the leader of the Conservative party, were an indication of the changing trend of thought in Canada—the feeling that there should be "equity of sacrifice," added the Comox M. L. A.

Despite Mr. Cameron's "objections," the bill passed second reading unanimously.

UNDER THE DOME

Gay Days of Patronage Pass In B.C. Highway Construction

By E. A. McKELVIE.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Assurance by Hon. Rolf W. Bruhn, minister of public works, that the colorful but expensive days of wild extravagance and political partisanship in highway construction have ended has won approval not only from members of the Legislature but more par-

ticularly from men in the department. They know the evils of patronage better than do others.

Good old Rolf, whom everyone likes, is doing something that he has wanted to do for 40 years.

It was just at the turn of the century that the tall, vigorous, young Swedish university graduate and immigrant entered British Columbia on a work train. He learned the customs of Canada the hard way. In mining camps and on construction jobs he labored with pick and shovel.

Then, just 40 years ago, he started working for the public works department. For 16 years he tolled on the roads and built bridges, becoming a district foreman. Then he fell victim to the political vendetta of those times.

It was the best thing that ever happened to him, for he went into business for himself, and prospered, and won the respect of all who came into contact with him.

Dr. T. D. Pattullo is fond of recalling old Yukon experiences and characters. On Tuesday, in making his attack on the amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act, he told a picturesque old sourdough of Dawson, who, when he did not like anything, said it was "a reprobateless thing." It was the ultimate in his expression of dislike.

"And that's the way I feel about this bill," Pattullo added.

W. W. Lefaux, C. C. F. legal luminary, and Attorney-General R. L. Maitland got into an argument about the exact meaning of a section in the Post-war Rehabilitation Act. So Hon. Harry Perry, as minister of education, sought to enlighten the passage with a comma.

That started half a dozen others. They seized upon the idea of the comma. One suggested that it be put here; another that it be inserted there; and still others that it be inserted elsewhere.

Still more members were seeking the eye of Mr. Speaker to offer suggestions for an abiding place for the comma, when Hon. Herbert Anscomb, minister of mines, interjected. He proposed that three words be struck out.

This was done and the passage became intelligible to all.

Fernie's Tom Uphill made a gallant effort to do something for the reporters in the press gallery—but at the wrong moment. It was during the consideration of municipal estimates, when the stentorian voice of Tom was raised.

"Mr. Finance Minister," he shouted, "have you put aside any money to install air conditioning machinery in this House? The air here is terrible. Its dulling the best brains in the place—I mean the lads in the press gallery."

"I have nothing to do with heating or plumbing in this building," Mr. Gray replied.

Temperance Plea

8-Hour Day Is Urged For Beer Parlors

(By Canadian Press.)
VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—B.C. temperance workers today asked Premier John Hart and his cabinet to:

1. Prohibit all advertising of liquor.
 2. To institute an 8-hour day for sale of liquor in all stores, clubs and beer parlors, all such places to be open at the same times.
 3. Segregate men and women in beer parlors.
 4. To co-operate with the Federal Government in securing scientific tests for intoxication following motor car accidents.
- Rev. R. J. McIntyre, secretary of the B.C. Temperance League, led the delegation.

EXPLAINS REQUEST.

Mr. McIntyre, explaining his request that men and women be not allowed to drink together in beer parlors, said he had been told by medical authorities that this practice greatly contributed to the spread of venereal disease.

Rev. A. E. Cooke of Vancouver, chairman of the social service committee of the United Church Presbytery, told the cabinet drinking is having a bad effect on people and is wasting resources and income that should be expended on the war effort.

Mrs. James Gray of Vancouver, provincial president of the W.C.T.U., also represented the Provincial Council of Women and W.M.S. organizations.

MR. RODDAN HEARD.

Rev. Andrew Roddan of Vancouver told the cabinet much of his duties in Vancouver are concerned with dealing with evils produced by drink.

Rev. W. L. McKay of Vancouver and Rev. James Hyde of Victoria were others in the delegation.

"The cabinet gave us a splendid hearing," Mr. McIntyre said. "They promised to consider the matter and said they were sympathetic to many of our appeals. We are hoping for some definite action before the present session ends."

Pattullo Joins C.C.F. in Vote

Against Oil Lease Bill

WOULD INVITE FEDERAL HELP

By PAUL MALONE.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Denouncing the measure as "iniquitous," T. D. Pattullo, former premier, joined with C.C.F. members and Tom Uphill in voting against the amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act. The measure carried second reading by a vote of 30 to 16.

The fight developed around the provision that would give the government the power to lease oil lands in the Peace River area and elsewhere to persons who would give satisfactory guarantees of intention to carry on exploratory work and drilling operations.

While approving of a section in the bill that proposed to increase royalties on any oil recovered from the soil of British Columbia from 2½ cents per barrel to 15 per cent. of the gross value of such recoveries, Harold Winch led the attack on the measure.

The C.C.F. leader claimed it gave the power to the government to "give the potential oil lands over into the hands of private interests." These lands should be held for the people of the province.

WOULD INVITE OTTAWA.

"The fact that we are stalemated in drilling for oil in the Peace River area is no reason for us to throw up our hands and checkerboard the province for the benefit of private interests," he said.

"A private company would not go in there and drill if it was felt that there was no oil to be found—if a private concern feels that way, then we have a good reason for retaining the control of the district."

Former Premier Pattullo was critical of the measure. Work at Commotion Creek had got to a point where the potentialities of the area could be proven and it was proposed to turn it over to the oil companies.

He would sooner see the Dominion Government invited to join with the province in the development of the area than to have it go into private hands.

"I am satisfied that before next session you will find the companies operating there," he declared.

PATTULLO STORMS.

"It is iniquitous to give the power to the lieutenant-governor-in-council to handle this without reference to the Legislature," he stormed.

Turning to the attorney-general he said that if Mr. Maitland were in opposition and such a proposal came up he would "have shouted and pounded his desk."

Then after a pause he added: "Sometimes I think that desk-pounding is to cover inadequacy."

Collin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, said that while favoring the increase in royalties, he would oppose the granting to private companies of the right to drill for oil in lands now reserved.

Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, protested vigorously against "the Tories handing the oil possibilities of the Peace area to the robber barons."

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, saw a "nigger in the woodpile."

A. Shepherd, C.C.F., Delta, asserted that the natural resources of the country should be kept for the people.

PERRY IN DEFENSE.

Hon. Harry Perry, minister of education, entered into an exhaustive defense of the bill. If the province had the money to go and develop the area in the proper way he would be in favor of doing so.

The hard fact was that we did not have the money, and there was little likelihood that it would be available, especially since the largest sources of revenue were pegged. He was opposed to using the taxpayers' money in speculating.

It was only fair then that private interests, if prepared to venture their money, should be allowed to do so instead of holding back development. Provision was made to collect a large royalty, and if profits were made they would be largely taxed by the Dominion.

Grant MacNeill, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, accused the government of not placing all the cards on the table.

"The public will want to know why at this session there is such indecent haste to discard the assurances given by the former government that the oil of the Peace River would be kept for the people."

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, said she thought if the government allowed private interests to enter the oil field it would "be taking a step the people will reproach us for in years to come."

Attorney General R. L. Maitland, K.C., said B.C.'s mining and lumber industries would not have developed if "private interests" had not been allowed to invest in them.

"I haven't heard any one suggesting there should be no more prospecting or logging activity in the interests of our natural resources," he stated.

"This bill entails no definite decision about the oil field. What the government is going to do is something we will have to decide when it studies the results of further drilling."

MRS. STEEVES ON HOUSING

Blames Dollar-a-Year Man

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—The national housing administration planned to erect workers' houses to meet needs in industrial areas, but a dollar-a-year man stepped in and persuaded the Dominion Government to turn the whole thing over to Wartime Housing Ltd., Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, North Vancouver, declared in the Legislature on Tuesday.

Mrs. Steeves reiterated her allegations about the wartime

housing project in North Vancouver. She said that the houses were small, poorly constructed and unsuited either to the needs of the residents or of the municipality. They were reducing values of other properties.

She asked Municipal Affairs Minister A. Wells Gray to see that any future houses built under the scheme were an improvement over those already erected.

The minister stated that he had nothing whatever to do with the housing scheme.

POST-WAR REHABILITATION

C.C.F. to Have Voice in Plan

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—The initial board to be set up by order-in-council to attack the great problems of post-war rehabilitation will be composed of seven members of the Legislature, Premier Hart told the House during a discussion of the bill creating the organization.

At least two members of the C.C.F. party will be appointed to act upon it, he stated.

The bill was given unanimous endorsement on second reading and with minor amendments for clarification of the meaning of

one or two sections, carried through the committee stage.

In discussing the principle of the bill Premier Hart said that a great responsibility rested upon the government and upon the Legislature in trying to prepare for post-war conditions.

He knew that the Dominion Government was thinking along similar lines and that a bill would be introduced at Ottawa this session to deal with matters that might be fitted into a plan of post-war rehabilitation. A scheme of land settlement would be particularly stressed by the federal authorities.

No Change Coming In Burnaby Status

VICTORIA, Feb. 11. — No change is contemplated in the commissionership of Burnaby in the immediate future, Hon. A. Wells Gray, minister of municipal affairs, told E. E. Winch, C.C.F. member for Burnaby.

The minister explained that he does not interfere in the operation of any municipality which is under a commission form of administration. He was emphatic in his declaration that politics did not enter into appointments in such areas.

R.C.A.F. to Assist In Forest Patrol

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Close liaison between the R.C.A.F. and the provincial forestry service in fighting forest fires this summer was suggested in the Legislature Tuesday by Flt.-Lt. L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack.

Both Flt.-Lt. Eyres and Hon. A. Wells Gray stressed the danger of enemy incendiary attack on B. C. forests during discussion of forestry department estimates.

Mr. Gray said the matter already had been discussed with the other forces and he would "take it up" with the R.C.A.F.

The minister said his department was discussing with Ottawa plans for recruiting of a youth battalion to help guard forests this summer.

Mine Promotion and the Law

THE mining committee of the Legislature has been hearing arguments for and against the statute known as the Security Frauds Prevention Act. The argument runs the entire gamut between saying that not a line of the law should be touched and saying that it should be swept away altogether.

There was the witness before the committee, for instance, who said that 90 per cent. of the people who put their money into mines lose it and that they are the people who ought to have any protection that the law can give.

And there was Mr. Gordon Wismer, former attorney-general, who is strongly in favor of the law and says the virtue of it is that it "prevents mining of the people rather than the mines."

But this is not to say that there are no honest men with respectable reasons for wanting the act, if not repealed, at least very considerably amended. Mr. Harold Lakes, president of the Chamber of Mines of Eastern British Columbia, goes as far as saying that the mining industry of the province would be glad to see an end of the law.

A moderate statement of the case against the law would seem to be that there is a strong element of gambling inevitable in the practical promotion of the mining industry, that there is nothing unhealthy or wrong essentially in that and that you ought not to so much wrap up prospecting in swaddling clothes of government regulation that you strangle the infant in the cradle.

The friends of the present law will insist that it is not aimed against honest men or honest gamblers but only against crooks. It ought not to be hard to reconcile the views of honest men in this business. At least it is an unassailable proposition that nothing in the law should be touched that does really protect the mining investor from misrepresentation and fraud.

MRS. STEEVES CAUSTIC

New University Bill Beaten

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C. C. F., North Vancouver, asserted in the Legislature Wednesday night that an alleged statement by the chancellor of the University of British Columbia "A bunch of politicians know nothing about education,"—denoted "a contempt for democracy."

She was speaking in support of a C. C. F. bill seeking "democratizing of the University" by changing the method of appointment of the board of governors of the institution.

The bill was defeated after Hon. H. G. Perry stated that its provision for representation of certain groups on the board of governors connoted "class legislation."

The bill sought reduction of the number of board of governors members appointed by the government from six to two, and election of one governor each by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, the Farmers' Institutes of British Columbia, the Parent-Teachers' Federation of British Columbia, and "Recognized central labor organizations."

Mrs. Steeves alleged that the chancellor of the University had commented on her bill "rather contemptuously" and in a manner which "should be resented" by the Legislature.

"There has been some dissatisfaction with the administration

of the University. . . The government has had an inclination to appoint friends of the government and business men with no relation to education affairs to the board of governors," she stated.

Mr. Perry replied that the teaching profession was represented by four members on the Senate of the University and labor and agriculture already were represented on the board of governors.

New Deaf, Blind School Is Urged

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—New and better accommodation for the school for the deaf and blind at Jericho, in Vancouver, was suggested in the report of the standing committee on social welfare submitted to the Legislature today.

The committee also recommended increased facilities for British Columbia mental hospitals, and "increasing emphasis on preventive measures and on follow-up and after-care in all cases."

The committee's report suggested that 400 "senile cases" at Essondale should be moved elsewhere to provide more room for others.

Superintendents of all provincial institutions surveyed by the committee were commended.

Albion Ferry Project Aired

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—There is a definite prospect of the establishment of a government ferry between Albion and Fort Langley, members of a delegation from Fraser Valley points believe following an interview with Hon. Rolf W. Bruhn, minister of public works.

The need for such a ferry connection has been pressed upon the government for years.

"This is the most satisfactory interview we have had with the government on the matter," stated Reeve S. Mussallem, of Maple Ridge.

At the present time traffic between areas across the half-mile waterway between Fort Langley and Albion requires a trip of 50 miles via New Westminster.

The delegation, which was accompanied by three members of the Legislature, L. A. Shepherd, R. C. MacDonald and J. A. Paton, consisted of Reeve Mussallem, Reeve A. C. Hope and Councillor J. A. Bray of Langley, W. J. Twiss and James Hadgkiss, representing the Associated Boards of Trade of the Fraser Valley, and Hugh McAulay, of the Langley Board of Trade.

House Demands More Defenses

VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—The Legislature in a joint resolution moved by Premier Hart and seconded by Opposition Leader Harold Winch called the attention of the Dominion Government to the necessity for strengthening the defenses of the Pacific Coast.

The resolution, which came in prior to prorogation of the House, read as follows:

"This legislative assembly of British Columbia, conscious of the gravity of the war and more particularly in its relation to the security of the people of the province of B. C., consider it our solemn duty to call the attention of the Federal Government of Canada to the immediate necessity of completing the strongest and fullest measures of defense against our enemies."

Man

in North Van- id that the houses orly constructed ither to the needs or of the munic- were reducing properties. Municipal Affairs ells Gray to see e houses built un- were an improve- e already erected. e stated that he atever to do with heme.

in Plan

sections, carried mmittee stage. the principle of r Hart said that nsibility rested nment and upon n trying to pre- ar conditions. at the Dominion as thinking along and that a bill duced at Ottawa deal with matters fitted into a plan ehabilitation. A settlement would stressed by the ties.

to Assist Patrol

Staff Correspondent Feb. 11.—Close en the R.C.A.F. cial forestry serv- forest fires this suggested in the esday by Flt.-Lt. nservative, Chilli- Eyres and Hon. A. ressed the danger ndiary attack on ring discussion if ment estimates. id the matter al- n discussed with es and he would th the R.C.A.F. said his depart- discussing with or recruiting of a to help guard mer.

C.C.F. Amendment on Political Patronage

Is Defeated in House

Public Accounts Committee Report Causes Sharp Clash

By PAUL MALONE
By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—A political bombshell exploded unexpectedly in the Legislature Wednesday when the C. C. F. sought to bar acceptance of a public accounts committee report on the ground that it overlooked important evidence given at committee hearings on malpractices of the previous government.

After C. C. F. claims had been debated for 75 minutes, Mr. Speaker ruled out-of-order opposition amendment which would have prevented the report from being accepted by the House. His ruling was sustained on a division by a 29-14, straight-party vote.

The C. C. F. objected at:
1. The report made no mention of evidence at committee hearings that it was the policy of the previous administration to consult defeated Liberal candidates in making purchases in their respective constituencies.

2. The report failed to comment on the fact that the minister of agriculture sets the trade-in value of used cars in his department.

3. The report overlooked the fact that the former minister of public works, (C. S. Leary, Liberal, Kaslo-Slocan) was interested in companies which accepted public works department contracts.

HEAVY OBJECTS.

Mr. Leary accused the opposition of "stooping to low-down dirty tactics," and "washing dirty linen in the House." Their "whole argument," he said, "was wrong, vicious and only for the political grandstand."

The report that touched off the debate was a brief, formal statement recommending that tenders be required for all government orders exceeding \$100 when "time permits," and that "valuable documents and papers in the archives be moved to places of safety after photostatic copies have been taken and left in their places."

C. C. F. Leader Harold Winch said he was moving the amendment because there was no provision for committee minority reports being presented to the House.

"I regret that the majority report of the public works committee contains no mention of certain facts looked into during its meetings," he stated.

"VICIOUS PRACTICE."

"They were matters of great importance. For instance a responsible officer of the government testified that it was quite common for defeated government candidates to advise the purchasing agent.

"This is a vicious practice when the defeated candidate had been repudiated by the electors," Mr. Winch complained.

"There is also another matter of great importance—the department of agriculture does not follow the policy of purchases made by the other departments of the government in the trade-in of cars.

"This is important—the principle of one department operating on a principle different from other departments."

Referring to evidence given in the committee regarding Mr. Leary's interest in companies which had received contracts from his department, Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, said there was "no evidence of legal wrongdoing."

It was "extremely injudicious," however, that any member of the House should allow conduct of the government and the Legislature to be "brought into question."

PATRONAGE PROMISED.

H. W. Herridge, C.C.F., Rossland-Trail, said before an election Liberal supporters in the Kaslo-Slocan constituency received letters saying "there will be more patronage than ever for our boys" if the Liberal candidate were re-elected.

A postscript to the letter, Mr. Herridge said, stated:

"For goodness sakes, don't let the Conservatives get hold of this . . . They might try to make political capital of it."

PATTULLO'S DEFENSE.

When Mr. Herridge charged handling of relief applications was being used for patronage purposes, Hon. G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, interjected to say there was a standing order in his department providing for the "immediate discharge of any relief official "taking into consideration the political affiliation of an applicant."

Former Premier T. D. Pattullo admitted advice of defeated government candidates might have been sought if it were considered "reliable." Sitting members had the same opportunity to present their views to his government, he maintained.

Mr. Pattullo rapped the "pharisaical and holler than thou attitude" allegedly adopted by the C.C.F. and Attorney-General R. L. Maitland.

SEES NO PATRONAGE.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said that in his 30 years of experience in public life he had encountered "very little patronage."

"I venture to say there was less under Mr. Pattullo than there would be if the opposition were in power," Dr. Gillis stated.

E. E. Winch, C. C. F., Burnaby, said: "In my nine years in the House I have never once been consulted about the affairs of Burnaby."

Hon. H. G. Perry, minister of education, objected that the debate was out of order.

Mr. Speaker replied: "I have realized that for some time, but I have allowed it to continue because of the difficulty of minority members presenting their views on this matter."

MINISTERS REPLY.

The House then voted unanimously that Mr. Leary and Agriculture Minister Dr. K. C. MacDonald should be allowed to make statements.

Mr. Leary alleged that at least one charge made against him—that a bridge he had authorized had been unnecessary—was inspired by "a disgruntled business man."

Site of the bridge at Marblehead had been surveyed 10 years ago by a Conservative government, he declared.

Discussing his lease of a tug to the government, Mr. Leary stated:

"I gave the government good service—I didn't charge half of what I should."

Pattullo Resolution Ruled Out of Order

VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—T. D. Pattullo's resolution that at no time shall the province surrender in perpetuity its right to participate in the income tax was ruled out of order by the Speaker in the Legislature today, as dictating policy and as affecting crown revenues. On the resultant division on an appeal from the ruling, W. A. C. Bennett, Cons., South Okanagan, voted with Dr. Pattullo and opposition members.

Oil Bill Passes

B.C. PUTS O.K. ON TAX PACT

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Feb. 12. — The three major government bills introduced at the current session passed third readings in the Legislature Thursday night.

The bills were:

1. An act to authorize and implement the Dominion-provincial income tax agreement.
2. An act to make provision for advance planning of rehabilitation measures, re industrial re-organization and employment projects designed to meet post-war conditions. (The act establishing a B. C. rehabilitation board.)
3. An act authorizing the government to open the Peace River oil block to drilling by companies if further drilling at the government well at Commotion Creek proves unpromising.

The first two acts and the supply bills enjoyed smooth passage, but the C. C. F. and Mr. Pattullo stiffly opposed the Coal and Petroleum Act amendment.

AMENDMENTS LOST.

Mr. Pattullo offered three amendments and forced one division on Mr. Speaker's ruling. Opposition Leader Winch proposed one amendment and forced a division on it.

In the final vote the former premier joined the C. C. F. in voting against the bill.

Mr. Pattullo's first amendment called for setting of the royalty collected by the government on any private oil enterprises in the Peace River block at 12½ per cent. Instead of the flexible "up to 15 per cent." clause in the bill. The amendment was ruled out of order as a private bill "affecting revenues of the crown."

PROVINCIAL ROYALTY.

The other amendments moved by Mr. Pattullo sought establishment of a provisional royalty until the Legislature had an opportunity to set an official royalty, and establishment of an unconditional 15 per cent. royalty. Both were ruled out of order.

Mr. Winch's amendment sought a "six-month hoist" for the bill. It was defeated on a division.

The former premier was vigorous in his opposition to the government's proposal to open the Peace River area for exploration by private interests. "We have handed away enough of our natural resources," he declared. "The oil should be retained for the benefit of the people."

"There are some who would like to see a return to the grand old days when most of the mining was in the pockets of the people."

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By Daily VICTORIA two-hour seeking industrial

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GARGRAVE REPRIMANDED

House Defeats C.C.F. Bill To Amend Arbitration Act

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent
 VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—After a two-hour debate, a C. C. F. bill seeking amendment of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to provide for compulsory bargaining between employers and the union supported by a majority of their employees was defeated in the Legislature in a division on strict party lines.

Concluding the debate for the C. C. F., E. E. Winch, Burnaby, said that if workers were refused the right to bargain collectively "within the law" they would organize outside it.

"I want to say I'll be the first one to be a party to it," he added. Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, reprimanded Herbert Gargrave, C. C. F., Mackenzie, for remarking: "A millionaire racehorse owner tells mechanics how to drive rivets and how many they shall drive."

The man referred to by Mr. Gargrave — Austin C. Taylor — was lending "his great organizational ability" to the war effort, stated Dr. Gillis.

AMENDMENT FOR UNITY.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis, Vancouver-Burrard, said the desire of labor for amendment to Section 5 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act was closely associated with the war effort. It would provide a unity and freedom from suspicion that would be of value.

"No section of the community has so much to lose if the war is not won as has organized labor," she said.

She repudiated any suggestion that organized labor wanted to protect professional agitators. Labor was dealing with agitators in its own way. It did, however, want statutory assurance of protective power to organize. "True, the workers can have unions of their own choice—provided they do not use them," she said. "They must use some other polite but ineffective organization to do their bargaining. The effect of such legislation is to sabotage trade unionism."

DELAYS FEARED.

The government, she warned, "must stop any impression that it is working with the employers to defeat labor."

Mr. Gargrave asserted that unless the government did something it was "not outside the realm of possibility that we may see teups in industries in this province that may affect the war effort."

Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, said 27 delegates of organized labor had attended the labor committee meetings. They had urged amendment of the act, but they had not pressed for such action at this session. The amendments of Colin Cameron had been brought in too late in the session to permit "the other side" to present its views.

Under the Dome

Fear Millions In Precious Books in Peril

By B. A. McKELVIE.

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—A simple three-line recommendation in the report to the Legislature from the public accounts committee is of great importance. It suggests that the valuable documents and books in the provincial archives be removed to a safe place after having had photostat copies made of them.

Few residents of British Columbia realize the great asset represented by the archives and the Northwest library section. The library section of the archives contains practically every work published on the history of the Northwest. The volumes represent a current value of approximately \$2,000,000.

Valuable as are these books they are not to be compared with the historical worth of the documents, old letters, state papers and original journals in the archives proper. No money could replace the intimate associations with the early history of the province.

Times Change

Prince Rupert's Dr. T. D. Pattullo, who when he was premier insisted on the maintenance of all the amenities can now call names with the best—or worst. The present administration he dubbed a "phony government" Wednesday afternoon, and in the evening he declared it to be "a hybrid aggregation." Of Hon. Herbert Anscomb, mines minister, he declared, I have heard more wind and less substance from him than from any other person.

Tucked away in the report of the mining committee was a suggestion that a section of the Securities Act be repealed. It was a most significant recommendation; not that it may mean a great deal in the way of changing the operation of the act.

It asked that the doors of the courts be opened to those who feel that they have been aggrieved. For the past 15 years the Legislature has been blocking appeals to the courts. Act after act has been passed barring appeals. The recommendation of the mining committee is the first indication of a trend away from bureaucratic influences of the past.

Harold Winch, the energetic young leader of the C.C.F. opposition, has his followers in the House well organized. The group functions as a synchronized unit. When a division is called, Mr. Winch snaps his fingers and the members rise as one to support him. He must have had stiff fingers when the sitting ended late Wednesday night, for there were numerous divisions during the day.

Cariboo's Louis LeBourdais joined in the debate on the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, to explain how lone telegraphers in the extended reaches of Cariboo attend union meetings. "I belonged to the union for more than 20 years," he explained. "We never attended meetings up there, but we had them all the same—by wire. It had its advantages. If you didn't want to listen to a speaker you didn't have to, and only one man could talk at once."

Not Analogous

Sir: Your Victoria correspondent, reporting on a speech by R. McDonald, Conservative member for Dewdney, says "He spent much of his time to show the C.C.F. party was not consistent."

"He complained that Dr. Lyle Telford of Vancouver had been ejected from the party because he had held two public positions. This, he argued, made it incumbent on the C.C.F. leader to clarify his position, as he was paid an extra amount as leader of the opposition." After the members extending closing time for 15 minutes in order that Mr. McDonald could get this off his chest, I think they should have given Harold Winch one minute more to relieve the Dewdney member's mind from such an intolerable burden.

It would seem that Mr. McDonald is passing judgment on something about which he is amazingly ignorant. The two positions he mentions are not analogous.

The C.C.F. rule in regard to holding two major positions was made to prevent members from neglecting the party interests. Such a position as mayor of Vancouver is surely a whole-time job.

But Harold Winch as leader of the C.C.F. is extending his energies for the party, and thereby doing more for it, not less. Neither is he holding two jobs, but just one which carries great responsibility, and therefore calls for more remuneration.

From where does Mr. McDonald propose that we should get our leader, the Salvation Army, or Timbuctoo? If all Mr. McDonald's speeches take over an hour and a half and show such shallow study as this item, he would take a long time to earn "an extra amount."

GRACE M. WORTH.

Lumby, B.C.

Words and Commas

ON the day when Singapore, once regarded as the great British bastion in the Pacific, seemed on the verge of falling, the Legislature at Victoria sought relief from a consideration of problems of magnitude to discuss a comma.

This least of punctuation marks is a troublesome customer. He can clarify an obscure sentence if he sits down in it in the right place; and he can make nonsense of the wisest saying if he gets into a wrong position.

At Victoria, it seems, the comma got its innings as a result of a dispute between two lawyer members, the attorney-general and Mr. W. W. Lefeaux, as to the meaning of a passage in a bill. Mr. Perry suggested a comma. But where to place the comma, that was the rub. The House could not agree.

Finally, Mr. Anscomb ended the difficulty by suggesting the removal of three words. Then, according to the report, the passage became intelligible.

The moral: perhaps there is none. Or perhaps it lies in the suggestion that it would never occur to the lawyer members to seek clarity by removing words, while to the business man that was the obvious procedure.

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TS O.K.
AX PACT

Staff Correspondent
 Feb. 12. — The government bills in current session readings in the Thursday night.

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War Etiquette Wants 2 Tones

City Spurns 28 Air Sirens --They've Only One Tone

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, B. C.—Although British Columbia cities are not as yet equipped with air raid sirens, there are 28 of them in storage in Vancouver, Harold Winch, C.C.F. opposition leader revealed to the Legislature Monday.

"I GIVE YOU STARTLING FACTS WHICH I THINK SHOULD BRING AN EXPLANATION FROM THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL," HE SAID, LOOKING ACROSS AT HON. R. L. MAITLAND, K.C.

Mr. Maitland immediately explained that the committee on A.R.P. had decided to obtain two-tone sirens, whereas the 28 in Vancouver were only one-tone sirens.

One-Tone Bombs

"I'm told that bombs only have one tone," said E. E. Winch, supporting his son. "I would rather be warned by a one-tone siren than the scream of bombs."

The C.C.F. leader declared the Dominion had ordered 75 sirens of five horsepower each for use in Vancouver, Victoria and Prince Rupert, from a long-established firm.

Some days ago, he continued, 28 arrived in Vancouver, only to have the contract cancelled and given to a newer firm. He asked "a clear and concise statement from the attorney-general to preserve confidence in the government."

Mr. Maitland explained that the government had nothing to do with purchase of A.R.P. supplies. The committee recommended the change to two-tone sirens with support by the National Research Council. Delivery in faster time was also guaranteed.

"No one in this province is more anxious to see A.R.P. working smoothly than myself," Mr. Maitland said.

Too Many Wolves, Coyotes And Wardens

Report 'Jungle Life' in B.C.

VICTORIA. — British Columbia has too many wolves, too many coyotes, too many deer, too many bear, pheasants and game wardens, according to many expressions of opinion as the Legislature discussed Game Department estimates Monday night.

Louis Lebourdais, Cariboo Liberal, said wolves were making the situation "desperate" in his riding for both cattlemen and sheepmen.

Colin Cameron and Sam Guthrie, Island C.C.F. mem-

ber, both complained of damage being done by deer; Hon. K. C. MacDonald said deer did the Lambeth Walk on verandahs in Columbia Riding and was supported by Tom King's smiling assertion that there were also a million coyotes in the district.

B. G. Webber, C.C.F., Similkameen, complained of damage by pheasants in the Okanagan and L. H. Shepherd, C.C.F., Delta, complained there were too many game wardens in his district, with not enough land to shoot over.

Victoria Told Of 'Indiscretion'

'Cesspool' In B.C.'s Marketing Claimed By Agriculture Chief

By Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA. — Likening the situation to "a cesspool," Hon. K. C. MacDonald said he was almost inclined to throw out the Vegetable Marketing Act on the Lower Mainland, when consideration of the estimates grew wordy in the Legislature Monday afternoon.

"Let the growers on the Lower Mainland go back to four dollars and six dollars a ton for their potatoes; let the Orientals re-establish the monopoly they had before," he said. "That act has put money into the pockets

of a great many farmers.

Fraser Valley agriculturists had not been "as discreet as they might have" in their choice of representatives on the marketing board, the minister declared.

"They elected men whom the Almighty never intended for such a purpose," he said.

The minister broke into the subject after J. A. Paton, Conservative member for Point Grey, had asked him to stop importation of early potatoes. The minister referred Mr. Paton to the Dominion's trade treaty with the U. S.

Uphill Invokes Echo

Doom Advocated . . . For Horses

By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA. — The echo of thousands of wild horses galloping about the British Columbia-Montana border area was heard in the Legislature Monday as Tom Uphill, Fernie Independent,

asked the minister of agriculture to have them destroyed.

He produced a letter from the Waldo Stockbreeders' Association referring to "vast herds of useless horses, increasing yearly and consuming all the feed in the country."

"There is a war on and of what use are these broomtails in a war effort?" asked the letter.

Hon. K. C. MacDonald said it was a matter for the land department, not for agriculture.

Mr. Uphill said he had consulted Agriculture, Lands and Police departments and been told to go and shoot the horses himself.

"I was going to—I fall into traps awful easy," he told the House, "only I found about 600 of these horses belonged to Indians and if I'd started shooting their horses they might have started shooting me."

Mr. Uphill said a factory in Calgary was canning horse meat for dog and fox food and suggested residents of the Waldo area be allowed to capitalize on such a market.

SOME BAD NEWS FOR DRINKERS

VICTORIA. — As though drinkers were not having enough trouble with imports of Scotch reduced, Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, disclosed in the Legislature Monday night that eleven-year-old rye of a popular brand has disappeared from the liquor store shelves and been replaced by four and five-year-old.

"If I am correctly informed, then both the government and the people are being taken for a ride," said Mr. Winch, during discussion of the estimates.

● People Tell Me

By AL WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA — The moral of this story is that natives of the Cariboo have a way with women. Louis Lebourdais regaled some of the honorable ministers and members of the Legislature with his report in advocating use of more B. C. honey to replace imported sugar.

An enterprising rancher at Woodpecker, on the Cariboo-Fort George boundary, he explained, imported a queen bee from the southern United States. To make sure of success, he imported some bees, too. But upon release from her cage, the queen bee spurned the imported drones and fled to the woods with some wild, Cariboo bees. And she hasn't been seen since.

The farmer had to import another queen, but this time didn't release her while any of those local drones were around.

PROBLEM CHILD: One of the major problems facing Premier John Hart's new coalition government is that oil well in the Peace River country — frequently called the "wild cat." Last week W. J. Asselstine, who used to be Minister of Mines, said the government should either drill or get off the spot.

The mines department, he

said, should call in an expert, and act upon the expert's advice. Yesterday the premier, Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Mines, and Dr. J. F. Walker, Deputy Minister, were closeted for an hour with Dr. G. S. Hume, the federal government's geologist on oil.

Mr. Asselstine thinks they should get an opinion independent of government men. Dr. Hume advised some of the recent drilling which Mr. Asselstine referred to as "piece-meal." Mr. Asselstine is afraid he might advise some more of that — and the government would still be left looking into a dry hole.

HOARDER: Frequent complainant about the smallness of his financial vote is Agriculture Minister K. C. MacDonald. Yesterday Mr. MacDonald even went so far as to declare the vote was "measly." This was the final straw, as far as Harold Winch was concerned.

Mr. Winch slyly drew the attention of the House to the fact that the honorable minister had not spent all the money voted his department last year — nor the year before, nor the year before that.

The minister rose to admit that he had once turned back \$40,000 into consolidated revenue. "Just because the money is voted I don't see why I have to use it all," was his point.



Mine Industry Sees Fraud Act Revision

VICTORIA.—(By Staff Correspondent) — Major amendments to the Security Frauds Prevention Act, long criticized by mining men for alleged strangulation of the mining industry, were foreshadowed in the Legislature on Monday.

The mining committee conferred with E. K. Debeck, securities officer, on effect of the act upon the mining industry in the morning.

On Monday afternoon, Hon. Herbert Anscomb, minister of mines, introduced a resolution asking the committee to further consider this subject and empowering it to call necessary witnesses in order to prepare a report for the Legislature.

License Cut Weighed

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA.—Possible reduction of motor license fees due to expected wartime restrictions on motoring are still being given "careful consideration," Attorney-General R. L. Maitland, K. C., told the Legislature.

Grant MacNeil, C.C.F.-Burard, and Sam Guthrie, C.C.F.-Cowichan-Newcastle, both asked questions on the subject during discussion of estimates for the attorney-general's department. Use of governors to conserve fuel was again suggested by E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, for duration of the war only.

'Locked In Combat'

Provincial and federal authorities "are locked in constitutional combat" over right of Wartime Housing Ltd. to ignore the Fire Marshal Act in installation of chimneys, Hon. R. L. Maitland said.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F. whip, asked the attorney-general if he knew — as charged at a joint labor conference in Victoria — that the act had been ignored.

"Yes, we are locked in constitutional combat on the subject," said Mr. Maitland. "I don't know yet whether we will win."

Legalize Weddings

VICTORIA — Legalization of certain marriages performed within less than the 90-day limit required following a previous divorce is the aim of a bill introduced to the Legislature on Monday by Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., attorney-general. It affects only those persons married prior to Jan. 31 of this year.

Starting The Day

Below are some snap judgments on issues needing to be faced in moving forward into Wednesday morning:

SPECIMEN.—Not that \$140 can be made to seem important during the course of a hundreds-of-billions-of-dollars war, yet the Tuesday reference in the Victoria House to a quite-inexpensive and probably-unimportant barge, does invite mention.

Perhaps nothing more than stupidity was involved, yet the B. C. Works Department's record in selling a barge on the Arrow Lakes for \$20 and then renting it back at the rate of \$8 per day for 20 days, does suggest how a war already costing hundreds of billions could soon be transformed into one costing hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of billions.

Government To Alter Pensions Administration

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA.—An amendment to the Old Age Pensions Act, introduced in the Legislature late Tuesday by Hon. George S. Pearson, provincial secretary, proposes a sweeping change in administration of the act.

The new bill proposes removal of administration from the "Workmen's Compensation Board" to the office of the provincial secretary. This has been urged for some time by pensions organizations.

In the quietest sitting of the session, the Legislature Tuesday afternoon progressed slowly through the estimates for the education department.

With Hon. H. G. Perry answering many enquiries, outlining policy and his hopes for the future of the department, the House discussed teachers' salaries, revision of taxation, the training of teachers in the urban areas before sending them to rural schools, and many other subjects.

Before rising, cabinet members introduced five new bills. Included was an amendment to the Iron and Steel Act extending from five to ten years the bounty for production of steel in the province.

An amendment to the Poll Tax Act extends exemption to veterans of the present war.

Cut In Pro-Rec Grant Questioned by Opposition

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, B.C.—Reduction of \$10,000 from the vote for adult physical education (Pro-Rec) caused some concern in C.C.F. Opposition benches Tuesday as the Legislature moved slowly through estimates of the education department.

Harold Winch asked why the vote had been reduced from \$30,000 to \$20,000, and said this particular branch of education was one of which he was strongly in favor.

"The answer is that we are trying to keep the estimates down," said Hon. G. H. Perry.

"In view of the number of men who have enlisted and the fact that this was designed as an outlet for many idle persons, I felt this was the only place where I could justify reductions."

Many persons had written and called urging him to cut out the whole vote, Mr. Perry added.

THE ODD SPOT

VICTORIA—It should have come from one of the Irishmen in the House but it came from a Scotsman.

Discussing establishment of a chair of household economics at U.B.C., R. C. MacDonald, member for Dewdney, rose in the Legislature Tuesday night to declare: "Any mother who is not able to teach her daughter to cook in the kitchen should not get married."

People Tell Me

By AL WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA — Back to the legislative surroundings on Tuesday came **Hon. Rolf W. Bruhn**, minister of public works, who has occupied a sick bed for these past two months. Not robust, but able to occupy his office again, Mr. Bruhn quashed rumors that he might not be able to retain the portfolio because of his health. He may not continue in office for the life of the government because of his health but he is determined to do one thing before he gives up the job. That is to establish on a proper, independent basis, the highway commission which he and his Conservative Party colleagues have publicly supported for many years. Already the government has indicated its intention to set up a board consisting of public works department engineers. This was a suggestion made by Mr. Bruhn more than a year ago. First persons he met on his arrival here Tuesday were the engineers of his department.



Future: One of the most important pieces of legislation this session — probably the most important—is the movement to establish a committee to look after post-war rehabilitation. This has been practically overlooked by both legislators and newsmen. Right now it is going through caucus stage and will come before the House in completed state in a day or so. So big is this subject that there is even talk of a separate ministry to handle it. After the session cabinet members will be able to devote more time to it and you will see it gradually breaking into the headlines.

Many Parts: The government should be able to do all sorts of things it could not do before because of the manifold duties of **Hon. John Hart**, the House has been informed by **E. E. Winch**, the statistically-minded veteran C.C.F. member for Burnaby. Explained Mr. Winch: "In his capacity as minister of finance, Mr. Hart could consult the premier, and should, of course, be able to obtain a favorable reply from him." Mr. Hart is also the premier.

Lumbermen: Maybe you haven't realized what a business the collection, distributing and sale of Christmas trees has developed into in British Columbia. Reporting to the legislative forestry committee here, **C. D. Orchard**, Chief Forester, said that trees are taken out by the carload for sale in points as far east as New York. **Louis LeBourdais** added that some Cariboo trees were sold in New Orleans last Christmas. There are, said Mr. Orchard, about five thousand trees to the carload, and several hundred carloads leave this province each year shortly before Christmas. They go from Vancouver Island and various parts of the mainland.

DRINK TO KNOWLEDGE.—The pledge by Attorney-General Maitland to keep liquor out of government in B. C.—to leave trade in liquor to the Liquor Board set up to deal with it—deserves the praise it was given yesterday.

But other lawmakers, and from all parties, apparently turned toward the policy of bringing education into politics just as Mr. Maitland insisted liquor was to be taken out of it. The exchange could yield little profit.

If a board versed in liquor is to deal in it, then our university has an even clearer right to be left under the control of educators. In every case where education has been made subservient to politics (and universities in the states of Washington, Wisconsin and New York could testify) education has invariably suffered a temporary blight.

The only benefits have gone to politicians who have enjoyed short-term smirks.

Discussion of Estimates Continues

Expect Government To State Policy On B.C. Oil Drilling Project Today

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA.—A statement of government policy on the oil drilling project at Commotion Creek will be given when the \$100,000 vote for the well is reached in the estimates, Premier John Hart told the Legislature Wednesday. It is expected this will be today.

Better than teaching high school students about how Hannibal crossed the Alps would be regular lessons in geology, **W. J. Asselstine**, former Minister of Mines, told the Legislature Wednesday.

Speaking during discussion of estimates, Mr. Asselstine said children should learn to know every ore in the province as an aid toward future mineral development.

"Everyone can't become a prospector, but the knowledge so imparted would be of a great benefit to this province," he said.

Won't Scrap Act

The Security Frauds Prevention Act will never be scrapped while he is Minister of Mines, declared **Hon. Herbert Ansgomb** in the Legislature Wednesday.

The act, because it retarded mining development, should be "torn up by the roots," **Tom Love**, Conservative for Grand Forks-Greenwood, had declared during discussion of estimates. The Criminal Code was sufficient deterrent to law breakers, said Mr. Love.

"I am not now asking and I never will ask that this act be thrown out," said Mr. Ansgomb.

"This act affects all sorts of promotions. All that would be necessary would be amendments to the mining section. The criminal code is useless in this case. The Security Frauds Prevention Act prevents persons breaking the law, the code nabs them only after they have broken it."

Increase Grant

The B.C. Chamber of Mines, in Vancouver, this year receives an increase in its grant and is doing "splendid work," said **Hon. Herbert Ansgomb**, Minister of Mines, in the Legislature on Wednesday.

Mr. Ansgomb was answering a question on the subject by **B. G. Webber**, C.C.F. member for Simikameen. The grant—for all chambers in the province—is raised \$1500. The additional amount is for use of U.B.C. laboratories during the summer months.

Added to grants this year is one of \$5000 for metalurgic research and tracing of strategic minerals.

House Handles Thirty-Six Bills

VICTORIA — (Staff Correspondent)—Devoting most of one sitting to consideration of bills in various stages, the legislature dealt with thirty-six of them on Wednesday afternoon. Of the total, fifteen were new ones, the balance were given second and third readings.

New ones included minor amendments to the following acts: Coroner's, Industrial Settlements, Water, Apprenticeship, Provincial Museum, Trades Schools Regulation, Vancouver Enabling, Unclaimed Money Deposits, Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration, Village Municipalities, Municipal, Registered Nurses, Home for the Aged, Shop Regulations and Mental Hospitals.

Second reading was given to the Vancouver Incorporation Act, which extends time for laying of a claim against the city.

An amendment to the Fisheries Act, given second reading, would give the province power to refuse Japanese fish-buying licenses. Under the existing act, there is no differentiation in color, creed or race.

People Tell Me

By AL WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA, B.C. — Forty-eight tiring members of the Legislature were hopeful of getting back to their homes this weekend, but the session goes on and on. It cannot finish now until next week, probably Wednesday. Consideration of only two departments' estimates has taken as much time as the total usually does. Premier John Hart put the House into night sittings more than a week ago but the more sittings there are, the more the members talk, it seems.



TO THE RESCUE: Hurrying to Victoria Wednesday, came the former attorney-general, Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., to watch the interests of some clients. It seems that some changes in the Fire Marshal's Act as it governs motion picture projectionists are being discussed in lobbies hereabouts and Mr. Wismer has for some years championed the projectionists. Rumor says he has a tough job on hand.

INVESTMENT: When Hon. K. L. Maitland, K.C., took over the attorney-generalship he planned to economize in several branches of that department. The first major cut that came to his mind was in the Game Department. It was one thing we could do without, he thought. But it isn't so, as Mr. Maitland will now tell you. The department is one of few that brings in a big revenue for comparatively little outlay. In addition to that, it is the branch of government which looks after one of our most valuable natural assets. Plentiful game will bring thousands of visitors to the province during peaceful times—both tourists and hunters—and they will leave millions of dollars in the province. Legislators who, during this session, have complained about losses suffered by farmers due to prevalence of deer or pheasants are looking through the wrong end of the telescope. Sure it sometimes riles a farmer to lose some of his crop, but those "pesky critters" are worth millions to this province.

Government To Retain Alternate Blocks

Opposition Backs Oil Drilling; To Open Area On Royalty Basis

VICTORIA — (By Staff Correspondent) — C.C.F. opposition in the Legislature on Thursday gave its endorsement of the Peace River Oil Exploration as Hon. Herbert Anscombe, Minister of Mines, announced introduction of a bill to open the area to private drilling on a royalty basis.

The bill is an amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act and is expected to open the area on a "checker board" basis with the government retaining every alternate block.

Royalties would be on the basis of fifteen per cent, described by the minister as two and one-half per cent higher than anywhere in the west.

Going Ahead

The minister's announcement and subsequent discussion which occupied full attention of the House for ninety minutes, indicated the government's intention of proceeding with oil exploration in the district.

Debate saw clashes between former Premier T. D. Pattullo and Attorney-General R. L. Maitland over contents of the contract with the driller, between Sam Guthrie, C.C.F. Cowichan-Newcastle and Mr. Anscombe over retention of the area in government hands on behalf of the people, between Harold Winch and several Conservative back benchers over whether drilling should be continued.

Reviewing the history of the well, Mr. Anscombe said he was and always had been opposed to government's entry into private business. But the present government in this case had gone into business and it was a situation that had to be faced as it existed.

He read a report by Dominion geologists saying drilling had reached 5577 feet, recommending an additional thousand feet of drilling and adding the warning that there might be no conclusive results before 8000 feet.

Day Labor

Mr. Guthrie questioned the wisdom of going on, on the present contract basis. He urged use of day labor.

"We should go ahead to see whether there is oil there, but on a day labor basis," he said.

The contractor would proceed either on a cost plus basis or on a rig rental basis Mr. Anscombe said.

"It is obvious that this is definitely a gamble," said R. C. MacDonald, Dewdney Conservative.

"It is not a gamble in the true sense of the word," said Mr. Pattullo, who, with W. J. Asselstine, former Minister of Mines, was frequently on his feet to join the debate.

"We have very good reason to believe the oil is there," Harold Winch declared. He believed the consensus of opinion was that the government should proceed with the exploration.

"Whether we should do it in this hole or elsewhere is a matter for the experts not for electricians like myself," he said.

Mr. Pattullo jumped up, "I want to know definitely and unequivocally if the C.C.F. is in favor of proceeding," he said.

There were several cries of yes, from the C.C.F. benches with reiteration of support by Mr. Winch.

Tom Uphill joined conclusion of the debate to say he wouldn't oppose further exploration but thought the government should go into the Flathead district of Fernie "where you can scoop up oil on the surface and put in your cars, Mr. Speaker."

B.C. To Continue Ottawa Bureau

(By Staff Correspondent) VICTORIA — B.C. intends to continue a certain amount of tourist advertising and will also maintain its Ottawa representation, it was revealed in the Legislature Thursday during discussion of estimates for the Department of Trade and Industry.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale and Colin Cameron, C.C.F. Comox, both said they believed the government could abolish the department during the war.

Hon. Herbert Anscombe, Minister of Trade and Industry, pointed out that several marked reductions had been made.

"I am not convinced that we should have no vote. We don't know what may happen, nor do we have to spend it," the minister added.

He spoke highly of work accomplished at Ottawa by W. Lloyd Craig, representative there, and was supported in this by T. D. Pattullo, W. J. Asselstine, and others.

E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, thought it "preposterous that we have to spend \$10,000 a year to get our share of war orders."

● As I See It . . . By ELMORE PHILPOTT

Hats Off Men

Over and over again I have heard a remark about this present legislature of British Columbia: On the whole it seems more level-headed and commonsense than the last one.

Various reasons are advanced for its higher level of intelligence. Some say it's the coalition that did it. Some say the C.C.F. now sees the day when it will be in power, and have to deliver the goods, and so it is talking more in terms of present facts and early possibilities. But nobody much admits what is as plain as the very nose on its face.

That is, there are more women in this legislature than in the old one. And every woman who sits in this legislature is in her own right an addition of distinction. As a group the women have already raised the whole level of discussion. If they will pardon the term, they have more horse sense than the men. That is why, so far as I have been able to discover, not one woman has wasted any time talking about imaginary differences between parties—which can be made to sound serious, but which seldom amount to much when subjected to the test: "Well what do you suggest that we should do now?"

Women Agree

When the session opened some newspapers made much of the fact that coalitionist members, Mrs. Nancy Hodges and Mrs. Tillie Rolston, made speeches much like the advocacies of the C.C.F. We heard that the old parties were stealing the C.C.F. thunder; the more witty painted pictures of poor Harold Winch having his clothes stolen from the shores of the old swimming hole.

The more sensible explanation was that the women of all parties accept the need of



certain social changes advocated by the C.C.F. Most women are more interested in such things than are most men. That is one reason why I want to see more women in all democratic legislatures. If the ratio were roughly half and half, democracy would function with a lot more stable ballast, than it now does.

There would be less wars and better housing. There is enough material in the practical application of those ideas to provide the best political platforms ever written. For one cannot abolish wars by saying one will have nothing to do with them. One cannot build new houses simply by saying they are needed.

Gathering Strength

The world of today is not something that we can properly boast about. But it is a bit ridiculous, not to say unchivalrous, to blame that on the women. And there is excellent reason to believe that when the smoke of battle and the hatreds of this war have cleared away it will be the women who will have a great part—perhaps the chief part—in so changing things that it cannot happen again.

The reason why I expect women to play an ever increasing part in world government is that I expect democracy to come out on top; and the science of making democracy work is one in which women have more native ability than men.

So far the women have not got very far in politics partly because they are too lady-like—and have waited for the men to propose to them that they should take half the jobs formerly held by them—the men. Excuse me ladies while I smile. Be he ever so much a gentleman, he will fight like the wildest western steer before handing over his job. He may raise his hat, give up his seat in the bus—he may even never say an unkind word about women drivers—but as for handing over his job in politics or any place else—not on your life. So ladies, if you want them you have to take them.

Urges PGE Use Coal, Not Oil

VICTORIA.—By Staff Correspondent) — Replacement of T. D. Pattullo, K.C., and Charles Tupper as president and director of the P.G.E., and replacement of oil-burning equipment with coal-burning equipment occupied attention of the Legislature almost simultaneously Thursday.

Considering estimates for the railway department, Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said it was "a shame" to use oil when it was so essential for war use. He asked if the government had considered conversion of locomotives to coal, of which there is "an ample supply" in B.C.

It had been considered, but the cost was very great, Hon. Herbert Anscomb, acting minister, told the House.

Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, then asked about the directorate.

Premier John Hart said the board of directors had not yet met to consider resignation of Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Tupper. The latter, a locomotive engineer, was formerly Liberal member for Similkameen.

'Third Party Risk' Back In Motor Act

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA — Reinstatement of the "third party" risk in the Motor Vehicle Act was disclosed in the Legislature late Thursday when a bill was introduced by Hon. R. L. Maitland, Attorney-General. The section enables a passenger in an automobile to sue the driver for damages for injuries where "gross negligence" can be proven.

Also included in the amendment is a special section approving issuance of only one license plate for motor vehicles this year. This is done to conserve metal.

Opposes Opening Labor Act

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA—Representations made by labor groups last week to the Legislative Labor Committee are "contentious" and many do not meet with his approval, Hon. George S. Pearson, Labor Minister, said in the Legislature Thursday.

The suggestions had as their objective, amendments to the In-

dustrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

"It is my opinion that legislation should not be opened this session," said the minister, "because of the shortness of time and the fact that considerable thought should be given to it. In addition, there is increasing encroachment by federal authority."

People Tell Me

By AL WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA—The main attraction was moved from the Assembly Hall to the oak and cedar-panelled committee rooms of the Legislature yesterday when the Public Accounts and the Mining committees held field days.

Capt. C. S. Leary, former minister of public works, had to answer a number of questions in the Public Works Committee when members asked about the ferry he purchased from the government for \$20, then rented to the government for \$8 a day. As a leading citizen of his Arrow Lakes community, Captain Leary's business has many ramifications. Even he must find it difficult to keep track of everything. Committee members found it all "amusin' but confusin'."

WATCHDOG: "You might as well put a policeman in every automobile to see that motorists know how to drive." That was the way G. S. Eldridge, Vancouver assayer, described the connection between the Security Frauds Prevention Act and the mining industry. C. S. Arnold, who is a lawyer, but who once ran a silver mine, said that if the act wasn't revised there would not be any mines left in British Columbia after



the 14 operating at present had petered out. No others would start up because of obstacles the act put in the way of financing. "The people want to gamble on mining," he told the Mining Committee. "It's just like a horse race, only you usually get a better return from a mine." A. N. Wolverton, A. E. Jukes and others supported him. The committee adjourned at the call of Chairman Frank Putnam. It looks as though the act is going to be revised very soon. The committee was so impressed that it sat for nearly four hours to hear representations from interested persons.

THAT'S THAT: Members shook their heads when Gordon Wismer came racing over here to throw a monkey wrench into Louis LeBourdais' motion picture machinery. Louis was sponsoring an amendment to the Fire Marshal Act which would have eliminated one of the two projectionists now in motion picture theatres. Mr. Wismer got that put into the laws some years ago and was not going to see it thrown out without a fight. When he arrived on Wednesday he found the government benches arrayed against him. But by Thursday he had "explained" the act to so many of them that it is now probable the bill will be withdrawn. "It is last-minute legislation of too controversial a nature to be dealt with without due consideration," as one dignified legislator put it."

People Tell Me

By AL WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA—From now on, only one Crown Counsel will appear at the Assizes in Vancouver. Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., has been putting a

finger on expenditures by previous governments and wiping out some of the gravy. Now it is a case of every man for himself. The recent practise of a prosecutor and assistant for every Assize has been done away with. Mr. Maitland has chosen his counsel for the upcoming sitting of the court—a prominent K.C.—but has to consult the gentleman before making any announcement. Considerable importance is attached to the Spring Assizes because there will be two murder cases on the list.



Obstacle: Mr. Maitland will not be arriving in Vancouver this morning as usual. He is staying on here for a meeting of the executive council to deal with plea of Vancouver General Hospital for special aid in construction of a new wing. Mr. Maitland is going to assist the delegation in laying before the council the following problem: Some time ago the hospital directors decided to build a badly-needed wing at a cost of \$400,000. Negotiations were started and finally the city council announced it would put up half the sum if the provincial government put up a similar amount. But that was a couple of years ago. Since then, building costs have mounted tremendously, many necessary materials have become scarce and expensive. The wing will cost considerably more than the original amount—will the government raise the ante?

Out For Keeps? From police departments in Vancouver, has come to the Parliament Buildings a brawny delegation that would amend the New Westminster and Victoria Superannuation Act to prevent re-hiring by any of these police forces of a man who has been superannuated. The delegation has been here a couple of days, but hasn't given up hope yet. Chief obstacle to the delegation's hopes is the war. Government members point out that there may be a major disaster here as a result of the war, extra policemen might be needed and the logical men to get would be those with many years of training in the force

of the affected area. The delegation's idea is to obtain promotion of men within the ranks by retirement at a certain age—with assurance that the retirement is permanent. The war doubles their task.

Back To Work: The House got over a lull brought on by the boredom of interminable debate and on Friday sat far into the night in an effort to reach prorogation by not later than the middle of next week. The chances looked good last night. To speed the business, the executive council will sit this morning and there will probably be both day and night sittings for the balance of the session.

'Relief In Fernie Was A Scandal'

(By Staff Correspondent)
VICTORIA, B. C.—Distribution of relief in Fernie during depths of the depression was a scandal, Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, told the Legislature Friday in a brief clash with Tom Uphill, independent member for Fernie.

"There are people in Fernie who should have been in jail," he said. "Why, does the honorable member know there was a man getting relief in Fernie who had a son going to the university?" Mr. Uphill said he did.

"Certainly it was a scandal, Mr. Speaker," the Fernie member said. "But all those that were prosecuted were adherents of the Liberal party. There are still scandalous goings on there."

The argument started when Mr. Uphill asked if the minister had been responsible for sending James Shilling, of his department to Fernie as relief administrator.

"If you are, I wish you'd sent him somewhere else," said Mr. Uphill.

"I sent Jim Shilling up there because he's a tough little guy and he cleaned up that situation," said the minister.

Relief Roll Drop Brings Reduction In Dept. Staffs

(By Staff Correspondent)
VICTORIA, B. C.—Reduction of relief rolls is bringing about reduction in staffs of the Relief Department, Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of Labor, told the House on Friday, in reply to a question by Sam Guthrie, C.C.F. Cowichan-Newcastle.

In Vancouver, the staff had been reduced by 50 in one year, he said, in demonstration of his point. "Bad man that I am, I still feel sympathetic toward the man who is looking for a job. For that reason I hesitate to make drastic cuts," the minister said.

Pearson, C.C.F. Clash Over Act

VICTORIA — (By Staff Correspondent) — Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, was told it was "time to quit stalling" over amendments to the Industrial Conciliation Act, by Sam Guthrie, C.C.F. member, in the legislature on Friday during debate on the labor department estimates.

"If you think I am stalling, you don't know me," said the minister.

"The trouble is that there is too much interest in organization of labor, and not enough interest in the employees in this province."

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F. for Mackenzie, said that "almost all trades unions in the province are dissatisfied with the act as at present constituted."

He was supported by most of the C.C.F. members in lengthy debate that followed.

The minister reiterated his previous announcement that the act was too important to open at this late stage of the session.

SAYS HART ONLY B.C. TREASURER

VICTORIA, B.C. — (By Staff Correspondent) — Definition of the titles "premier" and "prime minister" formed subject of a brief debate in the Legislature Friday night as a tired House moved through consideration of estimates.

Mr. Pattullo rose to inform the House that "prime minister" was taken from the Latin and "premier" from the French. No one, he declared, ever heard Sir Wilfred Laurier spoken of as "prime minister." Turning to Hon. John Hart, he added, in conclusion:

"You call yourself premier and minister of finance but really you are only provincial treasurer."

C.C.F. Members Differ Over Wisdom Of Provision

Fear Motor Act Amendment To Hit Ride Thumpers

VICTORIA, B.C.— (BUP) — Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, put up a stout fight for servicemen and war workers who may lose their chances of "thumbing a lift" to work in town through an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act.

The bill, which passed third reading, permits passengers in private cars to sue for damages for injuries due to "gross negligence" of the driver.

"One successful damage suit

will cut off all free rides," Mrs. Steeves warned.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Co-mox, said many lumbermen and sailors in his constituency would lose their lifts to work if car owners were frightened out of generosity by the act.

Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, claiming "we don't regiment opinion in this party," opposed his colleagues, saying "we need this provision if workers are not covered by workmen's com-

ensation while going to and from their jobs."

Attorney General Maitland said it was intolerable that injured passengers should have no redress when the driver was at fault. Proof of "prudent care" would excuse a driver, he said.

Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, said "there's no danger of a lawsuit in Victoria. Nobody picks up anybody here."

T. D. Pattullo objected, declaring, "I pick people up".

By AL WILLIAMSON

SANDS OF TIME: For more than 40 years a small hour-glass has stood on the desk in front of Mr. Speaker in the Legislature at Victoria, its purpose shrouded in almost as much mystery as its origin. But the latter has now been cleared up by Mr. Justice Denis Murphy, who was partly responsible for placing it there.

His Lordship was in Opposition in the Legislature in 1901 when the government had a majority of only one member. During passage of an important bill, Mr. Speaker of the day held up proceedings until the one-man majority was found and brought into the House. The Opposition searched through constitutional history, found that Mr. Speaker could hold up a motion only so long as the sand ran through an hour-glass. That night an hour-glass was obtained in Victoria and next day the subject was introduced to Hon. James Duns-muir, then premier. He told the Opposition—if it was so sure of its ground—to produce an hour-glass then and there. The Opposition did, ceremoniously placed it on Mr. Speaker's desk. It's been there ever since.



B.C. 'Council Of Twelve' To Map Post War Plans

VICTORIA, B. C.—(BUP)—Two important government measures dealing with war-time tax arrangements and post-war planning were introduced in the afternoon sitting of the Legislature Monday.

The first measure was an "act to authorize and implement an agreement between the Dominion and the province," which would set up the wartime income tax arrangements.

The other measure was "an act to make provision for advance planning of rehabilitation measures, industrial reorganization and employment projects designed to meet post-war measures."

Tax Agreement

The Dominion-provincial tax agreement was drawn up some time ago by the two governments and empowers the provincial government to carry out its part of the arrangement whereby in return for a fixed grant, the Dominion government receives full revenue from income and corporation taxes. Provincial revenue from the gasoline tax at the amount received in 1940 is guaranteed by the agreement.

The "post-war rehabilitation act" provides for appointment of a council of 12 who will formulate plans for training returned servicemen for civilian occupation, "take action" in respect of workers thrown out of employment through cessation of war industries, survey resources of the province with a view to finding occupations for such returned men and war workers, investigate the establishment of new industries and farming and economic opportunities for the post-war period.

Winch Assails Pharmacy Body

VICTORIA, B.C.—(BUP)—A sharp attack on the operation of the pharmaceutical council, controlling pharmacy throughout the province, was voiced in Legislature Monday afternoon by Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, in debate on the Provincial Secretary Department estimates.

"The pharmaceutical act is not being used to build up pharmacy into a profession," Winch charges. "It is merely being used to keep general trading stores open after hours and to evade minimum wage laws of the province."

"Apprentices have told me they do not receive pharmaceutical training. They are only store clerks in a general store, yet they get paid less than other clerks," Winch said.

Winch demanded a full investigation of the whole situation with possible control by the Health Department.

"Too many druggists are diagnosing. That is a bad practice in any event. It is a vicious one if the store hasn't even a dispensary," Winch said. He referred to such a "drug store" in Victoria.

'Laboratories Fire Hazard'

VICTORIA — (BUP)—Strong criticism of the accommodation provided for provincial health laboratories on Hornby Street, Vancouver, was voiced in Legislature Monday by A. J. Turner, C. C. F., Vancouver-East, in debate on estimates.

"The laboratories are in three old houses linked by corridors," he said. "clean, pure air, so necessary to the work, is almost impossible to get. There is a bad fire hazard and no staff accommodation and workers are crowded into the halls," Turner said.

Gargrave Charges**'Company Towns Neglect A.R.P.'**

VICTORIA, B. C.—(BUP)—Complaints that air raid precautions were being neglected in "company towns" and demands that the provincial government investigate the situation were voiced in the Legislature Tuesday by Herbert Gargrave, C. C. F., Mackenzie.

"I am glad you brought it to my attention. I will look into it," Attorney-General Maitland replied.

'Must Be More Careful of Fire Than Ever'—Gray**Forests Face 'New Danger' in War**

VICTORIA, B. C.—(BUP)—Lands Department estimates amounting to \$1,646,610 passed at the afternoon sitting of the House Tuesday, followed by Finance Department estimates totalling \$1,954,251.

Debate on the forest protection fund in the lands estimates brought queries from Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox and Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, regarding preparations for reforestation and fire protection.

"The Department is glad to co-operate with logging companies in selective logging experiments," Lands Minister Wells Gray said.

"We have all kinds of equipment to take care of normal forest protection requirements," Gray said.

In regards to reforestation, Gray said "what's going to happen before the end of the war is of more concern at present than reforestation."

"This year we must be more careful of fire than ever, especially from war causes," Gray said.

Cameron suggested high school boys be recruited to help guard the forests against "the new danger." Gray replied the matters had been taken up with Ottawa but the Dominion did not quite approve the plan.

Details could not be revealed, he said, but negotiations were continuing.

Waste, Patronage In Public Works Hit By Department's New Head

VICTORIA, B. C.—(BUP)—"Waste, extravagance, favoritism and patronage" in the public works department were attacked by Hon. Rolf Bruhn, recently appointed public works minister, in a statement Tuesday in which he outlined establishment of a highway board composed of department engineers who will advise on construction programmes, discipline, specifications and expenditure.

"What's the use of beating around the bush?" the coalition minister demanded.

"Ever since the beginning of the party system there has been waste, extravagance, favoritism and patronage, which should not be permitted."

System Wrong

Our system of letting contracts, purchasing of plant, material, etc., must be corrected," Bruhn said. "Some officials have too much to do, while others have too little. There is a shortage of equipment and much of it is not satisfactory and not spread to the best advantage."

The minister declared the blame for unsatisfactory working of the public works department could not be laid on the staff.

"The truth is," he said, "we are all to blame."

"Beyond doubt there is too much interference by irresponsible parties, having in many cases their own selfish interests to serve."

Some of the appointees to the service are not entirely satisfactory, and there are too many official cars on the road, Bruhn complained.

In making these statements, I wish to assure the honorable members of the house that I am not trying to lay the blame on any particular party or individual," Bruhn said. "These are

matters which I have pointed out on the floor of the legislature on many occasions."

Bruhn, who recently returned to his office after a lengthy illness, described how creation of the highway board from senior engineers of the department would "correct whatever is necessary and improve wherever possible the administration of public works, to the end that we may have a better service and finer highways".

Session's End Expected Thursday**'Laying Up Trouble For Ourselves,' Mrs. Steeves On War Time Housing**

VICTORIA, B. C.—(BUP)—Passage of all departmental and supplementary estimates was completed at the afternoon sitting of the Legislature Tuesday as the end of the session, expected Thursday, appeared in sight.

Seven B.C. Members On Post War Board

VICTORIA, B. C.—(BUP)—The post-war rehabilitation board in British Columbia will consist of seven members from the House "to start with" Premier John Hart announced in the Legislature Tuesday night.

"At least two of the members will be from the opposition," he added, "and the board will be appointed very shortly."

During debate on municipal affairs estimates, E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, charged Municipal Affairs Minister Wells Gray and the commissioner he had appointed were "delinquent" in not restoring a reeve and council to Burnaby this year.

"The people want the council back" Winch asserted. "Burnaby is in better shape under a commissioner than it was under reeve and council," Gray replied. "Expectations are that the council will be restored next year," he added.

A final attack on war-time housing was made by Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, as the estimates debate drew to a close.

'To Regret It'

"We're laying up trouble for ourselves in the future," she warned. "There is no long range planning and we're going to regret it."

Mrs. Steeves charged the national housing plan providing permanent dwellings was ousted in favor of Wartime Housing Limited. The result, she said, was that poor quality homes were being put up all across the country, which later would prove unsatisfactory.

The operations of the North Vancouver ferry also came under attack by the C.C.F. member. She cited a case where the ferry engineer died half an hour after the ferry docked.

"It could have happened as the ship docked with a terrible catastrophe to the crowded ferry," she said.

Mrs. Steeves said only one man was in the engineroom at the time. She asked that the government see that an extra man was present for an emergency.

Minister Wells Gray agreed with Mrs. Steeves and said it would be considered.

Peace River Oil Bill Advances Despite Opposition, Pattullo

VICTORIA, B. C.—(BUP)—In the third formal division of the session, the House Tuesday passed second reading of the Coal and Petroleum Act amendment which will empower the government to lease the Peace River oil properties to private interests.

The bill would also raise oil royalties from two and one-half to 15 per cent.

A prolonged debate marked passage of the second reading. The division was called by

former Premier T. D. Pattullo, father of the whole Peace River oil venture, to record his protest against the bill. The division showed the C. C. F. opposition, supported by Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, solidly against the measure. The rest of the House voted in favor, 30 to 16.

Minister of Education H. G. Perry stoutly defended the bill, saying that if the province did not have money available to develop the oil area, it had no right to withhold it from speculative private development.

To Ease The Shock

B.C. legislators have been considering a measure for post war rehabilitation. In official language it is described as "an act to make provision for advance planning of rehabilitation measures, industrial reorganization and employment projects designed to meet post war measures."

At first glance it may seem futile to be planning for the peace when we have yet to win the war and when our vision of 'things to come' is seen but darkly, through the smoke of battle. Yet, if there is anything certain about the post war it is this—the change from war to peace will constitute as terrific a jolt upon our economic structure as was the transition from peace to war.

Planning now to ease that jolt as much as possible is only common sense.

The scope of the B.C. measure suggests a practical program and one that could be geared to a Nation Post War Plan.

If we can organize Canada for the destructive enterprises of war then assuredly we can organize Canada for the constructive enterprises of peace.

Also, if post war planning is worthwhile in the limited provincial sphere then it is nine times more worthwhile on a federal basis. War and unemployment are national problems.

C.C.F. University Bill Rejected By House

VICTORIA, B.C.—(BUP)—Representation on the University board of governors came under fire Wednesday night in the Legislature as Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, urged an amendment to the B.C. University Act. The measure failed to pass second reading.

The bill provided for four members of the board to represent the B.C. Teachers' Federation, the Parent-Teachers' Federation, the Farmers' Institutes of B.C., and organized labor.

"There's rather a radical element over there in the University," Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said. "I'd like to see a clergyman on the board."

"The people of the province don't feel they have any say in their university," Mrs. Laura Jamieson, C.C.F., Vancouver-Centre complained. "This bill would have changed that."

H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, said there already was wide representation on the senate as well as the board of governors.

Report Causes Clash In House

VICTORIA, B.C.—(BUP)—C.C.F. leader Harold Winch called for a division Wednesday afternoon in appealing from a decision of Mr. Speaker, ruling out of order Winch's amendment to the public accounts committee report.

The vote was lost on straight party lines 29 to 14.

The amendment asked that the committee's report be not received by the House and precipitated hot debate on matters that had come up during the committee's meetings.

Winch, Colin Cameron, Grant MacNeil and H. W. Herridge, all C.C.F. members, reviewed suggestions of patronage in the Kaslo-Slocan and other ridings which had been investigated in committee. They protested that they had not been permitted to make a minority report covering the material.

'Patronage Loophole'

Winch protested the report did not mention "an official admission that defeated government candidates are allowed to advise on government purchases leaving a loophole for patronage"; that "tenders are not al-

ways called on purchases"; and that the "Minister of Agriculture does not use the purchasing agents services in 'trading in' departmental used cars."

"There is too much dirty linen washed in the House," C. S. Leary, L., Kaslo-Slocan, declared. "These are dirty, low-down tactics."

The committee report recommended that tenders be recorded for all purchases over \$100 and that valuable accounts records be removed to a place of safety for the duration.

B.C. Emphasizes Defense Needs

VICTORIA, B.C.—(BUP)—A joint resolution by the government and the opposition was submitted to the House by Premier John Hart and C.C.F. leader Harold Winch before prorogation Thursday afternoon.

The resolution read:

"This Legislature Assembly of British Columbia, conscious of the gravity of the war and more particularly in its relationship to the security of the people of the province of British Columbia, consider it our solemn duty to call the attention of the Federal Government of Canada to the immediate necessity of completing the strongest and fullest measures of defence against our enemies."

Amend Uphill's Internee Motion

VICTORIA.—(BUP)—A resolution by Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, asking that the legislature recommend to Ottawa that internees in Canada be given the opportunity to aid the Dominion's war effort, was passed with an amendment in the legislature Thursday.

The amendment, introduced by H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, asked that the provincial attorney-general investigate cases of all B.C. residents who have been interned under federal regulations.

FLIP: The way Canadian Airways is shooting planes back and forth between Victoria these days you certainly can get around. Take the case of Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., our new attorney-general. Mr. Maitland had breakfast as usual in Victoria yesterday morning, was in his office in the Parliament Buildings for some time, attended the Board of Trade luncheon here (spending three hours in Vancouver) and then returned to Victoria in time for prorogation of the Legislature at 3 p.m. Then he returned to his office for more work.

Legislature Asks 'Total War' Stand

VICTORIA, B. C.—(BUP)—A resolution of J. A. Paton, Conservative, Point Grey, introduced at the first day of this Legislature, recommending that the House urge the Federal government to implement total war as its pledge to the 26 Nations' Pact of Jan. 1, 1942, passed the House unanimously Thursday afternoon. A "call for total war" made to Ottawa by the Canadian Legion recently, was also supported.

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HOUSE PROTEST IS FOLLOWED UP

Frank Discussion of Air Raid Precautions Matters May Follow Move

The outspoken remarks of Harold E. Winch, leader of the official Opposition in the British Columbia Legislature, who referred to air raid precautions in the budget debate on Thursday evening, were taken up yesterday in the same spirit in which they had been offered. Premier John Hart informed Mr. Winch that his letter had been forwarded to Federal authorities at Ottawa dealing with A.R.P. services.

A copy of the same letter sent to the general officer commanding in this defence area, it was unofficially learned, was being treated with the same consideration; and might be productive of an invitation to Mr. Winch to meet defence authorities at an informal gathering for a frank discussion of the whole matter.

CO-ORDINATION

Meanwhile, in the Legislature, the Provincial Government took the first occasion offering to show what preliminary steps have been taken in regard to civilian protection on this coast. Attorney-General Maitland announced that recent conversations with Col. R. J. Manion had done much to clear the air, and to co-ordinate united efforts here. Mr. Maitland showed that \$100,000 of special equipment had already been supplied by the Dominion, and that another \$100,000 worth was now on the way.

Exchanges in the budget debate during the week served to bring both sides of the Legislature much closer together than had been the case since the session opened.

COST OF LIVING BONUS

It is axiomatic to expect that the Government of British Columbia will pay a cost of living bonus to those of its civil servants within the salary maximum set for this purpose by the Federal Administration. That no announcement has been forthcoming to this effect can only mean that the intention is to make provision for such a bonus in the supplementary estimates. The Dominion itself has set the example, and it is one which logically would have to be adopted by all provincial administrations, since it is expected that all industrial firms and many other mediums of employment will follow suit. This cost of living bonus has already gone into effect on a wide scale throughout the country. Action by the British Columbia Government should not be delayed any longer. There is the belief, as well, that in this Province it should be made retroactive to the date set by the Dominion Government for its institution. In the Provincial Civil Service there are many low salaries and the recipients are now experiencing much difficulty because of the heights to which the cost of living has risen. They are deserving of the consideration that is being given to the vast bulk of other types of employees throughout the Dominion. To pass them over at this time might well have the effect of reducing the calibre of those who would have any desire to join the Provincial Civil Service in the future.

Amend Divorce Law—Attorney-General Maitland introduced a bill at the afternoon sitting of the Legislature yesterday to amend the Divorce and Matrimonial Cases Act by the addition of one clause. The clause would validate second marriages by divorced persons, contracted after the granting of decrees absolute but before the expiry of the time limit for appeal against such decisions, in such cases where no appeal was in fact taken. The clause refers to marriages solemnized before January 31, 1942. First reading followed.

Committees Working—The social welfare committee of the Legislature will meet at 9 a.m. today, in continuation of its programme. Yesterday in the House, the operation of the existing Securities Act, as it bears on mining, was referred to the mining committee, on the motion of Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Mines. Other committees have also filed notices of meet-

FIRST SESSION NEARING CLOSE

Week to Ten Days May See Prorogation in British Columbia Legislature

Prorogation of the first session of the Twentieth Legislature in from a week to ten days' time seemed probable yesterday as the House enjoyed its fourth week-end recess. With main debates over and one-quarter of Provincial expenditures for the coming year already approved, the new Dominion-Provincial agreement remained as the chief business before British Columbia legislators. The bill incorporating the agreement is expected to be presented shortly in the House.

Resuming at 3 p.m. tomorrow, the House is expected to continue in double sittings, with legislation and motions in the afternoon and estimates review at night. Legislation already before the House has been mainly of a minor character and is well advanced towards completion.

COALITION WORKING

The session so far has shown the new Coalition Ministry working co-operatively, with both Liberals and Conservatives supplying strength to the combination, and with united support from their respective parties in the House.

In the coming week, the Legislature is expected to conclude estimates review, and most, if not all, of the legislative programme. House committees have been sitting for two weeks, and are nearing the completion of their work. The formation of a permanent postwar committee by statute, to deal with rehabilitation matters, was the outstanding announcement last week from the Government side.

GAMBLING AT COMMOTION CREEK

The Provincial Government is acting in the interest of the taxpayers when it can increase the revenues it derives from natural resources without any additional imposts. That can hardly be said, however, when it engages in any gambling venture with the taxpayers' money. The drilling for oil at Commotion Creek has involved a heavy gamble. During the past four years a sum of \$400,000 has been spent and there is an appropriation of \$100,000 in the coming year's estimates to continue the work. Geological experts have examined the ground. For two years, following their report, drilling has been in progress. The experts predicted that the Peace River shales would be encountered at 3,300 feet. Now, says Mr. Asselstine, former Minister of Mines in the Pattullo Government, "the hole is down 5,500 feet and the shales have not been encountered. At 3,900 feet the slope changed from 8 or 9 degrees to between 80 and 90 degrees. Serious cross-fracturing, or the top of a cone, had been encountered. The character of the rock changed at this horizon to an extremely hard kind, and this is continuing."

The former Government was quite honest in its conviction that oil would be found at Commotion Creek. It based its opinion on the advice of experts but the prediction of the latter has not been fulfilled, and, in the drilling that has been done, there is no encouragement that oil will be struck. From the beginning, this enterprise was not one in which a Government should engage because it was and remains a gambling venture. It should have been left to private enterprise. The latter was willing to undertake it over twenty years ago when such an offer was made by Anglo-Persian oil interests. That offer was refused, a reserve was placed on the Peace River lands and the Provincial Government had geological examinations made in a desultory way. If the \$100,000 now in the Estimates is spent during the next fiscal year then half a million dollars will have been sunk in the gamble. In these times of oppressive taxation such a speculative investment is not warranted. There is little doubt that the taxpayers wish it to come to an end. All they can do now is to take their losses without throwing good money after bad.

Legislature Passes Budget Items in Day Of General Business

Departmental Outlays for Coming Fiscal Year Are Reviewed by House, Sitting as Committee on Ways and Means—Double Sitings Continue

RESUMING in double sittings yesterday, the British Columbia Legislature ratified more of the budget for the coming fiscal year. The House sat as a committee on ways and means in the afternoon, ratifying votes in the Department of Agriculture, with Flight Lieutenant E. V. Finland, deputy speaker, in the chair, and Hon. K. C. MacDonald explaining itemized expenditure in his department. The House, in an independent mood, forced a two-hour debate on agricultural outlays, before ratifying the items as presented.

Dr. MacDonald defended marketing control and said returns to the farmers had been greater under the scheme than before its inception. Soil surveys, he said, had been carried out over extensive tracts of land in the Prince George and Fraser Valley areas, and this work would be continued. In general, farming in the province was in fair condition, with increased acreage and better herds.

At one point the Minister of Agriculture said he would do away with the Civil Service Act in respect of examinations under which he averred waiting lists of individuals had piled up for whom there was no immediate employment. Urged to undertake milk inspection in Vancouver, Dr. MacDonald said the province had no authority for that, nor could his department control the ranging of wild horses in Fernie and other areas.

The debate ranged far afield among the fourteen types of agriculture in British Columbia, and was contributed to on a non-political basis from all sides of the House. Taxed with saving \$20,000 of the voted appropriations last year, Dr. MacDonald said there had been years in which his department had returned \$40,000 to the treasury, unexpended.

AGRICULTURE

Estimates in the Department of Agriculture call for \$349,106, compared with \$346,306 last year.

The main votes include: Livestock branch, \$101,745; horticultural branch, \$57,450; general office, \$33,615; field crops and seed improvement, \$23,530; markets branch, \$8,145; plant pathology, \$17,990; pest control, \$15,000; minister's office, \$10,000, and miscellaneous votes totalling \$90,142.

In the miscellaneous votes are included: Grants to farmers' institutes, \$1,500; women's institutes, \$6,612; agricultural exhibits, \$3,780; soil survey, \$6,400; automobiles and accessories, \$8,000; agricultural fairs, \$14,500; rebates on stumping powder, \$11,000; rat extermination, \$1,500, and expenses in connection with agricultural investigations and extension, \$70,000. The items included \$3,000 for encouragement of boys and girls' livestock and other clubs. The House recessed at 5:31 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

DISCUSS A.R.P.

Replying to C.C.F. members, who participated in a full dress debate on air raid precautions work when the House resumed at night, Attorney-General Maitland said that the Province was doing all in its power to round out and perfect precautions services, under a joint provincial committee.

Provincial Police, he said, had been specially trained, and in turn would instruct A.R.P. committees in the smaller areas. Metropolitan schemes were recommended in the coast area, in conjunction with Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, fire and other services. The Canadian Legion had volunteered the help of returned veterans at any point where they could help.

At the same time, Mr. Maitland conceded, much yet remained to be done; and the Province itself did not have much authority in the matter, which was primarily under the Dominion. Asked if the Province had considered construction of air raid shelters at coastal towns, Mr. Maitland said that he was not in a position to commit the Government on that point. It would be impossible, he said, to build air raid shelters everywhere. Citizens were jointly responsible to do what they could to help A.R.P. work, and could build home shelters in their basements, if required.

WAR INSURANCE

War risk insurance was being studied by the Dominion, whose representatives were on the coast recently, and in his opinion some action would be taken at Ottawa on the plan, the Attorney-General responded, in reply to further questions. Uniform instructions in the schools was a good suggestion, and one that he would be glad to forward, Mr. Maitland said.

Ten of the fourteen members of the C.C.F. contributed to the debate, which started when Harold E. Winch, leader of the Opposition, declared a special contract to supply seventy-five air raid sirens on the coast had been halted by the Dominion, after twenty-eight sirens of the "Federal" type had been delivered in Vancouver. The sirens had been under manufacture by the Federal Manufacturing Company for which the General Electric and Northern Electric were agents. The sirens were now stored in Vancouver, unused, Mr. Winch declared; while another firm had been asked to supply a different model.

Attorney-General Maitland replied that the Province had no control over the matter. His information was that technical experts of the National Research Council had recommended a two-tone siren as more suitable for the work, and that these were on order for use in British Columbia.

The House passed on to consideration of the votes in the Attorney-General's Department.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Estimates in the Attorney-General's Department call for \$1,977,413, compared with \$2,067,827 last year.

The main votes include, Provincial Police, \$1,018,180; game branch, \$229,750; county jails, \$211,291; land registry offices, \$127,074; administration of justice, \$98,000; Supreme and County Courts, \$68,915; general office, \$30,682; companies branch, \$23,674; securities branch, \$24,370; fire marshal's branch, \$20,544; film censorship, \$11,968; sheriffs' offices, \$25,063; official administrator, \$13,040; official guardian, \$3,332; minister's office, \$13,500, and miscellaneous votes of \$54,120.

Under miscellaneous votes are included, coroners' inquests, \$15,000; litigation, \$10,000; bounties on predatory animals, \$25,000; uniform legislation survey, \$1,000; after-care for youthful offenders, \$1,920, and \$1,200 for contingencies.

TO STUDY BONUS

Questioned under salary votes in the police branch as to whether the Province intended to pay the cost-of-living bonus to civil servants, the Administration replied that the point was under consideration. Premier Hart said that the Government had not yet had time to give adequate consideration to what would be involved; but would consider it at the earliest opportunity. The bonus, if decided upon, could be paid under the Civil Service Act. It was desired particularly to give consideration to the position of low-salaried groups and married men, Mr. Hart said in reply to further questions.

Responding on other matters, Attorney-General Maitland said that the Liquor Control Board would lose \$12,000 this year by reason of price ceilings on certain of its stocks. Protests had been made against chimney construction in certain wartime housing, and the Province was seeking to adjust that matter. The Province had considered training public prosecutors in provincial cases, and would make a trial of that plan in Vancouver shortly.

Mr. Maitland defended the Game Branch, which he said was doing considerably more work than the public supposed. Complaints as to damage to crops by bear, deer and pheasants were noted, and will be investigated.

Asked if the Province would cut car licence fees, now that rubber was scarce, the Attorney-General said that representations to that effect had been made, and that the matter would be carefully considered.

The committee rose to report progress, with votes in the Attorney-General's Department completed. W. T. Straith (Liberal, Victoria) reported the Vancouver Incorporation Act as reviewed in committee, with changes.

The House rose at 11:20 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. today.

MINING MEN TO BE HEARD

Will Outline Objections to Present Securities Act Before Committee

The mining committee of the Legislature decided yesterday to call representative mining men before it to air their objections to the present Security Frauds Prevention Act.

At the suggestion of W. J. Asselstine (Liberal, Premier) the committee will endeavor to ascertain where the division between the work of the Department of Mines and the securities branch lies.

Mr. Asselstine made his proposal after T. A. Love (Conservative, Grand Forks-Greenwood) told the committee that the Department of Mines, using an estimate appearing in its 1914 report, had informed potential American backers of the Mother Lode Mine, Greenwood, that the property had only 50,000 tons of ore available. Since then, Mr. Love declared, developers of the Mother Lode have taken out 667,000 tons of ore, and more is in sight.

TAKE MANY ASSAYS

Further, he said, those interested in exploiting the mine had previously secured "four or five thousand" assays.

E. K. De Beck, superintendent of brokers and registrar under the Securities Act, commented that any interference with it at present would be "widely disturbing" to investors, since there is a great deal of money in the hands of small holders.

Mr. Asselstine interjected that the Department of Mines "comes in for a great deal of criticism," and that any conflict between it and the securities branch should be resolved.

In reviewing the administration of the Security Frauds Prevention Act, Mr. De Beck said that he was not anxious to escrow vendor shares of mining companies, but that the best evidence of a promoter's good faith was his willingness to have such shares escrowed and to take his profit from the mine in which he is interested.

His office, he said, is "full of records of 'meal ticket' companies" formed by small groups. "One such company raised \$28,000 and, after four years, bought a royalty in an adjoining company for \$6,000.

Another problem is that of com-

pany directors who "do not direct," and prefer to leave this to one man. Most of them, however, when the matter is brought to their attention by the securities branch, "tend to business."

During the four and a half years in which he has held office, his branch has made nearly 350 investigations privately, so that no harm is done if complaints received proved to be groundless. Some investigations disclose fraud and criminal acts, and result in prosecutions. "Prosecutions," Mr. De Beck added, "are bad advertising, but the public should know that malefactors are going to be punished."

He considered that the Securities Act was not standing in the way of mine development, and remarked that there was at present a shortage of promoters and brokers rather than a lack of prospectors.

If it is possible, his department stands ready to give a prospector free shares, Mr. De Beck said.

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TELLS OF DIFFICULTIES

The securities branch has difficulty not with public companies but with small private concerns, improperly set up. "I deplore the fact," Mr. De Beck remarked, "that \$1 out of \$5 put up by the public goes toward promotion, and I hope to see the time when the great bulk of funds subscribed goes 'into' the ground." We are working to end the situation under which \$1 of every \$5 subscribed goes to beating down sales resistance."

At the suggestion of Attorney-General R. L. Maitland, Mr. De Beck explained that the Security Frauds Prevention Act covers inventions and industrial companies as well as mining concerns.

"Would you believe it?" he exclaimed, "over \$300,000 of British Columbia money has gone out of the province to further the development of a perpetual motion machine."

"What the act needs," interjected Louis LeBourdais (Liberal, Cariboo), "is a super-salesman like the fellow with perpetual motion."

OIL ROYALTIES

Turning to oil royalties, Mr. De Beck said that Alberta has one of the soundest administrations of security fraud prevention legislation of any province in the Dominion, and that British Columbia works closely with the Alberta department. Since the act has been in force, investors have received a good return on the funds so invested.

British Columbia, he added, has contributed more to the development of oil wells than any other province, and he would like to see more of this money invested in projects on this coast.

Province Bore Chief Burden in Refunding Teacher-Pension Act

British Columbia Municipalities Covered on Their 7 Per Cent Levy by \$450,000 Special Vote, Legislature Told—Teacher Shortage Met

FRANK admission that while British Columbia municipalities would receive \$450,000 from the province this year in special assistance with the costs of education, the grant would do little more than cover the 7 per cent levy placed on the municipalities concurrently in connection with teachers' pensions, was made in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. H. G. Perry as the House resumed in double sittings on estimates review. The province, Mr. Perry pointed out, had already contributed \$2,800,000 to put the teachers' pension funds in order, and could not do more at this time.

The Province, Mr. Perry said, had put in \$2,025,000 in debentures and \$60,000 in cash at the time of the reconstitution of the pension scheme, as well as taking care of a \$300,000 shortage in debentures and cash, and placing \$302,000 aside in another fund in that connection. In addition, an annual charge of \$140,000 had been assumed by the Province, which could not do more. While required to pay 7 per cent, the municipalities were given it. At the same time, the Minister of Education added, he would like to see steps taken to change the whole basis of taxation on land, especially in rural areas, which had had little relief as yet.

SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS

Mr. Perry announced that, while no change was being made this year in teachers' salary schedules, it was hoped during the coming year to give close consideration to the whole matter. In a non-partisan debate that followed, the Minister of Education thanked the House for many suggestions dealing with the improvement of conditions for young teachers in training and in rural service.

He said twenty-three schools had been closed on account of teacher shortages, but eight of them had since been reopened. The basic salaries in elementary schools appeared low, but to raise them now would be to throw fresh burdens on rural taxation on land. It was still a fact that men with \$100,000 in bonds were taxed on their income, while the farmer was taxed on his land, which was his capital, the Minister observed.

NO CHANGES THIS YEAR

Votes in the Department of Education were ratified during the day, the discussion bringing out many points in reference to the British Columbia schools system. No changes are planned in the curriculum, and textbooks will not be changed during the year. Steps are being taken to meet the shortage of teachers by issuance of temporary certificates, forty-five of which have already been granted. Compulsory school ages remain the same, between six and fifteen years, inclusively, but trustees are required to provide schooling up to eighteen years, upon payment of student fees, Mr. Perry explained in reply to questions.

The largest single item in the departmental votes is \$2,435,000 in Provincial grants towards teachers' salaries, increased by \$35,000 from last year. Of this sum, \$1,605,000 is for grants in city and district municipalities, and \$830,000 for rural school districts.

EDUCATION

Estimates in the Department of Education call for \$5,070,727, compared with \$4,782,543 last year.

The main votes include: Grants to teachers' salaries, \$2,435,000; statutory grant in connection with special aid to municipalities, \$450,000; grant to the University of British Columbia, \$431,990; inspection of schools, \$117,720; school buildings, \$165,000; school transportation, \$135,000; free textbooks, \$62,000; correspondence schools, \$63,529; industrial education, \$59,580; normal schools, \$42,040; school for the deaf and blind, \$46,948; general office, \$29,560; education of soldiers' dependent children, \$13,000; bursaries, in connection with mothers' allowances, \$5,000; school tests, \$4,250; annual grant to Victoria College, \$5,000; Minister's office, \$13,100, and miscellaneous votes of \$102,000.

Under miscellaneous votes are included: School libraries, \$9,000; Summer schools, \$1,500; official trustee, \$1,750; board of reference in teacher placement, \$800; adult education, \$63,300 (including \$20,000 for recreational and physical education for youths over school age); radio-school broadcasts, \$7,500; curriculum revision, \$13,900; with \$4,250 for contingencies.

The Province, Mr. Perry showed, had undertaken considerable work regarding technical training, the Dominion supporting this effort with trade schools for men wanted in connection with the nation's war effort.

The House recessed at 5:21 p.m., until 8:30 p.m.

U.B.C. DEBATE

Resuming at night, the Legislature plunged into an hour's debate on the grant of \$431,990 to the University of British Columbia, of which \$431,000 is a general grant; \$12,000 for teacher training; \$990 for reduced interest in the stadium building, and \$6,000 for a new vote for vocational education, and rehabilitation of discharged and returned men.

Hon. H. G. Perry explained that, while the Province named six of the nine governors of the U.B.C., and the Senate three others, the Government had no direct control over the institution. The university had presented estimates of \$870,000 this year, of which \$410,000 was to be raised by student fees, and \$431,990 through the Provincial grant. Short of a change in the University Act, the Legislature could not require the university to do anything, not even to report to the House on how the grant was expended.

HOME ECONOMICS

In the debate that followed, Flight Lieut. L. H. Eyres, Mrs. L. E. Jamieson, Mrs. T. J. Rolston, Mrs. Nancy Hodges and Mrs. R. P. Steeves pressed hard for the institution of a faculty of home economics at the university. Home economics, they pointed out, was taught in the high schools, but came to a dead end there. Students wishing to follow the course had to leave the province to do so. Mrs. Rolston and Mrs. Hodges pointed out that \$17,000 had been collected by women's organizations expressly to assist the creation of such a faculty, but that, while promises had been made, nothing had been done about the matter.

Closer co-operation with research in agriculture; more consideration of the position of country students, under special costs to attend; a department of sociology; and other suggestions were made before the vote was finally allowed to pass, unchanged.

VICTORIA COLLEGE

The annual grant of \$5,000 to Victoria College passed, without debate. W. T. Stralath, K.C. explained that Victoria College gives first and second years in affiliation with the U.B.C.; supports itself on student fees, and provides its own city building, without cost to the Province in that regard. Last year there were 195 first year and forty-three second-year students, with a high standard maintained in both arts and science.

The House, sitting in Committee on Ways and Means, rose to report progress, after completion of half, or some \$15,000,000 of the total votes in estimates for the coming fiscal year.

Third reading, and enactment subject to assent, followed for the Greenwood Bill, under which debenture debt of that municipality will be refunded in new debentures, with cancellation of the originals after their surrender for exchange.

The House rose at 11 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. today.

MEN HEARD

Objections to Securities Act Committee

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... his department ve a prospector Beck said.

TO CONTROL PENSION ACT

Provincial Secretary Will Administer Old Age Allowances in Future

Old age pensions are being removed from the control of the Workmen's Compensation Board and their administration transferred to Hon. G. S. Pearson, as Provincial Secretary, with authority to set up whatever separate staff is necessary to administer the scheme, the British Columbia Legislature learned yesterday, as the covering message bill was presented in the House by Mr. Pearson for first reading.

Mr. Pearson confirmed the purpose of the measure, which will place the Provincial Secretary's Department in administration of pensions for the aged. It was noted, however, that the bill was a proclamation measure; and, as such, would not take effect until a proclamation had been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

Premier John Hart introduced a message bill to exclude veterans of the present war from the terms of the Provincial Poll Tax Act; in the same manner that veterans of the last conflict were granted exemption from Provincial poll taxes. It was read a first time.

Hon. Herbert Anscomb introduced a message bill varying the terms under which British Columbia would grant a fixed bounty on steel manufactured in this province from local iron ores. The existing statute, the Iron and Steel Bounties Act, was passed long ago. It provided, in part, for the payment of a provincial bounty on steel manufactured within the province, at the rate of up to \$100,000 a year for five years. The amending measure would extend the period over ten years, and authorize the payment of a bounty up to \$200,000 in any one year; not to exceed \$2,000,000 in the aggregate.

Remaining sections in the original statute would remain unchanged, Mr. Anscomb later explained. It was his understanding that the present statute provided for a \$2,000,000 bounty on steel, only over a shorter period, he said. First reading was given in the House.

Hon. A. W. Gray introduced message bills to amend the Forest Act and the Local Improvement Act. The former sets up a Forest Branch boat account, in connection with forestry launches afloat; provides for the licensing of specialty products, such as the cascara bark trade and for the conservation of trees, shrubs and plants, and varies the wording of several sections in the existing law in connection with scaling and other matters. First reading followed.

Amendments to the Local Improvement Act add a single clause, under which councils could by majority by-law vote assume up to one-third of the cost of sewer construction carried out by means of local improvement levies. The bill was read once.

SCHOOL BADLY OVERCROWDED

Principal Outlines Situation Before Social Welfare Committee of Legislature

So crowded is the Provincial School for the Deaf and Blind, Jericho Beach, that the dormitories and classrooms have reached the saturation point, and any further congestion in the dining-room will entail serving meals in two shifts, Principal C. E. MacDonald told the Legislature's social welfare committee yesterday.

The school, with eighty-eight pupils enrolled, already has in its dormitories twenty more beds than are considered allowable under the fire and health laws, Mr. MacDonald said. He added that present buildings constitute a fire hazard and that plumbing facilities are inadequate. To eliminate the assembling of large numbers of children in one building, Mr. MacDonald suggested that huts should be built on the school campus as a remedial measure.

MANY ARE INDIANS

Earlier, George Ross, superintendent of the Provincial Industrial School for Boys, Port Coquitlam, said that 30 per cent of its present population is composed of Indians, whose presence is accounted for largely by parental irresponsibility, lack of supervision and the absence of proper home environment.

Mr. Ross said he felt that boys should be committed to the school for indeterminate periods. With the accommodation at present available, it is difficult to segregate inmates to the extent considered desirable. Boys from fourteen to sixteen years of age represent the most troublesome element among offenders admitted to the school.

DISCUSS DANGER OF FOREST FIRES

C. D. Orchard Recommends Use of Radio-Equipped Trucks to Committee of Legislature

C. D. Orchard, chief forester, yesterday told the forestry committee of the Legislature that to protect British Columbia's woods from any emergencies which might arise, it would be necessary to employ large numbers of stand-by crews, with truck units equipped with fire-fighting and radio communication equipment.

Mr. Orchard told the committee that the entire forestry budget would be used in providing proper protection against this danger to the Coast, and that the expense is more than the province can bear, necessitating assistance from the Federal Government.

Plans were completed yesterday for fighting forest fires, particularly in view of war conditions on the Pacific, and arrangements made to co-ordinate the facilities of all services to furnish protection to the forests.

Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands; Commissioner T. W. S. Parsons, of British Columbia Police; G. P. Melrose, assistant chief forester; C. J. Haddon, Vancouver district forester, and representatives of the logging industry attended a joint conference at which co-ordination was discussed.

Mr. Orchard told the forestry committee that Christmas trees may next year be cut from Crown land under a "trapline system," whereby a number of bona fide settlers and farmers will be permitted to cut 5,000 young evergreens each on Crown land. Cutting will continue to be forbidden in Coast areas, where timber may be more profitably reserved for logging.

PROROGATION WITHIN WEEK

B.C. Securities Act to Be Retained and Improved, House Is Informed

The Provincial Government has no intention of repealing the Securities Act, which is regarded as a safeguard to the integrity of mining in British Columbia, but may amend some of its present terms, Hon. Herbert Anscomb said in the Legislature yesterday as estimates discussion continued. Votes of \$229,895 were ratified after the afternoon sitting, the House adjourning at 5:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. today. Prorogation is unofficially expected on Wednesday of next week.

A vote of \$100,000 for oil exploration in the Peace River was stood over. Government spokesmen responding to questions concerning negotiations started since the Legislature convened. A statement on the result of these discussions will be given shortly to the House, Premier John Hart announced.

ADMINISTRATION

The discussion on mining votes was sharp at times. Individual members suggested that the Province had followed no definite plan of mineral exploration and development; that official reports had been indecisive; that city-born youths were not attracted to the life of a prospector in the hills; that assay returns should be speeded up at Victoria, and that an assay plant pledged at Prince Rupert should be proceeded with.

Responding, Mr. Anscomb said he had only recently taken over the department and would require time to become familiar with all its operations. He proposed to apply common sense and business application to the subject, and to see that no outside influence would be brought to bear on the advice of trained engineers who knew their work. He would say now that the Province did not propose to repeal the Securities Act, but would retain and improve it as opportunity served. Votes in the department had been cut by \$100,000 this year because the Province had to curtail its outlays all round.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

Estimates in the Department of Mines call for \$329,895, compared with \$433,020 last year.

The main votes include oil exploration in the Peace River area, \$100,000; mineralogical branch, \$64,825; mines inspection branch, \$39,170; general office, \$22,050; assay branch, \$15,760; mine rescue training, \$12,120; grants, \$10,600; mining roads and trails, \$50,000; minister's office, \$12,470, and lesser sums for other purposes.

The grants include: Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, \$500; mine-rescue and first-aid competitions, \$2,600; grants to Chambers of Mines, \$2,500; metallurgical research in war minerals (new), \$5,000, and \$900 in subsidies to bona fide prospectors for the purchase of explosives.

The House ratified all save the oil exploration vote before rising; a debate, however, was seen to be looming on that.

LEGISLATION WEEK

Act to Be Improved, Informed

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LEGISLATURE HANDLES LAW

Thirty-Eight Bills Advanced In Various Stages in Hour's Review

Thirty-eight bills, all of a brief character, were handled by the British Columbia Legislature in an hour, during the afternoon sitting of the Legislature yesterday. The measures included five enactments, sixteen second-readings, sixteen introductions and first readings, and one bill killed in debate, when second reading was refused.

Measures taken to enactment included bills to amend the Collection Agents' Licensing, Mineral, Placer Mining, Wills and Notaries Acts.

Second readings were given bills to amend the Vancouver Incorporation, Land, Probates Recognition, Fisheries, Taxation, Evidence, Dyking Assessments Adjustment, Public Libraries, Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, Poll Tax, Iron and Steel Bounties, Local Improvement, Forest and Old Age Pension Acts; as well as the Victoria City Bill, and a measure concerning the superannuation of a former school inspector.

OTHER MEASURES

A bill to amend the Mechanics Lien Act, offered by Samuel Guthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle) was defeated on second reading, after the Government had explained that the measure would not fulfill the intent of its drafter. At the same time, Attorney-General Maitland offered to discuss the issues involved in the defeated measure, to see what could be worked out in practice.

Introductions and first readings on new measures yet to be explained included a message bill brought in by Hon. Herbert Anscomb, to amend an amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act. From the Government side there were offered, also, bills to amend the Water, Apprenticeship, Provincial Museum, Trades School Regulations, Vancouver Enabling, Village Municipalities, Municipal, Provincial Home for the Aged, and Mental Hospitals Acts.

The official Opposition offered, in addition, bills to amend the Coroners, Industrial Settlements, Unclaimed Money Deposits, Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration, Shops Regulation and Registered Nurses Acts.

EXPLANATIONS

Second reading explanations were brief and to the point. The Province is proposing to dispense with a bond in certain probate applications. Fish buyers are to be further licensed, and authority taken to refuse licences to Occidental or Oriental buyers. A crown grant fee of \$25 will be charged in certain reverted land transactions. Microfilm and photostatic evidence will be accepted in the courts in cases of missing persons, and formal notification of the death of servicemen in battle can be taken as evidence in applications for leave to presume demise.

Interest on outstanding dyking payments under special agreement is being reduced to 4% per cent, from 6 per cent. Municipal councils handling union library rates may levy on extra-municipal lands within union library areas.

VALIDATE MARRIAGES

A number of servicemen's marriages, rendered illegal by a technicality as to the time of appeal from decrees nisi in divorce causes, will be validated. In some instances children have been born of such wedlocks, the House was informed, involving the issue of legitimacy.

Men serving in this conflict will be exempted from provincial poll taxes; as were their predecessors.

In the Iron and Steel Bounties Bill, the Province continues a standing subsidy of \$2,000,000 for the manufacture of British Columbia iron ores into steel billets within the province; but extends the period over which such subsidy can be paid from five to ten years, without changing the \$2,000,000 aggregate of such assistance, where earned. The grant in any one year is not to exceed \$200,000.

Municipal councils may, by a three-quarters majority vote contribute up to one-third of the cost of sewer construction begun by local improvement levy, it is proposed in another measure. Technical amendments are proposed in the Forest Act; including extension of export permits on raw logs from three to five, under Provincial supervision.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

Old age pension administration is to be withdrawn from the control of the Workmen's Compensation Board and placed directly under the Provincial Secretary, with authority to fill in whatever staff is required to handle this work. Explaining, Hon. G. S. Pearson said that the board had asked to be relieved of the administration of the scheme, which, while handled within the full letter of the law, had left something to be desired on other grounds.

Differences of opinion had at times arisen as to interpretation of the statute, and under the new plan his department would be in charge and responsible to the House. Mr. Pearson added his thanks to the board for able service in a difficult set of circumstances. The transfer of administration was not to be taken as any reflection on the Workmen's Compensation Board, the Provincial Secretary said.

Victoria's bill was explained by W. T. Straith, K.C. It takes into civic tax rolls between two and three acres of reclaimed harbor-front land at Ogden Point, upon which stands the cold storage plant; validates taxation collected on that land in the past, and agrees to a fixed assessment of \$90,000 for the

property held under lease by the cold storage plant, Mr. Straith said.

Omitting the evening sitting, the House rose at 5:30 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. today.

Note and Comment

By SANDHAM GRAVES

Non-partisan legislatures, though something of a contradiction in terms, are working quite well in this neck of the woods. If you had heard the debate upon education, or more strictly on schooling, you would realize that. It was a remarkably good debate, less perhaps in its parts than in its sum. The spirit of inquiry was aroused, and it was operating fairly. The marble clock heard it all, and the marble clock begrudged its speeding minutes, which is a very rare occurrence indeed.

The marble clock heard the honorable member for "Q," who is a Conservative, declare that there should be a faculty, or chair, of home economics at the university. The marble clock heard the honorable member for "Y," who also is a Conservative, declare that the place for a chair of economics is in the home. The marble clock heard the honorable members for several alphabetical ridings, Conservatives, Liberals and C.C.F. alike, join in the debate with their reasons. And reasons have some place in debate.

It was a good debate, as fine a one as the marble clock has heard in many sessions. The position of young women teachers who are sent out into the rural areas to take their first school, only to find themselves faced with students in all eight grades, was described by one who had had that experience. The magnetic attraction of city dollars, that draws teaching talent out of the country schools, to their detriment, was also mentioned. So, too, was the shortage of teachers due to war-time conditions. Though all three parties participated in the debate, the marble clock did not hear any partisan words.

It is true that the hands of the marble clock paused distinctly when the honorable gentleman in charge of the department declared that the policy being followed was not perfect; that, indeed, there were some considerable gaps in it, but it was all right, the remarks were received in their true, Pickwickian, sense. The heavens did not fall. The marble clock, however, did pause to consider how truly remarkable that was. Not before had it happened so, since the hand-wound works were removed from the clock, and invisible electrical impulses substituted in their place.

The most remarkable thing about the debate, however, was that it really moved minds. To the marble clock it seemed that there was great hope in that; that man is, somehow, capable of moving along with changing times and changing circumstances. Nor does it matter, in debate, where one believes that the chair, say, of economics, should be, in the home or at the university. All that does matter is that men and women should give of their true minds freely, and that they did.

It is, none the less, a dangerous experiment. A few more such debates on the same high plane, and the legislatures of Canadian provinces would have an impossibly high standard to live up to. We should have ministers of the Crown declaring that they, or their predecessors, inadvertently made mistakes. The infallibility of public office would be shattered. And yet, man never seems so attractive, so alive and so real, as when he is engaged in the act of examining the past, and agreeing that, given the job to do again, he would have acted differently. For this is growth, both in the stature and in the dignity of mankind.

It was with some regret that, the debate over, the marble clock pointed mutely to eleven o'clock, at which hour honest legislatures go to bed. The marble clock ticked on in the darkness, but it lagged with its minutes. It was, I think, examining time past, and time that had not been wasted.

No Oil Located Yet At Commotion Creek House Is Informed

Bore Down 5,500 Feet in Hard Rock, With Agreement Suspended and Geologists Uncertain of Result—Royalty Steps Being Considered

THERE is no clear answer to where British Columbia stands in its search for oil in the Peace River area. Some \$400,000 of the taxpayers' money had been expended. The initial bore at Commotion Creek is down 5,500 feet, with work stopped, and the hole some 2,000 feet short of its intended depth. The agreement with the drilling contractors, under which they were to have drilled to 7,500 feet at \$22.50 per foot, has broken down, and the contractors are claiming sums in excess of \$100,000 additional from the Province.

So Hon. Herbert Anscomb told the Legislature yesterday, precipitating one of the liveliest debates of the session. The House voted \$100,000 under the heading of continued oil exploration in the Peace River area, and had before it a bill under which the Province proposes to seek authority to lease lands under reserve in the area on a 15 per cent royalty basis, should that course be considered advisable after further geological advice has been taken. No such decision had yet been reached by the Government, Mr. Anscomb said, after reciting the history of a well which ran into unexpected difficulties, with the loss of drilling tools and a change in the anticipated formation. The problem, he pointed out, was one that the present administration had inherited from its predecessor.

ISSUE DEBATED

Former Premier T. D. Pattullo (Lib., Prince Rupert) launched the debate, by stating that he regretted to see that the appropriation had been reduced this year, and asking what the administration intended to do with respect to drilling at Commotion Creek.

As present Minister of Mines, Mr. Anscomb explained that while his personal view was that the Government should not enter into business, the situation now was that the Province was already engaged in drilling for oil. The previous administration had entered into an agreement with the drilling contractors, who were to bore to 7,500 feet at \$22.50 per foot, of which sum \$7.50 per foot was to be retained by the Province until completion of the contract terms. The contractors were not bonded, nor had the bore been completed.

Even if oil had been found, Mr. Anscomb continued, the Province would have had to settle the question of what would be done with it. It was 360 miles from Commotion Creek to tidewater, and eighty miles to the nearest railroad. The Province would either have to sell the oil to the oil companies, or else go into competition in the distributing field, without much hope of success.

FISHED FOR BIT

Difficulties had been encountered in the actual drilling. At first drilling had been easy, 1,000 feet being put down in two days. Deeper, another stage was reached, with a different structure which was very hard, and a bit had been lost in the hole. Considerable time had been spent in fishing for the bit. As the agreement had been made on the assumption that drilling would be

easy in its initial stages, the contractors came to the province, and the administration then in power had advanced \$50,000 for a brief continuation of the work, which was to have included the recovery of the bit. Subsequently the province had advanced a further \$25,000 for new work.

"Today the bore is down 5,577 feet, and it is claimed that the Government owes the contractors a few thousand more. There was only one thing to do. I asked the Dominion for the best geologist it had. We were referred to the oil controller, and eventually secured a geologist. He came to us, and in a few days returned to Ottawa. He had not been on the ground itself, and all he had to go on was what we could show him here. He gave us a report. There was some difficulty in determining what was recommended," Mr. Anscomb said.

"There was a recommendation that we go ahead, but there was also a definite recommendation that we should not go ahead. I asked the geologist to put his report into simpler terms; and it came down to this: The well at present was an inconclusive test. Drilling could be continued, and valuable geological information might be gathered that way. There was talk of triassic river beds, and a good deal of technical detail, which I do not understand. The point was, however, that the test could be made, and that critical information might be obtained within the next 1,000 feet. The recommendation was that we continue the well another 1,000 feet.

NOTHING SETTLED

"I may say," Mr. Anscomb continued, "that the Government has not yet settled anything. We have \$125,000 left unexpended from the vote of this current year. But if it is decided to continue drilling, and if it is decided to make a fresh arrangement with the contractor, we have that money, besides the \$100,000 represented in the present vote. It is one of the most difficult problems before the Government, and the Government will give it very careful consideration.

"There is a bill before the House now in which the Government is asking for discretionary power to lease oil lands, if that is decided; and also to change the present royalty of 2½ cents per barrel, to a straight 15 per cent, at which level it would be greater than elsewhere in Canada," Mr. Anscomb stated.

Mr. Pattullo: Everybody knows that this search has been on for twenty years. Geologists at the U.B.C. made examinations of the whole area over a period of two or

three years. They were favorably impressed, and recommended that we drill. A very large sum has been expended for an inconclusive result. But the money is not wasted. We now have very valuable information. . . . I am satisfied that we will get oil there, and that it will be a very much larger field than the Turner Valley. We talk of public ownership, and here we have a wonderful opportunity. Why shouldn't the people do it? We hear criticism that it is a gamble; but isn't all life a gamble? I say the vote should be considerably larger.

Mr. Pattullo corroborated the facts of the statement made by the Minister of Mines, and then resumed:

Mr. Pattullo: I take objection to the statement made by the former Minister of Mines (W. J. Asselstine) the other night that we had proceeded in a piecemeal fashion. Wouldn't it have been a wonderful thing if we had struck oil before the election? Everybody knows the views of my honorable friend who is now the minister. He is a Tory to the backbone.

COST HAS RISEN

Mr. Anscomb: Well, it is a very broad back. But the point is this, no one knows yet what is there; and my friend is wrong if he thinks that the oil companies are going to fall all over us. If we are able to make some arrangements with the contractor, it would be at a cost of somewhere between \$60 and \$70 a foot, or three times as much as before. I am not saying that the Government will do it.

Dr. Gillies: The Government should take the advice of the experts brought from Ottawa, and continue drilling at least for another 1,000 feet. The Government should prove the field; and then the oil will take care of itself.

Mr. Maitland: The contractors had agreed to go through to 7,500 feet, at \$22.50 per foot. There was provision also, whereby we could step in and use the equipment. But there were no safeguards. The contract was not drawn on the advice of the Attorney-General's Department; but, I am informed, was drawn by the solicitor for the contractors.

Mr. Pattullo: I challenge that. The contract was drawn by the then Attorney-General (G. S. Wismer), and was approved by Dr. J. F. Walker.

Mr. Asselstine: The first contract was presented by the contractors, but it was not accepted. A new contract was drawn.

CONTRACTORS OBJECTED

Mr. Bennett: Is the drilling company willing to complete the original contract?

Mr. Anscomb: No.

Mr. Pattullo: After the drilling got harder, there was some talk of continuing by day labor. It was very hard rock, and bits were only making as little as seven inches. But oil companies elsewhere have spent millions in proving new fields.

Mr. Anscomb: The contractor tells me now that, beyond the \$50,000 and the \$25,000 given by the Province last year, he was assured the Province would pay a considerable sum, which might have been well over \$100,000. The actual cost of recent drilling was \$58 a foot. The contractor won't do it for less. It is true that we could go in and use his equipment; but where would we find drilling crews? It would take a technical crew to do it.

COAL SEAMS ENCOUNTERED

A Member: Were cores taken?
Mr. Asselstine: Yes, regular cores

were taken, and were examined. But a great many coal seams have been encountered; and this coal keeps slumping down in the hole. Coal seams, some eight feet wide, were encountered from 5,000 feet on.

A Member: On what basis would the contractor continue?

Mr. Anscomb: The contractor would continue on two bases. He would take on a cost-plus contract, which is not desirable; or on a rental basis for the use of his equipment at so much per diem, and that might be the more costly of the two.

Mr. Winch: I recognize the difficulty the Minister of Mines is up against. The geologists don't say "yes," and they don't say "no." They say "maybe." The Government should continue the work, but take the advice of geologists.

Mr. Pattullo: The geologists recommend that we proceed 1,000 feet in this hole. Why be quitters? Why not proceed? It would be a marvelous resource to the Province to find oil.

Mr. Guthrie: Are we sure that it won't be handed away before the next session?

Mr. Anscomb: But we haven't got it! Legislation has been brought in which would give the Province the right to lease the land and to take a 15 per cent royalty on the gross amount secured, which is 2½ per cent higher than is taken by any other Provincial Government in Canada. Without that bill we could give it away for 2½ cents per barrel.

Mr. H. Winch: The \$100,000 vote should be passed; and we could leave it to the Government to decide as to how it should be expended.

SUIT ENVISIONED

Mr. Pattullo: The \$125,000 unexpended from last year will expire on March 31. If the Government has not acted by then, the \$100,000 vote will not be enough. And we may be sued by the contractors.

Mr. Paton: Over \$400,000 has been spent on the hole in the last few years.

Mr. R. MacDonald: The whole thing has been a gamble.

Mr. Lebourdais: I would like to see the Government continue with drilling. The Province has put \$400,000 into the hole now; and we should be ready to put in another \$100,000, to prove we have an ace and was approved by Dr. J. F. Walker.

A Member: How long would it take to drill the extra 1,000 feet?

Mr. Asselstine: There is no saying how long it would take.

Mr. Love: Is there oil in the hole or not? We should know before we throw away half a million dollars.

Mr. Anscomb: I would say "not." The debate lapsed, and the House ratified the \$100,000 appropriation for 1942-43, as presented.

MOTOR FEES WILL REMAIN

Third-Party Risk Restored in Accident Cases—Single Licence Plates

While there will be no change in motor licence fees this year, British Columbia motorists will be issued with single car licence plates, and pedestrians accepting a lift will once more be covered by law from acts of gross carelessness on the part of host drivers, the Provincial Government indicated in the Legislature yesterday. A bill to amend the Motor Vehicle Act was introduced by Attorney-General Maitland, and read twice.

Proceeding at the afternoon sitting, the House completed votes in the Mines Department, ratifying an appropriation of \$100,000 for oil exploration in the Peace River area, after an hour's debate, elsewhere reported. Votes in the Departments of Railways, and Trade and Industry were completed, and those in the Department of Labor opened, before the House adjourned at 4:57 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. today.

CONSIDER ESTIMATES

An appropriation of \$20,745 for the Department of Railways was voted, after the Government explained it was not possible to change oil locomotives on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway to coal burners without extensive equipment costs. Former Premier T. D. Pattullo, M.P.P., has resigned from the presidency of the Provincially-owned railway, but the vacancy has not yet been filled. Election fortunes deprived the House of another director, in the person of C. H. Tupper, former Liberal member for Similkameen, who was defeated at the polls.

Passing to the Department of Trade and Industry, the House considered votes aggregating \$213,014. Some objection was taken to sums totaling \$43,325 for the Bureau of Trade Extension, which showed \$11,700 in connection with Provincial representation at Ottawa, as well as sums of \$3,600 for a director, \$2,700 for a trade commissioner, and incidental items. The Ottawa trade mission, it was explained, was conducted by W. Lloyd Craig, from quarters in the Chateau Laurier. Results were being secured, Government spokesmen declared, over the objection of up-country members that Interior manufacturing possibilities had in the past been ignored.

The Province will continue a grant of \$20,000 to lumber trade extension this year, having reduced the amount from \$25,000 in previous years, Hon. Herbert Anscomb explained at another point. Eighteen million cigarettes and 5,000 pounds of tobacco have been forwarded by the Overseas Tobacco Fund to Great Britain through Government channels, the distribution service this year costing the Province \$2,650 for office help and other expenses. Tourist promotion will be continued,

but sums spent heretofore in national advertising are to be eliminated.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Estimates in the Department of Trade and Industry call for \$213,014, compared with \$240,819 last year.

The main votes include: Provincial Travel Bureau, \$123,840; Bureau of Economics and Statistics, \$36,835; Bureau of Trade Extension, \$43,325; general office, \$7,514, and Minister's office, \$1,500.

The Travel Bureau and the Economics Bureau both show a decrease this year; the former from \$146,595 to \$123,840, and the latter from \$41,685 to \$36,835; the Trade Extension Bureau remaining approximately the same, at \$43,325, compared with \$43,425 last year.

All votes in the department were ratified.

ACT TO REMAIN

Passing on to the Department of Labor, the House ran into a debate on union organization and collective bargaining. Hon. G. S. Pearson explained that the Government did not propose to reopen the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act this year.

The statute in its present form was never intended to be a trade union measure, the Minister of Labor contended. It did, however, give employees the right to organize, while not placing the initiative in the hands of executive union officials. The Department of Labor was watching the situation, and would step in where employers declined to bargain with their employees, Mr. Pearson said. This, he added, was not the time for a "showdown."

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Estimates in the Department of Labor call for \$4,022,974, of which, however, \$2,400,000 is the budgeting of unemployment relief. The gross vote compares with \$949,708 last year, when relief was unbudgeted.

The main votes include: Unemployment relief, \$2,400,000; British Columbia's share of old age pensions, with bonus, \$1,476,268; general office, \$87,590; industrial conciliation branch, \$17,120; factories inspection, \$9,030; apprenticeship branch, \$9,190; trade schools regulation branch, \$3,025; safety branch, lumber industry, \$5,620, and Minister's office, \$15,130.

This year a former vote of \$46,070 for the employment service is eliminated in the votes of the department, the Dominion taking over the service.

Debate on the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, held on the Minister's salary vote, took the House to 4:57 p.m., when adjournment followed for the day. At that hour, Premier Hart, leading the House, moved that the committee on ways and means report progress, which it did, leaving the Minister's salary in a state of technical suspension for the moment. The evening sitting was canceled.

FERRY DEAL IS INVESTIGATED

A deal between the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company, Nakusp, and the Department of Public Works, under which the department sold an eleven-year-old Arrow Lakes ferry to the company for \$20 and rented it back at \$8 a day and \$4 an hour for a towing tug while repairs were being made to another craft, occupied the attention of the public accounts committee of the Legislature yesterday.

Captain C. S. Leary, former Minister of Public Works, said that his Big Bend Cedar Pole Company spent between \$400 and \$500 in repairing the ferry and that when the company bought it he had no idea that the department would later require to lease it.

ONLY ONE TENDER

After condemning the ferry because dry rot had set in and it was too small for service, the department advertised it for sale, the only tender received being that of the pole company. J. W. Armstrong, mechanical superintendent for the Department of Public Works, admitted that the craft could have been kept for emergencies for service of short duration.

Hon. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, told the committee that all purchases of new cars would be made through him, adding that his department was run as economically as possible and that no purchases were made without his authority.

A. N. Wolverton, J. B. Woodworth, C. S. Arnold and A. E. Jukes, all of Vancouver, told the Legislature's mining committee yesterday that the Securities Act possessed too many dictatorial powers.

Mr. Jukes said that the act was putting the mining industry into the hands of the larger companies and suggested that it should be repealed and a workable measure substituted for it. Harold Lakes, Nelson, president of the Chamber of Mines of Eastern British Columbia, said that if obstacles were placed in the way, Nelson would pass out of the picture as a mining centre.

A. N. Wolverton, president of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, felt that the provisions of the Criminal Code would meet any situation arising from the wrongdoing of brokers, and Mr. Arnold said he would like to see the Securities Act abolished. Sidney Norman, mining journalist, remarked: "If you want to protect morons, and there are plenty of them around, keep the act, make it tighter, and kill mining."

B.C. HOUSING IS VALIDATED

Legislature Adjourns for Fifth Week-End Recess—Prorogation Near

Wartime housing contracts already entered into between British Columbia municipalities and War-time Housing, Ltd., will be validated by amendments in the Municipal Act, and municipalities given authority to enter into fresh contracts, it was explained yesterday in the British Columbia Legislature. In the same measure, cities are being given power to set up reserves for works, equipment and depreciation; and leave to enter group insurance agreements on municipal risks of any nature.

Sitting in double periods, the House last night adjourned for its fifth week-end recess, with prorogation expected by Wednesday.

By definition in amendments to the Trades School Regulation Act, the Province is taking authority to include schools of accountancy, commercial and industrial art, advertising, business management, general and specialized manufacturing, mechanical dentistry, laboratory attendants and technicians, pharmacy, photography, personal service, chiropody, radio, electrical, therapeutics, salesmanship, journalism, story-writing, home and nursery service in the list of regulated schools of trade.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

The debate on old age pensions flared up again, with much of the former ground covered. Mrs. Grace MacInnis urged that in the new administration of the act the Province return to what she said was the spirit of the legislation passed at Ottawa in 1927. Mr. Pearson replied that besides the act there were Federal regulations, which could not be changed without the consent of the Dominion and other provinces.

Hon. H. G. Perry read the estimates before the House. They showed that some \$4,216,306 will be paid to old age pensioners in British Columbia this year; \$2,588,676 by the Dominion, \$1,476,268 by the Province, and \$151,362 in collections from other provinces, exclusive of administration charges. The Province, paying \$764,739 already, was adding \$711,529 to bring pensions up to \$25 a month, Mr. Perry commented. In addition, the Province had assumed Federal and provincial costs on relief totaling \$2,400,000 in the estimates, and could not be expected to do more at this time.

T. D. Pattullo reminded the House that old age pensions of \$20 a month had been a grant in alleviation only, and were not intended to be a full means of support. If the Province was not ceding \$5,000,000 in income and corporation taxes to the Dominion, it might have had more money, he declared. The Dominion should take over old age pensions completely, Mr. Pattullo asserted.

The debate lapsed, and the House ratified the last vote in the Department of Labor, after three straight sittings on Labor appropriations. At 11:05 p.m. the Committee on Ways and Means rose to report "progress."

CHANGE TEACHERS' SCHEME

Two message bills were introduced by Hon. G. S. Pearson: one to amend the Teachers' Pension Act, and the other to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act. Mr. Pearson explained that changes in the teachers' pensions measure would substitute flat-rate contributions by teachers into the fund; at \$3 monthly up to \$100 of salary; at \$4 monthly on \$125; and \$5 monthly on salaries of \$150; and in like proportion up to \$25 on salaries exceeding \$500 monthly.

Changes in the Civil Service statute refer to employees transferred to the Dominion as a wartime need, and make adjustments in that connection. Both bills were read a first time. The House rose at 11:12 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday.

Committee Meeting — The social welfare committee of the Legislature will meet again on Monday at 9 a.m., according to notice posted yesterday in the lobbies of the House. Committee work as a whole is winding up, with prorogation expected towards the middle of next week.

CITIES GET NEW POWERS

Government Introduces Enabling Measure Dealing With Raid Emergencies

British Columbia's seventy-eight municipalities will be authorized to take whatever steps are necessary for civilian protection and disaster relief by a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. A. W. Gray.

The enabling measure gives specific powers to put into operation any plan of air raid precautions, civilian protection or disaster relief; to make money grants in that connection; to use civic employees in any capacity necessary; to purchase fire, demolition or other equipment necessary against attack; to use all city property as occasion demands; to demolish private buildings rendered unsafe through enemy action, and to spend whatever money may be required for these purposes.

The bill was read once at the afternoon sitting; when thirty-one measures were handled. The House enacted amendments to the Old Age Pension, Local Improvement, Land, Probates Recognition, Poll Tax, Fisheries, Evidence and Dying Assessments Adjustment Acts, and a bill to provide for the superannuation of a former provincial employee. Second readings followed for amendments to the Water, Apprenticeship, Trade Schools Regulation, Vancouver Enabling, Village Municipalities, Municipal Aged Men's, Home, Mental Hospitals and Motor Vehicle Acts.

OTHER MEASURES

The steel bounties measures was reworded, without substantive change, in committee stages. Forest Act amendments were changed to eliminate five-year permits for log exports originally proposed, and the bill approved with that change.

It was explained that under the Vancouver Enabling Act amendments, Vancouver will be empowered to make a grant of \$200,000 to the new wing of the Vancouver General Hospital, the sum to be matched by the Government; with some suggestion that both grants may be increased. Under the Apprenticeship Act, provision is made for the indenture of apprentices at the age of fifteen, one year earlier than at present.

Nine new measures were introduced, including the municipal enabling measure, dealing with raid precautions. These included amendments to the Taxation Bill already before the House and to the Animals Administration, Game, Court Rules of Practice, Shops Regulation Acts; as well as Opposition measures to amend the University, and Hours of Work Acts. Hon. G. S. Pearson withdrew bills to amend the Registered Nurses, and Weekly Half-Holiday Acts. First readings followed, with the explanations to come later.

DEBATE LABOR LAW

The House went into Committee on Ways and Means, but was deadlocked again on votes in the Labor Department. After an hour's debate, the House ratified the Minister's salary, and the committee rose to report progress for the sitting.

In the debate, the Opposition pressed for amendment to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to place a time limit within which employers must meet

their employees in labor negotiations. Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Liberal, Victoria) supported the request, but the Minister of Labor reiterated that the act would not be reopened at this session.

British Columbia is handing over placement services to the Dominion; but plans to retain trained officials displaced in the move, it was said at another point. Civil Service appointments were again questioned, and Mr. Pearson explained that while the Civil Service Commissioner nominally made the appointments, the actual appointments were made by the ministers concerned. The Civil Service Act should be followed or repealed, Grant McNeil (C.C.F., Burrard) contended.

Mrs. Steeves (C.C.F., North Vancouver) invited the Government to take over all unemployable relief cases in the province; to wind up relief, and place welfare divisions in charge of this work. The House recessed at 5:10 p.m., until 8:30 p.m.

Province Will Waive Levy Upon Iron Ores Used Inside Borders

First Session of Twentieth Legislature Closing Programme This Week, With Prorogation on or About Wednesday—Legislation Light

BY an amendment to the Taxation Act introduced in the Legislature last week, the Provincial Government are moving to give additional inducement to the manufacture of iron ores into steel within British Columbia by waiving the existing levy on production of iron ores. This, it was explained yesterday at the Legislative Buildings, will suspend a levy of 17½ cents per ton of ore mined, where the raw material is smelted within the Province.

The measure, it was explained by Hon. Herbert Anscomb, meshes with amendments to the Iron and Steel Bounties Act, under which the Province renews provision for a \$2,000,000 bonus to a competent steel industry within the Province, over a period of ten years; the bonus not to exceed \$200,000 in any one year, and applying to the production of steel billets from native iron ores.

Both measures are regarded as anticipatory to action that may arise as a result of the Provincial investigation into steel milling possibilities in British Columbia. A coast smelter, and steel fabricating plant have long been desired; though heretofore not even the \$2,000,000 statutory offer had been taken up.

PROROGATION NEAR

Adjourning on Friday night for its fifth week-end recess, the Twentieth Legislature is expected to complete its first session at mid-week; with prorogation unofficially expected on or about Wednesday. The main Dominion-Provincial agreement measure is expected in the House shortly, and will be the chief legislation of the session. Estimates revision is expected to continue at night, until completed, about \$20,000,000 of the \$33,000,000 budget having already been voted.

Approximately fifty bills are proceeding before the House, being mostly of a routine character. Amendments to the Municipal Act bring the question of reserves before the House; municipalities being given power to lay aside surplus receipts, and a portion of the tax levy, for the building up of reserve accounts for future public works and equipment replacements. Municipalities will also be given authority to increase their assessment on poll lines from \$200 to \$400 a mile in large centres, and from \$125 to \$200 in communities of less than \$10,000 people.

Wartime legislation has included an extended moratorium on servicemen's homes and farms; exemption for ex-servicemen from provincial polls taxes; security against judgment creditors during the duration of the conflict, and other bills dealing with wills' probations, and the settlement of the estates of those killed in action. Municipal authority to take any step necessary for effective air raid precautions was contained in a bill introduced in the House on Friday, and providing autonomy on the subject within municipal boundaries.

So far there have been only two divisions in the month-old session, in both of which the Coalition Government was sustained by overwhelming majorities.

PROBLEM FACED BY PENSIONERS

Elderly People Have Trouble Finding Homes, Social Welfare Committee Told

Many elderly people receiving old-age pensions have been unable to find living quarters of their own, yet they face the fact that institutional care is not available to them because of lack of accommodation, Dr. George Davidson, provincial director of welfare, told the Legislature's social welfare committee Friday.

Dr. Davidson added that he believed all welfare cases to be much better off in their own homes than in institutions. "We were all born to live in a natural family environment," he said, "and as long as we can leave cases in such an environment there is no problem or readjustment to be faced."

In reply to a question from Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Liberal, Victoria), Dr. Davidson said he considered feasible some sort of cottage plan to look after elderly couples. This would obviate the separation of men and women. Foster homes, he told the committee, would not be as expensive to operate as institutions.

WOULD RETAIN ACT

Differing from those brokers and mining men who said at a previous sitting that they favored amending the Securities Act, C. S. Henley, Victoria, yesterday told the mining committee of the Legislature that the act was "a great blessing" for the broker carrying on legitimate business, and that he had never heard any complaints from the public about its operation.

Reminded by T. A. Love (Conservative, Grand Forks-Greenwood) of the testimony of previous witnesses, Mr. Henley replied: "I would be more inclined to look over the records of the mines they have promoted. I do not say these men are not absolutely sincere, but the act should be left where it is for the protection of the public. Mining engineers, from my own experience, are very visionary."

He declared that 90 per cent of those who put money into mines lose it, and are therefore entitled to any protection the Government can give them. Mr. Henley attributed lack of interest in mining at present to the fact that the public is now more concerned with helping the Government financially to fight the war.

Frank Putnam (Liberal, Nelson-Creston) and Colin Cameron (C.C.F., Comox) said the public wanted to be sure its money went to develop the mines in which it was interested. Former Attorney-General Gordon Wismer said the development of mining in British Columbia depended upon the public's receiving adequate protection. Col. Eric Pepper, deputy attorney-general, was also heard by the committee.

Committees Meeting—Committees of the Legislature are expected to wind up their work early this week, with prorogation expected about Wednesday. Committees listed for tomorrow include social welfare, 9 a.m.; public accounts, 9:30 a.m., and mining, 10 a.m.

Opposition to the In- and Arbitration time limit must meet for negotia- ges (Liberal, request, but iterated that reopened at

handling over the Dominion; fined officials

it was said Service ap- questioned, plained that ce Commis- the appoint- ments were s concerned, should be fol- rant McNeil ned.

North Van- government to loyable relief to wind up are divisions . The House until 8:30 p.m.

Premier John Hart Presents Dominion Agreement in House

B.C. Government Propose Blanket Suspension of Interlocking Tax Laws to Give Right of Way to Federal Pact—Postwar Rehabilitation Council

PREMIER John Hart introduced the Dominion-Provincial Agreement Bill in the British Columbia Legislature yesterday, the measure under which the Province will forego income, corporation and fishery levies for the duration of the war, in return for \$12,048,367 in a fixed subvention, a guarantee of \$3,763,625 in net gasoline tax receipts, and certain other levies not affected by the agreement. The bill, which contains the text of the Dominion-Provincial agreement, embodies a blanket suspension of all Provincial statutes which would be inconsistent with its terms. First reading followed.

Numbers of Provincial statutes, directly or indirectly affected by the pact, will be left as they are at this session, the covering law giving the Province full authority to waive collection of income, corporation and other levies affected by the agreement, and also power to take any step necessary for the carrying out of the pact. Copies of the actual agreement itself have been in the hands of the members for several weeks, the bill superimposing enabling powers to carry out the pact, and listing statutes which will be affected by the transfer of revenue sources to the Dominion.

EXPLAINED IN BUDGET

The main terms of the agreement were set out in the budget at the opening weeks of the session. British Columbia is to forego the interim subsidy of \$750,000, but will be assured of a fixed return of \$12,048,367 yearly under income and corporation tax rebates, as well as the guaranteed sum to be derived from the gasoline tax. In addition, the Province will have its other and normal means of receipts and revenues outside the scope of the agreement.

Premier Hart also introduced the Postwar Rehabilitation Bill, the measure under which the Government propose to set up a permanent postwar committee to deal with rehabilitation problems when victory has been achieved. The measure provides for the creation of a postwar rehabilitation council of not more than twelve members, under a chairman; the council to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and to hold office at the Province's pleasure. The chairman and members of the council could be paid, or voluntary, at the discretion of the Province.

BROAD AUTHORITY

The duties of the postwar rehabilitation council are set out in sixteen sub-sections with broad powers to inquire and plan for the actual conditions likely to be faced upon demobilization of large numbers of men now with the armed services, and also to survey what may be expected in the postwar realignment of civilian occupations and industry. The council would have the powers of a commissioner under the Public Inquiries Act and would be directly responsible to a minister to be designated. Provision is made for whatever staff may be necessary, with expenses to be borne by the Province out of consolidated revenue.

The Postwar Rehabilitation Bill, implementing the Government's pledge earlier in the session, was read once at the afternoon sitting.

OTHER LEGISLATION

Proceeding on bills, the House gave third reading and enactment to measures to amend the Iron and Steel Bounties, Forest, Taxation, Public Libraries, Divorce, Water, Apprenticeship, Trade Schools Regulation, Aged Men's Home and Motor Vehicle Acts, and second reading to bills to amend the Fire Marshals, Provincial Museum, Animals, Administration, Shops Regulation, Teachers' Pension and Civil Service Superannuation Acts, as well as to the new Municipal Civilian Protection Measure.

The Government withdrew amendments to the Game Act which would have set up a scheme of licence tagging for beaver pelts, and the House completed amendments to the Mental Hospital Act after minor changes in wording dealing with the discharge of mental patients.

Restoration of third-party protection to the Motor Vehicle Act was supported by Harold E. Winch, leader of the official Opposition, but opposed by Mrs. D. G. Steeves and Colin Cameron of the same group. The C.C.F. also had some independence of thought, Mr. Winch commented.

AIR RAID BILL

Hon. A. W. Gray explained the Municipal Civilian Protection measure as a means of allowing municipalities to act quickly on whatever was necessary in air raid precautions services.

Hon. G. S. Pearson explained teachers' pensions contributions were being placed on a flat rate basis per unit of salary without substantive change in the actuarial basis of the scheme. Changes in the Civil Service pension plan deal with employees transferred to the Dominion service without varying that scheme. Changes in the Shops Regulation Act will limit the time that customers may stay in stores after the official closing hours. Amendments to the Animals Act provide for a committee to study range improvement and control. Amendments to the Administration Act would delete from existing law claims for damages based on the "joy of living" in accidental deaths, though preserving the right of action on other grounds by estates after the death of the aggrieved. Changes proposed in other statutes were of a technical or routine character.

The House passed into Committee on Ways and Means before rising at 5:50 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Legislature Speeds Estimates Revision In Double Sittings

Upwards of \$20,000,000 of Annual Outlays Are Ratified as House Adjourns for the Day—Libraries to Be Transferred in Service

PROCEEDING on estimates in double sittings yesterday, the British Columbia Legislature ratified up to some \$20,000,000 of the total appropriations for the fiscal year opening on April 1 next. Estimates in the Provincial Secretary's Department were opened in the afternoon, the House resuming as a committee on ways and means at night, with Flight Lieutenant E. V. Finland in the chair.

It was brought out in discussion that libraries under British Columbia control are being transferred to the Department of Education from that of the Provincial Secretary.

C.C.F. members, under Harold E. Winch, leader of the official Opposition, called for an investigation into the operations of drug stores; which, they said, had progressively taken over the functions of departmental stores. Stricter regulation under the Pharmacy Act was proposed, with a review of working conditions of apprentices in the calling.

SUPERANNUATIONS

At another point, the Opposition pressed for the retirement of men and women in the provincial service at superannuation ages. Government benches pointed out that in some instances civil servants with unique qualifications would be lost in that way, at a time when replacements were more difficult. Provincial health and welfare services came in for praise, including work in preventive medicine along several different lines.

Through Hon. G. S. Pearson, the Government promised to take under advisement during the year the question of extending mothers' allowances to cover dependent children up to eighteen years of age. Lack of accommodation at several provincial institutions was canvassed in a broad and non-partisan debate.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Estimates in the Department of the Provincial Secretary call for \$5,636,261, compared with \$5,342,967 last year.

The main votes include: Hospitals, \$1,291,990; mental hospitals, \$1,217,184; civil service superannuation, \$460,000; tuberculosis division, \$619,011; board of health, general, \$163,002; laboratories division, \$50,675; vital statistics division, \$43,525; venereal disease control, \$82,156; Provincial Home, Kamloops, \$31,400; general office, \$17,112; libraries, \$51,580; Provincial Museum, \$12,760; civil service commission, \$24,085; administration of Pensions Acts, \$39,195; King's Printer, token vote, \$10; Government House, \$7,645; Workmen's Compensation Act, \$85,000; canteen fund grant, \$10,000; contingencies, \$7,000; health and welfare, administration, \$90,625; collections, \$6,060; welfare branch, \$21,777; indigent care, \$40,000; indigent burials, \$10,000; child welfare branch, \$174,750; industrial schools, \$78,500; infirmaries, \$80,694; Aged Men's Home, \$53,424; special health and welfare services, \$10,580; grants to resident physicians, \$18,000; charitable grants, \$44,460; health insurance, \$10,000; mothers' allowances, \$775,000; and minister's office, \$3,350.

Statutory grants under the Mothers' Allowances Act are shown at \$775,000 this year, compared with \$830,000 last year. Charitable grants include: Canadian National Institute for the Blind, \$2,000; Junior Red Cross, \$400; Salvation Army Home, \$1,500; Victorian Order of Nurses, \$2,700; Y.W.C.A., \$1,400; W.C.T.U., \$1,360; and contingencies, \$3,000. Of the total vote in the department, \$780,200 is fixed by statute.

AT EVENING SITTING

Resuming after the supper recess, the House completed votes in the Provincial Secretary's Department. The C.C.F. Opposition appeared with red favors in their lapels to celebrate the election of a C.C.F. candidate at South York, and there were brief exchanges over the floor of the House.

In discussion, Hon. G. S. Pearson stated that the Government planned to make a survey of the civil service this year to see what reorganization would be necessary. Last year 121 permanent employees had been taken on, and 477 temporary employees, exclusive of day labor. In the same year forty-four civil servants had been granted leave of absence to join the colors.

ONE-MAN BOARD

A vote of \$10,000 for continuation of study in health insurance drew fire. Mr. Pearson explained that Dr. W. T. Barrett, chairman of the health insurance board and now its sole member, was engaged on a two-year contract, at \$5,500 per annum. With the chairman were two assistants in office positions. The board was drawing simplified plans for health insurance, Mr. Pearson said.

Speaking at another point, the Provincial Secretary said the Government proposed to go ahead with additional building at the Boys' Industrial School to relieve congestion.

Mrs. Steeves urged the Province, to take over control of administration of relief for the blind, who, she said, did not receive pensions until they reached the age of forty. The Public Utilities Commission was again challenged, and R. C. MacDonald repeated his proposal that the Province abolish the commission and restore the original water board.

The House passed on, to vote \$21,440 for the Department of Fisheries.

PUBLIC WORKS

The House passed on to estimates in the Public Works Department, completing them.

Estimates in the Public Works Department call for \$3,165,180, compared with \$3,163,129 last year.

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Committes winding with fina to report Accounts at 9:30 a.

Legislature Closes Estimates Revision In Double Sittings

Sums Totaling \$34,146,126 Approved by Committee on Ways and Means—Post-War Planning Council Will Be Effort to Study Rehabilitation

DRIVING in double sittings yesterday, the British Columbia Legislature ratified the last of the votes in the book of estimates, handled twenty bills in various stages of completion, and brought prorogation, now mentioned for Thursday, within measurable distance. Sums totaling \$34,146,126 were ratified by the House in committee, including \$33,094,292 in estimated outlays for the coming year, \$806,970 to balance expenditures in the year closing and \$245,764 in accounts outstanding in 1940-41.

In the supplementary estimates for the current year were items of \$50,000 for the Provincial grant to air raid precautions services, \$40,000 for storm damage in the early part of the year, \$270,000 in payments to farmers who worked out their taxes, \$100,000 for immediate bridge replacements, and other sums for other purposes.

ESTIMATES COMPLETED

With Flight Lieutenant E. V. Finland and R. H. Carson, alternately, in the chair, the House completed in committee the ratification of all budgeted appropriations, ending with those in the Departments of Lands, Finance, Municipal Affairs, and supplementary votes.

Discussion on lands votes was light: Colin Cameron asked the Province to guard the green timber approaches to Strathcona Park, and suggested a scheme of experimental logging tests that could be carried out by the Forestry Service to determine the value of block and strip logging. Flight Lieutenant E. H. Eyres suggested the use of demolition bombs from the air to blow out incipient forest fires. H. W. Herdridge praised Provincial help in establishing Nakusp Hot Springs Park, developing now into a fine asset. Hon. A. W. Gray told of reforestation efforts, already discussed in committee.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

Estimates in the Department of Lands call for \$1,646,610, compared with \$1,595,034 last year.

The main votes include: Forest protection fund, \$500,000; departmental salaries, \$474,087; miscellaneous votes, \$296,275; departmental expenses, \$213,300; under Forest Act, \$79,500; under Grazing Act, \$8,333; war service, temporary assistance, \$40,000; Land Settlement Board, \$16,470; temporary assistance otherwise, \$6,000, and Minister's office, \$12,645.

The miscellaneous votes include: Grant to Canadian Forestry Association, \$4,000; timber surveys, \$10,000; forest research, \$14,000; reforestation and forest nurseries, \$120,000; Provincial parks, \$20,000; water surveys, \$30,000; hydrometric service, \$5,000; under Soldiers' Land Act, \$37,500; surveys and maps, \$52,500; with smaller sums for other purposes, \$1,000 for advertising and \$1,275 for contingencies.

Passing to votes in the Finance Department, the House ratified those. The services of Agent-General W. A. McAdam, as wartime British Columbia representative in London, England, were warmly

praised. A grant of \$9,600 to Rossland, in lieu of mineral taxes collected within municipal bounds, was ratified, though the sum may be revised next year as such receipts have fallen, it was explained by Premier Hart.

FINANCE

Estimates in the Department of Finance call for \$1,954,251, compared with \$2,076,996 last year.

The main votes include: Government agents and assessors, \$599,615; motor vehicles' grant to municipalities, \$570,000; civil service superannuation, \$360,000; controlling and audit branch, \$86,200; taxation branch, \$99,686; general office, \$37,740; probate and succession duties branch, \$22,550; British Columbia agency in London, \$32,650; postal branch, \$59,830; Libraries Act, \$7,000; Coal and Petroleum Board, \$12,000; Minister's office, \$8,080, and miscellaneous votes, \$58,900.

Under miscellaneous votes are included: Printing, \$8,000; interest on special deposits, \$2,500; delinquent extra-municipal school taxes, \$25,000; grant to Greenwood, \$800; grant to Rossland, \$9,600; with \$13,000 for contingencies.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

In the Department of Municipal Affairs, the House retraced covered ground. It was again said that Burnaby would return to an elected council next year, if the ratepayers wish to do so. North Vancouver housing was briefly under fire, both attacked and defended over the same grounds as before. The death of a ferryman shortly after a public ferry docked led to a proposal that municipal ferries should be equipped with three-man crews, or else automatic safety devices.

E. T. Kenney urged that village municipalities with receipts of less than \$7,500 yearly be relieved of the cost of hospital per diem charges at 70 cents a patient day. The Province, he submitted, should absorb these costs in less prosperous rural centres.

Air raid precautions were again in debate, and it was again explained from the Government side that negotiations with Ottawa are proceeding satisfactorily. Vancouver City's A.R.P. budget is now at Ottawa, while those of other areas will be forwarded, Attorney-General Maitland explained. The Attorney-General agreed to look into what steps are being taken in company towns. It was largely a question of equipment now, he added. Colonel R. J. Manion had been very helpful, and most of the initial difficulties had been, or were in process of being, worked out.

LEGISLATION

Its budget completed, save for formalities, the House proceeded on legislation. Third reading and enactment followed for bills to amend the Mental Hospitals, Fire Marshal's, Provincial Museum, Animals, Administration, Municipal A.R.P. (new), Shops Regulation, Teachers' Pensions, and Civil Service Superannuation Acts.

Amendments to the Vancouver Enabling, Taxation, Village Municipalities, and Municipal Acts were completed in committee with minor changes. Under the Vancouver Enabling Act, a proposed municipal grant to the Vancouver General Hospital was raised to \$275,000 from \$200,000; the council being authorized to borrow that sum without by-law vote. The Government, it was said earlier in the House, will match the grant up to \$200,000.

Second readings followed for the Postwar Rehabilitation Council Bill, and measures to amend the Court Rules of Practice, Interpretation, Truck and Insurance Acts; with brief explanations from the Government side.

POSTWAR COUNCIL

Piloting the Postwar Rehabilitation Council measure, Premier John Hart stated it was the intention of the Government to carry out the full measure of British Columbia's responsibilities in that regard. The Province would co-operate with the Dominion, acting along the same lines; and would itself take every means of surveying the situation that will be met after the war is over.

Land settlement schemes of the past had been sincere but hurried, and not too successful. It was hoped in the future to avoid similar mistakes; and that where settlement was proposed, it would be guided and given better means of succeeding. The Postwar Rehabilitation Council would be set up, and would report back to the Legislature at the next session, Premier Hart announced.

Opposition support for the bill was signalled by Harold E. Winch, leader of the C.C.F. group in the House.

The House recessed at 6:02 p.m., until 8:30 p.m.

The main votes include, maintenance vote for roads, bridges, ferries and wharves, \$2,119,570; repairs and upkeep to Provincial Buildings, \$427,634; administration, \$334,243; maintenance of Legislative Buildings and grounds, \$191,360; maintenance at Government House, \$27,300; highways within municipal areas, \$30,000; electrical energy inspection, \$18,842; highway signs, \$1,350; grant to Dewdney Diking Commission, \$2,500; steam boiler inspection, token vote, \$1; and minister's office, \$12,300.

DISTRICT ROAD VOTE

The district road vote is detailed as follows:

Alberni, \$22,000; Atlin, \$18,000; Burnaby, \$10,000; Caribo, \$63,000; Chilliwack, \$28,000; Columbia, \$30,000; Comox, \$34,000; Cowichan-Newcastle, \$30,000; Cranbrook, \$25,000; Delta, \$25,000; Dewdney, \$37,500; Esquimalt, \$33,000; Fernie, \$23,000; Fort George, \$42,000; Grand Forks-Greenwood, \$36,000; Kamloops, \$41,000; Kaslo-Slocan, \$34,000; Lillooet, \$35,000; Mackenzie, \$21,000; Nanaimo and The Islands, \$25,000; Nelson-Creston, \$45,000; New Westminster, \$4,000; North Okanagan, \$31,000; North Vancouver, \$3,500; Omineca, \$45,000; Peace River, \$30,000; Prince Rupert, \$15,000; Revelstoke, \$29,000; Rossland-Trail, \$18,000; Saanich, \$21,000; Salmon Arm, \$29,000; Similkameen, \$33,000; Skeena, \$29,000; South Okanagan, \$30,000; Vancouver-Point Grey, \$5,000; Yale, \$25,000. Total, \$1,005,000.

Supervision, \$57,610; ferries, \$300,000; bridges, \$490,000; location of roads, \$30,000; snow removal, \$65,000; machinery, \$73,000; Prince Rupert wharf, \$9,000; contingencies, \$79,960; municipal roads (classified), \$10,000. Gross total, \$2,119,570.

The annual debate on district road votes opened, and lasted for an hour. Hon. Herbert Anscomb, acting Minister of Public Works in the absence of Hon. R. W. Bruhn, explained that the Government proposed to consult with the new committee of departmental engineers in the working out of a definite road plan for this year. No capital outlays on roads had yet been decided on, Premier Hart replied to questions at another point.

The House opened votes in the Lands Department, with Hon. A. W. Gray, and passed the minister's salary; before rising to report progress for the day.

Three new bills were introduced by Attorney-General Maitland, as the House adjourned at 11:51 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. today. One measure provides that the Province will follow whatever arrangements are made by the Dominion on daylight saving time. Another exempts war risks in certain classes of insurance contracts. The third adds four words to the Truck Act. All three were read a first time.

Sessional Photograph—Members of the Twentieth Legislature will assemble in front of the main steps of the Legislative Buildings today at 2:15 p.m., for the annual group photograph of the House, party whips announced yesterday.

Committees Ending—Several committees of the Legislature were winding up their work yesterday, with final meetings in camera prior to report in the House. The Public Accounts Committee will meet today at 9:30 a.m., it was announced.

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AGREEMENT IS APPROVED

Dominion Pact Given Second Reading by Members of Legislature Here

Sitting into the small hours of this morning, the British Columbia Legislature approved of the Dominion-Provincial agreement in principle at its evening sitting; giving second reading to the measure unanimously, after a brief debate. The Peace River oil lands lease and royalty measure passed second reading on a division of 30 to 16, T. D. Pattullo voting with the Opposition. Victoria City's bill was read a third time and enacted. The measure under which the Province will set up a Postwar Rehabilitation Board was completed in committee, without substantial change.

Premier John Hart explained that the Government proposed to set up an initial Postwar Rehabilitation Board shortly; composed of seven members of the Legislature, who will serve voluntarily, except for out-of-pocket expenses. To this later will be added other members. Places on the board are to be found for two members representing the Opposition, Mr. Hart said. The name of the body was changed to board, the word council conflicting with what may be done at Ottawa.

The main bill of the session, the Dominion-Provincial agreement, was approved in principle with little debate. Premier Hart explained that the measure embodied the text of the agreement already before the House; and under which the Province will turn over income and corporation levies to the Dominion for the duration of the war, in return for a fixed grant of \$12,048,367 and other exchanges.

Former Premier T. D. Pattullo made the point that the Province was agreeing to the pegging of its revenues, whereas in his opinion British Columbia should not surrender what he termed "participation" in the income tax as collected from year to year by the Dominion. He voted for the measure, however, after the House returned from an incursion into the findings of the Rowell-Sirois report.

The oil lease measure drew renewed debate, Mr. Pattullo, joined by Opposition benches, forcing the issue to a division on second reading. The bill was approved in principle by thirty to sixteen, coalition groups supporting the measure, with the C.C.F. Labor, and Mr. Pattullo against it. No fresh point was brought out in the debate, the Government reiterating that oil had not been found, and that the Province did not have money enough to prove the field on its own initiative. The bill, it was said, gave the Government discretionary powers to deal with the case when a maturer decision could be reached.

OTHER LEGISLATION

Pressing on with other legislation, the House enacted bills to amend the Village Municipalities, Taxation, Vancouver Enabling, Municipal, Interpretation, Truck, Insurance and Victoria City Acts, and completed the Court Rules of Practice Bill in committee. The last-named measure legalized by statute awards of alimony in divorce cases, resting before on court decisions.

Turning to Opposition measures, the Government pressed on past midnight and into the early morning hours. Old-time debates on company towns, logging juries and

several other points to which the C.C.F. had previously spoken were revived; as, one by one the House voted down these measures on successive divisions. W. W. Lefebvre, who brought in a bill to escheat unclaimed money deposits left with corporations, had his proposal commended from the Government side, though the measure itself was defeated.

The sitting lengthened, with responses on both sides. At midnight, Samuel Guthrie was pressing for loggers and miners on accident juries. At 12:15 a.m., Colin Cameron was speaking to autocratic methods adopted at some company towns. Fifteen minutes later, the House reached an Opposition measure to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and the filibuster was on in earnest.

FOLLOW ADVICE OF FORESTERS

C.C.F. Members of Legislative Committee Attack Construction of Bridge

Before calling for tenders from mills in the districts where Government work is to be carried out, F. H. Harrison, chief purchasing agent for the Province, receives advice from the forestry service, he told the public accounts committee of the Legislature yesterday.

Under the policy previously in effect, local officials of the Department of Public Works provided information on the location of mills.

Though its tender was \$200 higher than that submitted by the Alberta Lumber Company, Vancouver, the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company, with which Capt. C. S. Leary, former Minister of Public Works, is associated, supplied timber for the Marblehead Bridge over the Lardeau River.

EXPRESS DIFFERING VIEWS

C.C.F. members of the committee attacked the erection of the bridge as being unjustified, and said that there had been petitions against it. Captain Leary, in reply, read a letter written in 1931 by the Conservative Association of Kalso, urging that the bridge be built.

Purchasing Agent Harrison said the \$200 spread was not great, and that it was not unusual to give preference to a bidder closer to the project to be built if the spread was not excessive.

Asked by members of the committee if he had authorized the building of the bridge, Arthur Dixon, deputy Minister of Public Works, replied: "I'm purely a subordinate official of the Government. I only do as I'm told."

Mr. Dixon added that once the Government decided to build a bridge he furnished advice on the proper site for it. However, he himself had not seen the site for the Marblehead Bridge, though Public Works Departmental engineers had inspected it. Captain Leary then said he had decided that the bridge should be built.

Note and Comment

By SANDHAM GRAVES

Prorogation of the first session of the Twentieth Legislature of British Columbia is near. Presently the sum human, which is ever greater than its parts—distinguishing men from geometry—is about to break up. Forty-eight Members will return to their homes, in forty-eight different moods; but they will share something in common, something that was born of association over a five-week period. You would have to share that experience to understand it. You would have to study the living, breathing sum of these human parts to appreciate that what men build is always a little greater than themselves; something that is at one with the march of all mankind, towards freedom.

The Marble Clock, which has seen many sessions and a number of different Legislatures, would know what I mean. There is a point at which men—however diverse in their ways—think in common. That is valuable thinking, strained of its immediate and psychological prejudices. It is the best part of our free institution of parliament; the place where men, and women, can meet and disagree. After disagreement has ranged its course, human minds work around to the other side of the same problems, and there they find much upon which to agree. It is this agreement, all the facts known and weighed, that is the essence of the great human sum that is a parliament; and one that the Marble Clock would defend against all comers.

The Twentieth Legislature of British Columbia is going to be a good parliament. Already it has shown clearly developed lines of vigor, independence of thought, patience, a willingness to listen, and a capacity to learn. These are the qualities that guard and protect freedom. Many may build on such a foundation, to the heights. Dealing with the sum, dealing with that which cannot exist in a single individual, it is neither wise nor necessary to refer to any of its parts. The Twentieth Legislature in sum, then, has a serious, sober purpose; its heart is in the right place and its wits are working to some advantage. It will be strange indeed if some of the problems are not solved, and ably solved, during its term of office.

By indirection, no doubt, the Legislature reflects the country it represents. That is the same broad land, with mighty rivers flowing into three oceans; with a rock-ribbed mountain backbone that will not soon fall apart; with fertile valleys favored by the best that Nature has to offer; with forest cover still unique among the nations of the world. But it is a great empty land; where roads, schools, hospitals, and all the services that human beings require, have had to be added sparingly, and almost one at a time. It is, too, the land of hope; nor will you find defeatism in the sum that is the Twentieth Legislature. Particularly from the frontiers of our province that message comes, ringing and clear. The West is pioneering still; with faith, with vision and with human skill.

Do not be confused by the storms and cross-currents on the surface. The river of freedom is flowing, deep and wide. There is that in men's hearts which is carrying them forward, not back to the unregretted past. Mistakes there have been, and mistakes there always will be with human agencies; but it is wrong to think that man does not profit from his errors. He does. In a different age, and in a very different mood, the Twentieth Legislature is a worthy successor to the long chain of parliaments in this province. In spirit, it is more closely allied to the first Assemblies of Crown Colony days; ready to meet life on even terms, not afraid to look at its business, reflective enough to ponder on what it sees.

The Marble Clock, and I, have great hopes of the Twentieth Legislature. The sum of its human parts is a larger and more human sum than any we have seen for many a year. When prorogation comes, when each of the forty-eight Members leaves for his, or her, home, they will be taking with them part of something that did not exist before, part of the separate identity which is born of every human conference, where minds may interchange and grow. Growth, no doubt, is one of the goals of freedom; and here is evidence that it comes where it is encouraged, as it is in a parliamentary way.

B.C. Session Enters Closing Hours With Prorogation Today

Debates Flashing as House Speeds Programme Begun on January 8—Propose Photographing of Valuable Records as Wartime Measure

DRIVING towards its close, which is expected this afternoon, the first session of the Twentieth Legislature was dying hard yesterday. It began on January 8. All through afternoon and evening sittings, debates were flashing afresh on retraced ground. Labor relations, governmental purchasing, preservation of public records in wartime and many other matters were canvassed as the House proceeded with committee reports in the afternoon.

Among the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee was one that valuable records in the Provincial Archives be copied by photostatic means and the records themselves removed for safe keeping. It was also proposed that, where time permits, the Province call tenders for the purchase of all supplies over \$100 in value. The committee's report that the public accounts had been examined and approved provoked the first debate of the day.

REPLY IS MADE

For an hour the House discussed issues already aired before the Public Accounts Committee in connection with construction of the Marblehead Bridge in Kaslo-Slocan, and car purchases in the Department of Agriculture. Captain C. S. Leary, former Minister of Public Works, and Hon. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, rose in reply.

Captain Leary said that the services of the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company, in which he had an interest, in connection with the supply of piling and ferry operation had helped the Province, and that the Marblehead Bridge had been demanded by residents in his riding for twenty years. An effort had been made, he asserted, to discredit himself, on the word of a man who had been disappointed in not receiving a job.

Dr. MacDonald explained the method of car purchases followed in his department, where the trade-in of old cars was involved. It had been his practice to have the old cars driven into a garage and examined, to ascertain their proper trade-in value. New cars were then purchased through the purchasing agent, with allowances for exchanges so determined. He had no apologies to make for that system, he declared.

The committee's report was received on a division of 29 to 14, the C.C.F. recording their opposition to the findings of the panel.

OTHER REPORTS

The agricultural committee recommended the addition of a farmer to the game board; the relaxation of shooting regulations to permit destruction of pheasants damaging crops; assistance with lime deliveries at the rate of \$1 a ton, and regretted reduction of the bounty on predatory animals in recent years. Resolutions presented by Farmers' Institutes and the Farmers' Advisory Board were reported, and a number recommended as endorsed by the committee.

The social welfare committee commended work being done by the Province through psychiatrists; urged the removal of 400 patients from Essondale to other quarters, to lessen crowding, and reported on examinations made generally into institutions for the feeble minded.

The labor committee told of two meetings held in connection with industrial disputes and the present machinery for dealing with them, and of representations made by labor groups for the repeal of Section 5 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act on the ground that the statute in that particular had not worked well.

Government benches reiterated that the statute would not be reopened this year, because there had been insufficient time to consider the implications involved.

LABOR RELATIONS

General debate on the whole subject of labor relations followed, on a bill by Colin Cameron to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act; by repealing Section 5, by reducing the period in which negotiations for union recognition would take place, and by rewording the collective bargaining clause in the statute.

The C.C.F. Opposition declared that the Province had been dilatory in the field of labor relations, and had not taken steps to make labor a full partner in the war effort, as had been done in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. The change proposed in the statute was a slight one, and fully under the supervision and control of the Department of Labor. Action now would improve labor relations, and establish new morale in the war effort. Opposition members contended.

Having already stated that the statute would be studied during the coming year with a view to seeing what changes would be practical and might improve the working of the measure, Government benches made no further reply. Coalition members, however, rose in defence of the Minister of Labor, who, they said, had come in for personal attack. Few men had done more for labor in the last twelve years than Hon. G. S. Pearson, they responded.

The bill was pressed to a division, and was defeated 27 to 14 before second reading, which was refused. The C.C.F. Opposition, with Thomas Uphill, Labor, voted for the measure.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn, new Minister of Public Works, was welcomed back in his seat after a prolonged absence due to ill-health.

The House recessed at 6:05 p.m., until 8:30 p.m.

SUPPLY IS GRANTED

Resuming at night, the Legislature granted Supply to His Majesty in the sum of \$34,146,026; taking the Supply Bill through all stages, piloted by Premier John Hart. Of the votes, \$33,094,292 is for the coming fiscal year, \$805,970 for the year closing, and \$245,764 to balance books of the year 1940-41.

On public bills in private hands, the House agreed to the withdrawal of a bill by E. E. Winch to amend the Registered Nurses Act; after assurances by Hon. G. S. Pearson that the subject matter would be looked into during the year.

Hon. H. G. Perry opposed a bill to amend the University of British Columbia Act, offered by Mrs. Steeves, which would have changed the method of electing eleven governors. Mrs. Steeves proposed that three governors be elected by the Senate, two by the Government, others by different groups, including Farmers' Institutes, organized labor, British Columbia Teachers' Federation, Parent-Teacher Associations, and directly from high schools.

Responding, the Minister of Education said representation by occupation or calling would not work out. Under the bill, labor, agriculture, teachers and parent-teachers would each name governors; while all other groups would be denied, and the Government's own representation would be cut from six to two members. As matters stand, Mr. Perry showed, teachers, organized labor, industrial and other bodies are represented on the board. The measure was defeated on a show of hands.

OIL BILL DEBATED

The C.C.F. group withdrew two bills containing amendments to the Shops Regulation Act, dealing with heating in stores; and to the Hours of Work Act, on other points, upon Government representations that these matters would be looked into between sessions. The House passed on to the Peace River oil measure.

Harold E. Winch opposed the lease clause in the Oil Lease Bill, one to amend the Coal and Petroleum Act. Under its terms, he said, the Province could remove the reserve on the Peace River lands, and lease the land upon any terms it desired. The C.C.F. believed that the reserve should be maintained, and the lease clause struck from the bill. Mr. Winch moved to that effect.

T. D. Pattullo returned to an attack on the measure he had opened earlier in the session. The Government should continue drilling at the site, and deal with the situation as and when oil was found, as he believed it would be found, he declared. Mr. Pattullo rehearsed the history of the oil companies' dispute with the Province two years ago; and supported the Winch motion, which was defeated on a show of hands. The lease clause was reworded, and ratified.

Mr. Pattullo returned to oppose the next clause, that dealing with the authority of the Government to deal with private or other interests, and to charge a royalty to be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, not to exceed fifteen cents an acre plus fifteen per cent of the gross proceeds from the sale of crude petroleum or natural gas. He proposed an amendment, to have the Legislature fix a definite royalty of 12 1-2 per cent, subject to review by the Legislature from time to time.

The amendment was ruled out of order, as one that could reduce the revenues of the Crown. The ruling was sustained on division, by 28 to 16, and the House continued on the bill.

MEASURE PROCEEDS

Mr. Pattullo offered two other amendments, in succession, in an effort to have the fixing of the royalty rate confined to direct action by the Legislature. One proposed that royalty rates would remain as fixed, until other rates were provided by the Legislature. That was defeated on a show of hands. Mr. Pattullo then reworded his amendment to read, that the rates of 15 per cent, as in the Government measure, remain until other rates were set by the Legislature. That was also defeated, on a show of hands.

The House proceeded with other sections of the measure, ratifying the royalty clause as presented in the bill, and a subsequent section dealing with discretionary right to make regulations governing the whole area in which oil exploration has been going on.

Harold E. Winch moved a six months' hoist before third reading of the bill, stating that the Opposition was opposed to the principle of relinquishing natural resources to private control. The Opposition called for a division on the Winch amendment, and the six months' hoist, which would have killed the measure, was defeated 29 to 16, with Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Uphill voting with the fourteen C.C.F. members in the House.

FINAL BILLS PASS

Sustained on all divisions on the measure, the Government called for third reading and enactment of the oil bill, which then carried. Minor amendments, dealing with rewording only, had been written into the bill.

The Dominion-Provincial agreement went through third reading and enactment, without debate or change, being the principal legislation of the session. Its legislative programme completed, the House passed on to motions on the order paper, sitting late. Prorogation is expected at 3 p.m. today.

Legislature Prepares to End Session

The British Columbia Legislature swept its order paper clear of bills and estimates yesterday before rising at 11:35 p.m. until 10:30 a.m. today. Prorogation is expected to follow at 3 p.m., if motions on the order paper have been disposed of by them.

B.C. Legislature Urges Dominion To Speed Defence

Twentieth Assembly Endorses Canadian Legion Call for Total War Effort, and Pledges Province's Full Resources to Canada's Fighting Cause—Fifty-Three Acts Passed

By SANDHAM GRAVES

THE British Columbia Legislature was prorogued by Lieutenant-Governor W. C. Woodward at 3:23 p.m. yesterday after thirty-five sittings commenced on January 8. The House's last action was the passing of a solemn warning to the Dominion Government on the gravity of British Columbia's position on the Pacific, which followed unanimous endorsement of the Canadian Legion's call for total war effort.

Supplies were granted to the Crown in the sum of \$34,146,026; fifty-two other acts received final assent by His Honor, and Members rose at their seats to sing the National Anthem. The battle of sessional papers, a tradition with British Columbia Legislatures, was omitted, as the House rose in a serious mood.

His Honor was attended in the House by Lieut.-Col. Vincent McKenna, M.C., and Lieut. Neil Fraser, R.C.N.V.R. In the prorogation speech, Hon. W. C. Woodward thanked the Twentieth Legislature for its labors, mentioned the chief Acts of the first session and prorogued the House.

Canadian war planes on patrol droned through the skies as the session ended. In its appeal to Ottawa, the Legislature did not mince words, passing the following resolution unanimously:

"This Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, conscious of the gravity of the war and more particularly in its relation to the security of the people of the Province of British Columbia, considers it our solemn duty to call the attention of the Federal Government of Canada to the immediate necessity of completing the strongest and fullest measures of defence against our enemies."

The motion was made by Hon. H. G. Perry in the name of Premier John Hart, and was seconded by Harold E. Winch, leader of the official Opposition.

ADOPT LEGION'S CALL

Before that, the House in a four-hour working sitting in the morning endorsed the Canadian Legion's call for total war effort, in the following resolution, moved by J. A. Paton, M.P.P., and seconded by T. Kenney, M.P.P.:

"This Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, recognising the grave perils facing the British Commonwealth of Nations and all those United Nations of the world now opposing in war the aggression of the Axis powers, hereby pledges the total resources of the Province to Canada for the purpose of victory:

"Therefore be it resolved that, without any desire to encroach upon the rights and privileges of the Federal Parliament, we urge the Government and Parliament of Canada to implement the pledge given as a signatory to the Twenty-Six Nations' Pact, on January 1, 1942, wherein each Government pledged to employ its full resources against those members of the Tripartite Pact and its adherents with which such Government is at war, by a compulsory national selection of manpower and the mobilization of the whole resources of Canada, both human and material, for the purpose of victory:

"And further be it resolved that it concurs in the 'call for total war' made to the Prime Minister of Canada by the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League at Ottawa, on October 21, 1941."

Debate on the motion had been completely non-partisan, and the resolution itself was carried unanimously; after brief speeches by the mover and seconder, and an eloquent appeal by C. G. MacNeil, M.P.P., in which he called for "production for victory." All three men speaking to the motion were veterans from the conflict of 1914-18, in which, they reminded the House, more than 60,000 Canadians had

laid down their lives in the same cause for world freedom.

END SESSIONAL PROGRAMME

Though the motion was subsequently defeated, a resolution by W. W. Lefeaux, M.P.P., for the appointment of permanent public prosecutors, in place of individually-briefed counsel in British Columbia criminal trials, gained the attention of the House. Mr. Lefeaux argued that \$71,000 had been spent last year for legal fees, and that whole-time prosecutors would give greater efficiency at less cost. Government benches promised to take the recommendation under advisement.

A similar reply was made to B. G. Webber, M.P.P., who urged that the Government take steps to insure adequate teacher training in the war period, and revision of teacher salary schedules. If the Province acted to bring in new schedules, he said, the Crown should absorb the cost of any increases recommended.

Clearing its order paper in the morning period, the House approved of a recommendation offered by the Leader of the Opposition and urging the Province to study the creation of a British Columbia Research Institute, to take advantage of the spread of science in relation to raw materials. Another resolution asked the Government to inquire into the status of non-enemy aliens in internment who may wish to volunteer for service in the armed forces of the Crown.

DOMINION PACT APPROVED

Among the acts of the session, now assented to, outstanding measures were the Dominion-Provincial agreement on the transfer of Provincial taxation revenues during the war period; upward revision of old age pensions; provision for the immediate establishment of a Post-war Rehabilitation Board; and the Peace River oil lands measure.

So ended the first session of the Twentieth Legislature, and the first under Coalition Government in British Columbia; a session in which the new Administration was firmly established, and ably supported in the House.

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Statutory B.C. Committee To Discuss Post-war Plans

A permanent committee to discuss postwar planning will be set up by the B.C. Legislature, Attorney-General Maitland said Friday.

The government, he said, will bring in an act to this end.

C.C.F. members applauded enthusiastically.

The committee will plan for the return of the soldiers after the war.

"We don't want any repetition of the last post-war period," Mr. Maitland said.

To the C.C.F. the Attorney-General said, "We don't want any tearing down—we want building up—we want fair criticism and your suggestions—we have a grim task ahead of us and in that

task the war effort must come first."

Mr. Maitland said that in C.C.F. speeches he could not detect one word of encouragement to any young man to join the forces or to anyone to buy war bonds or savings certificates.

The C.C.F., he said, is discouraging people. The men who joined up are not asking for new orders or new deals, they are asking only for equipment.

"Get behind these men and help them," the Attorney-General said. "If you don't help them, these boys won't come back."

The C.C.F., he said, has not made one statement about winning the war "without a red or pink tag attached with an 'if' or a 'but'."

Frauds Prevention Act Debated

Armchair Prospectors Cause of Difficulties

The Legislature's mining committee, after detailed explanation of the Securities Frauds' Prevention Act by E. K. deBeck, commissioner of the act, will hear evidence from prospectors and promoters who consider the act detrimental to the mining industry in B.C.

W. J. Asselstine, former Minister of Mines, said that in the opinion of the public there was conflict between the Mining Department and the administration of the act, and this should be cleared up.

Mr. deBeck said the act was beneficial to the public, but that it was not understood.

Members of the committee were of the opinion the act should be sold to the public.

PROSPECTORS OBJECT

Several letters were read from prospectors objecting to the act.

"I've come across several cases where I thought the prospectors got a pretty raw deal," said Attorney-General R. L. Maitland.

Mr. deBeck said he deplored the fact that \$1 out of every \$5 went to the raising of money for investment. He said he would like to see sufficient confidence in B.C. projects so that the bulk of the money would go into the ground.

Objection to the act, Mr. deBeck said, came from promoters largely.

He said his department was continually faced with the problem of "the directors who do not direct—they leave it to one man."

"It is with great reluctance we interfere with boards of directors so long as they direct properly," Mr. deBeck said. "We sometimes ask 'are you attending to business?'—and sometimes threaten to advertise the facts in the papers, if they don't attend to business."

"A vindictive, disgruntled shareholder can create a great deal of trouble," Mr. deBeck said. "To have an honest promoter accused of criminal acts and all sorts of skulduggery, and held up as a crook, liar and thief, discourages others, equally honest."

FREEBOOTING DAYS

Regarding dissatisfaction of prospectors, Mr. deBeck said "some people, including many bona fide prospectors, believe the Securities Act is responsible to a whole or large extent. This situation, however, has been exploited by those who would like to see the act abolished, with a return to the freebooting days, using sympathy for the poor prospector."

He said he was of the opinion the act was in no way responsible for the condition.

"On the contrary I am of the opinion the act, under a sound administration, is beneficial to prospectors," he said.

His greatest trouble today, he said, was with small exempted companies and syndicates.

"There is hardly any limit to the unreasonableness of some of the set-ups," he said.

STUMBLING BLOCKS

"I am and always have been ready to assist the prospector to have free shares and if possible to have cash—it is the broker and the financier who are the stumbling blocks, and in all probability they could not finance a deal suitable to the prospector. Let us look at whether the further removal of supervision and restrictions would help the prospector. I am of the opinion it would not. There is probably a far greater number of armchair prospectors than legitimate prospectors. These are merely claim stakers. In any new field of excitement there are unlimited numbers of claims staked."

Mr. deBeck instanced Bridge River and Zeballos and said: "I doubt there is any business or professional man who, during these excitements, has not been approached by someone who says he is on his way to stake some claims and for a consideration is willing to stake claims and give the person putting up the money a one-half interest. The existence of such parasitic gentlemen gives a bad name for the legitimate ones to find a market for financing the prospect. In other words, the prospector needs some protection and the only protection he has is for constant vigilance and frequent investigation of promotions of the private company type."

B.C. People Invest In Perpetual Motion

British Columbians are evidently a gullible people.

E. K. deBeck, before the Legislative mining committee today, disclosed that more than \$300,000 had been invested by British Columbians in a perpetual motion machine.

He said he had great trouble watching inventions, for people loved to invest in them.

"I don't want to stand in the way of speculative investment, as long as they are sound," he said.

The securities commissioner disclosed that his department is continuing to investigate speculative companies, particularly mines. In the last four and half years nearly 350 firms have been investigated, unknown to the public.

Close Borstal Home

Suspension of the Borstal Boys' Home in Burnaby for duration of the war is under consideration, according to Attorney-General R. L. Maitland.

Suggestion has been made that the home, which has a staff of eight under Superintendent Angus MacLeod, and 11 inmates, might be moved into a hospital for war emergencies.

"The matter is under consideration," Mr. Maitland said, "but I can make no detailed statement yet."

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House Committee Approves Abolishing Company Unions

The government will be requested by the Legislature to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act so that employers must bargain with the Union which employees designate as their bargaining agency.

The Legislature's new labor committee Monday night voted in favor of the change in the act, which now says the employer may counter with a suggestion of a company union.

The committee, through the Legislature, will ask consideration of this change by Labor Minister Geo. S. Pearson at the present sitting of the House.

BIG DELEGATION

In the crowded, smoky Maple Room, committee members met 26 delegates representing unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, the Canadian Federation of Labor and the Canadian Congress of Labor. J. J. Robertson of Victoria was chairman.

The delegation, in its brief, pointed out that employers now may delay start of bargaining. Employers, it was said, when they learn their employees wish to make agreements, try immediately to form a company union or attempt to break up the employees' union.

The brief asks that the Department of Labor, notified that the majority of employees have se-

lected their bargaining agency, shall appoint a representative of the department to conduct a vote of the employees by secret ballot "within a specified time of short duration."

The brief continues "if he is satisfied the majority of the employees designate the union involved as their bargaining agency, he shall immediately notify the employer to this effect. We believe it should be made unlawful for the employer, upon receipt of communication from the Department of Labor, to seek in any manner to restrain his employees from belonging to the union of their choice."

HEALTH INSURANCE

The labor brief also asked that the B.C. government take immediate steps to bring low-scale wages "frozen" by the federal government up to a level consistent with "the increased wages that are general throughout most industries"; that health insurance be put into effect; that a representative of labor be included on the Workmen's Compensation Board; that sufficient funds and equipment be made available for A.R.P. work; that cost-of-living bonuses be made retroactive to August, 1939, and that industries now working their employees more than eight hours a day revise their present method of employment to eliminate overtime as far as practicable.

Blind Children Crowded Into Fire Trap School

B.C.'s School for Deaf and Blind Children at Jericho Beach is dangerously overcrowded, C. E. MacDonald, superintendent, told the Legislature's social welfare committee today.

The institution houses 20 more children than fire regulations allow, Mr. MacDonald said.

As for health conditions, he told how 33 girls have one bathtub, three toilets and six wash-basins; 23 younger boys have one tub, two toilets and three basins and 21 older boys have two tubs, two toilets and two basins.

Classrooms and dormitories have reached the saturation point and soon students will have to

dine in two shifts, so crowded is the dining-room. "We reached our limit in 1925," Mr. MacDonald said. All the teachers but one are women, as it is difficult to obtain men teachers.

ACCIDENTS NOT V.D.

There are at present 88 children in the school. Mr. MacDonald said there is public misconception regarding the children, most people believing they are there because of venereal disease. On the other hand, he pointed out, they are there because of dynamite caps, knives and scissors, and because of scarlet fever and other such diseases.

Marketing Control

Hon. K. C. MacDonald defended marketing control from Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, in the Legislature Monday.

Dr. Gillis said a minority is ruling in B.C. marketing, 400 or so farmers saying what nearly 2,000 shall do.

"The Marketing Act is not what it should be," Dr. Gillis said.

Dr. MacDonald admitted some flaws in the act and blamed "the lack of loyalty of producers themselves—producers who are unwilling to stay within the confines of their organizations."

Barge Sold for \$20

Acting Public Works Minister Herbert Anscomb has informed the Legislature, in reply to questions from Herbert Herridge, C.C.F., Rossland-Trail, that the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company purchased a ferry barge on the Arrow Lakes from the government for \$20.

The government has rented a barge on the Arrow Lakes, Mr. Anscomb said, from the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company as a substitute ferry at \$8 a day for 20 days.

Deer, Wolves, Coyotes Menacing B.C. Farms

Agriculture Minister K. C. MacDonald, in the Legislature Monday night admitted deer are becoming a menace to the farmers of British Columbia.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, and Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, said deer are doing much to destroy crops in their constituencies of Vancouver Island.

Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, urged the Attorney-General to reconsider the vote for destruction of predatory animals. The vote has been cut \$5,000.

He asked appointment of an agricultural man on the game

board. Such a man would be able to protect the interests of the farmers, who now appear to be discriminated against in favor of the sportsman, he said.

Wolves, coyotes and black bear are becoming a serious menace in the interior, Mr. LeBourdais said, killing sheep, cattle and colts.

He suggested that serious consideration be given the recommendation of the farmers' institutes of the Cariboo that the game act be administered by the forest branch. He pointed out that the farmers' advisory board had come year after year to Victoria and passed resolutions calling for increased bounties, but nothing had been done.

Victoria A.R.P. In Poor Shape, Says Gargrave

In Greater Victoria is a serious situation in regard to A.R.P., Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, said in the Legislature Monday night.

"In the Victoria area you have one municipality pulling away from another—from the general scheme," he said. "I believe a metropolitan scheme should be developed."

Mr. Gargrave told of A.R.P. inadequacy at Shirley, west of Sooke.

"In that small but important community the chief A.R.P. warden is a man over 70 and stone deaf—and on the night of the last blackout he didn't hear the air raid warnings over the radio and the result was that the warden's house was the only one that wasn't blacked out," Mr. Gargrave said.

In Victoria, Mr. Gargrave thought, perhaps too much attention is being paid to whether the warden was friendly or not with certain people in authority.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch said 28 air raid sirens had arrived in Vancouver in recent days, but are not being put up because the contract of which they are part has been canceled and another placed.

Attorney-General Maitland, replying, said he knew nothing about the original contract, but did know experts said Vancouver needed two-tone sirens.

Mr. Gargrave thought the B.C. government should have more authority in A.R.P. work.

Mr. Maitland said fine work had been done in the matter of transportation, shelter and feeding, should air raids occur.

WOULD ABOLISH CIVIL SERVICE ACT

Agriculture Minister K. C. MacDonald in the Legislature Monday said that if he had his way he would abolish the Civil Service Act.

This would, in his opinion, be the "greatest service."

He was replying to questions from Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, who wanted to know how appointments are made to the Department of Agriculture.

The minister said some of his appointments are not subject to the Civil Service Act. It is impossible, he said, for people in outlying farm districts to come to Victoria to write examinations.

He pointed out that if the act was strictly adhered to, Victoria and Vancouver residents would have an unfair advantage over people in distant parts of the province. He said he preferred certain people, with farm backgrounds, in his province, rather than city people who were subject to the Civil Service Act.

Free Legal Aid

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland, K.C., and Wm. T. Straith, K.C., Liberal, Victoria, Monday night said in the Legislature no person need do without legal advice or assistance because he lacked funds.

The Attorney-General explained operations of the junior Vancouver bar's "legal aid to the poor" and Mr. Straith followed it with a description of the similar Victoria system.

Mrs. Dolly Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, who raised the issue, suggested the free legal aid be organized and publicized by the government.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, stated he had tried the free legal aid in Victoria on behalf of a drug addict. The junior barrister to whom the case had been assigned had refused to take it unless paid \$35, he said.

Hart Says**Living Bonus Considered**

Consideration will be given to cost-of-living bonuses for civil servants, Premier John Hart said in reply to Harold Winch, Opposition Leader in the Legislature, Monday night.

When an opportunity arose he intended to go into the matter fully with the civil service commissioner, the Premier said, expressing particular sympathy for the lower-paid group. The government had the authority to give the bonus, he said.

In reply to A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, the Premier said cost-of-living bonuses would not be dependent on the savings made on the estimates now under review.

He was asked by E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, if the cost-of-living-bonus question received favorable consideration, would they be made retroactive?

"I am not in a position to state that, but it will be given consideration," the Premier replied.

No one was in a better position, Mr. Winch said, noting in his dual capacity he could easily make a recommendation from the Finance Minister to the Premier.

Mrs. Dolly Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, raised the bonus question after asking the government to consider the plight of low-paid stenographers, who could not maintain a decent standard on the wages they received.

The Premier drew her attention to increases for such employees in the vote under consideration.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, joined Mrs. Steeves in a call for consideration for stenographers and for married men with families receiving \$65 and \$70 a month.

YOUNG WHISKY AT OLD PRICE

"I gather both the government and the public of British Columbia have been taken for a ride by the distillers of this province," Harold Winch, Opposition Leader, said in the Legislature Monday night.

"There's been a change in our whisky. You can't get 11-year-old now. Now you get four or five-year-old, but there's been no change in price."

"The Liquor Control Board was purchasing by brand, not age," he said.

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland, K.C., said he had received information on that point. He would draw it to the attention of the commissioner, he said.

Imposition of price ceilings, the Attorney-General said, had caused some brands to be sold by the province below cost price, entailing a loss of \$12,000.

Consider Forest Fire Fighting

Arrangements were completed yesterday for co-operation of all services in protecting forests of British Columbia from fire under possible emergency conditions this summer, said a statement issued today by a forest branch representative. Government officials and representatives of the logging industry attended the meeting.

Plans were completed for forest fire fighting, particularly in view of war conditions on the Pacific.

Attending the meeting were: Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands; Commissioner T. W. S. Parsons, of the British Columbia Police; G. P. Melrose, assistant chief forester; C. J. Haddon, Vancouver district forester, and representatives of the logging industry.

Today before the Forestry Committee of the Legislature, C. D. Orchard, chief forester, referred to serious conditions which his department might face.

Mr. Orchard said an expanded lookout service was necessary. It was also imperative that large numbers of stand-by crews be employed, with truck units equipped with fire-fighting and radio communication.

"Adequate protection against this danger to the coast would cost us approximately our entire forestry budget," Mr. Orchard said. "This is more than British Columbia can afford."

Dominion government help was naturally required, he said.

Not Co-operating

There is no connection between the U.B.C.'s agriculture department and the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Minister K.C. MacDonald told the Legislature Monday.

L. A. Shepherd, C.C.F., Delta, asked the minister if he thought there should be some control of the university's agriculture department by the government department.

"If I were to answer that truthfully," Dr. MacDonald replied, "I might embarrass some of my friends at the university."

"The sooner there is some co-operation the better," said Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale.

Milk Pasteurization Urged By Dr. Gillis

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, in the Legislature, Monday, came out strongly in favor of pasteurization of milk.

Falling this, he said milk plants should be medically inspected.

Agriculture Minister MacDonald said it would be impossible to bring in regulations forcing pasteurization all over the province. In outlying sections it would be impossible to pasteurize, as it would be too costly.

However, he said, cities such as Vancouver should be able to say what kind and type of milk it wants.

From Crown Lands

Christmas trees next year may be cut from Crown land, Chief Forester C. D. Orchard told the Legislature's forestry committee today.

Next summer, Mr. Orchard said, his department will experiment with a "trapline system" of Christmas tree cutting, in which a number of bona fide settlers and farmers will be permitted to cut 5,000 young evergreens each on Crown land.

Until now the forest branch has forbidden Christmas tree cutting on Crown land. Cutting, however, will continue to be forbidden in coast areas where timber may be more profitably reserved for logging.

The department expects to issue between 75 and 100 permits, charging \$5 each for the permits, Mr. Orchard said. The branch may also collect a small royalty, he said.

School Traffic Signs

Establishment of more distinctive school traffic signs was urged in the Legislature Monday night by L. A. Shepherd, C.C.F., Delta.

On roads carrying two lanes of traffic in one direction existing signs were useless, he said, suggesting a middle line marking in contrasting color. He also suggested the speed for school zones be raised from 15 miles an hour to 20 and rigidly enforced at the latter.

Questioned by Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, over possible action to change the automobile license scale brought a reply from the Attorney-General the issue was under consideration. Need for transportation, which led many war workers to buy heavy, old-model cars, would enforce on them a hardship if the old license scale were maintained, Mr. MacNeil thought.

Montana Keeps Out B.C. Wild Horses

Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, in the Legislature, Monday, asked that wild horses be shot, and more bulls loaned to farmers.

He said in his constituency wild horses are interfering with grazing lands of cattle. Montana, he said, is considering erecting a fence along the border to keep out B.C. wild horses.

Six Indian families, he said, had more than 600 wild horses roaming the range.

Mr. Uphill told the House a firm in Calgary is canning horse meat for foxes and dogs, and here is an opportunity to capitalize on the wild horses, he said.

Regarding the bulls, Mr. Uphill said it is necessary for B.C. to add to its herds, as after the war good stock will be depleted.

No Increase in Teachers' Grants

The provincial government is not prepared at present to increase its grant towards school teachers' salaries and is consequently not ready to order a raise in the minimum paid teachers, Minister of Education H. G. Perry said in the Legislature Tuesday.

The B.C. Teachers' Federation, he said, had asked that the minimum salary be raised from \$780 to \$900 a year. The government allows a grant up to \$680 a year for each teacher. The remainder is met by the local school board. In view of the fact the government was not ready to increase its grants, it was not prepared to force the boards to shoulder the increased burden, Mr. Perry said. They could raise salaries themselves if they wished.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, submitted the teachers sought the increase from the government, not from their own boards. The new curriculum, excellent though it was, entailed higher costs. She was sorry, she said, to hear the minister's announcement. In North Vancouver, she said, students graduating from high school were getting shipyard jobs that paid them more than was received by their teachers of a month or two before.

J. A. Paton, Conservative, Vancouver-Point Grey, asked if the minister had considered speeding up education, saying the school leaving age had been increased to keep youths away from the labor market during the depression. Now there were opportunities for them in the war industry field, he said.

Administrators' Duties Explained

W. A. C. Bennett, Conservative, South Okanagan, in the Legislature asked the Attorney-General what are the duties of an official administrator.

The Attorney-General said official administrators are appointed for the purpose of taking charge of estates when no other person entitled and willing to handle an estate is available.

The Attorney-General said that unfortunately the impression had got abroad that it is necessary or advantageous to employ an official administrator to handle estates. Such is not the case.

Official administrators are appointed to act in respect of estates:

(1) Where a person dies without leaving a will and there is no relative in the province who is ready and competent to take out administration.

(2) Where a person dies and leaves a will but fails to name an executor, or the executor named refuses to act and there is no relative within the province ready and competent to take out administration.

Broken Industri

Geo. Ross, the Boys' In-quitlam, to committee Tuesday he committed to undetermined rather than In this way settlement an

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Broken Homes Fill Industrial School

Geo. Ross, superintendent of the Boys' Industrial School at Coquitlam, told the social welfare committee of the Legislature Tuesday he would prefer boys be committed to the school for an undetermined length of time, rather than for a certain period. In this way there would be no resentment among the boys.

Most of the boys are domestically neglected and come from broken homes, Mr. Ross said. Two-thirds require medical care, for they are largely undernourished. More than 50 per cent, after they leave the school, are never heard from by authorities again. About 50 per cent get into trouble again.

Tom King, Liberal, Golden, wanted to know if a fatherly talking to would be of any help in keeping the boys from the school.

Mr. Ross thought it would in many cases.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, thought many of the fathers should be given a fatherly talking to.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, observed that perhaps the boys could be kept from the school if some of the parents could be sent to a reform school.

Boys are admitted between 12 and 18 years, Mr. Ross said. The most difficult age is 14, 15 and 16. About 30 per cent are Indians, Mr. Ross said.

Saanich Suffers, Says Mrs. Steeves

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, in the Legislature Tuesday asked the government to urge the Dominion government to aid Saanich taxpayers in meeting increased cost of taxation because of crowded conditions in schools there, due to influx of air force personnel.

"The ratepayers of Saanich can't possibly take care of this situation," Mrs. Steeves said, pointing out that a new school in North Saanich had been forced to close because an ammunition dump had been placed next to it.

Mrs. Steeves said the situation is probably only temporary and will right itself after the war, but until then she thought the Dominion should do something to help.

SCHOOL DEBATE

Up-country members of the Legislature feel teachers should have a year's experience in city schools before they are sent to rural schools.

Bernard Webber, C.C.F., Similkameen; Mrs. Steeves and E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, felt teachers fresh from school should not take charge of rural schools immediately.

Education Minister Perry, agreeing with the situation, said it would cost the municipalities more to handle new teachers in their schools.

Mr. Perry announced no changes in textbooks are contemplated in the next year.

LACK OF TEACHERS

The Education Minister told the House 23 schools have been closed because of lack of teachers and that 40 temporary permits had to be issued to teachers with uncompleted courses.

Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre, asked that school inspectors be appointed solely on merit. In the past, he said, some inspectors had been appointed solely for political reasons.

Mr. Kenney felt some teachers in rural schools had been selected "for whom they know, rather than for what they know."

Mrs. Steeves, asking for closer co-operation between the Vancouver Normal School and the U.B.C., said it is common talk among teachers that graduates of the Normal are better equipped to teach than graduates of U.B.C.

She and Mr. Kenney asked that fees for teacher training be reduced.

Taxation Inquiry Coming, Says Perry

The government will this year thoroughly go into the question of taxation in regard to education, Hon. H. G. T. Perry, Minister of Education, announced in the Legislature Tuesday.

"We have reached the time to fix a proper system of taxation, particularly on land—the time has come when it should be dealt with thoroughly," Mr. Perry said.

Mrs. Steeves

Says University Not Democratic

University of British Columbia is a class institution, Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., Vancouver North, said in the Legislature Tuesday night.

"Young men and women of this province who have fine brains should be going there, but they're not going there, because they haven't the money," said Mrs. Steeves.

She thought the university might be run a little more democratically.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, supporting Mrs. Steeves, said fees at U.B.C. are too high.

Mrs. T. J. Rolston, Conservative, Vancouver-Point Grey, urged a chair of home economics at the provincial university.

Education Minister H. G. T. Perry, responding to pleas that the university be made more democratic, said he thought every board or commission, as well as the university, should be more under the control of the Legislature.

LOOSE CONTROL

"But when you try to keep them out of politics they get out of control of the Legislature," Mr. Perry said.

Development of the university's sociology course along research lines which would be of value in rehabilitation activity after the war was suggested by Mrs. Laura Jamieson, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre. She thought the province was losing the value of its young people to too great an extent to other centres.

As other C.C.F. members called for establishment of a home economics chair in the U.B.C., R. C. MacDonald, Conservative, Dewdney, declared the place for such a chair was in the home. L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, disagreed. Home economics was one course which would build up the home, he said.

The Victoria College \$5,000 vote passed, with W. T. Stralith, K.C., Liberal, Victoria, declaring the Craigdarroch institution yielded more, dollar for dollar, than any other vote taken up during the night. Victoria paid for its own building and the standard of graduates was at least equal to that of those who had taken their first two years at U.B.C., he said.

Pensions Act Change Coming

The Old Age Pensions Act, administration of which has caused considerable trouble and debate, will be taken from the Workmen's Compensation Board and brought under the supervision of the Provincial Secretary's Department.

Provincial Secretary Geo. S. Pearson, in the Legislature Tuesday, introduced an amendment to the act which will make this possible.

When the change comes about, administration of the act will be

Doukhobor Issue To Be Discussed

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, in the Legislature, Tuesday, called on T. A. Love, Conservative, Grand Forks-Greenwood, for his remedy for the Doukhobor problem.

The call presaged a full-dress debate on the question as Mr. Love expressed his willingness to reply and the Speaker, on a suggestion by Education Minister H. G. Perry, set the matter over for future discussion.

Mr. Love had said the Doukhobors had failed to respond to 20 years favorable treatment along educational lines.

"Are you still going to penalize us \$1,000 a year to make the country fit for the Doukhobors?" he asked. They were living on tax-free lands and were defying authorities on the registration question, Mr. Love added, saying the ordinary farmers who engaged them were persecuted because the employees did not comply with regulations.

The question arose in discussion of educational estimates regarding payment for official trustees.

QUERY POLICY

B. G. Webber, C.C.F., Similkameen, asked the minister if the government planned extension of the official trustee move to bring educational administration directly under the state.

Mr. Perry declined a reply, saying one would be presumptuous on his part.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves pressed the point, voicing opinion regions

in which school administration had been taken away from school boards should be restored to them when possible to preserve democratic institutions.

Mr. Perry said he appreciated the useful functions of school boards. Administrative districts had come more by accident than design, he said.

R. C. MacDonald, Conservative, Dewdney, said the official trustee had functioned so well in his area he would favor return to no other system.

To question by Harold Winch, Opposition Leader, over the government's reduction of the 1941 vote of \$30,000 for physical education of youths over school age to \$20,000, Mr. Perry said that vote offered an opportunity for pruning. There was less call for it owing to the reduction of unemployed, and the vote represented only part of a \$40,000 expenditure for that purpose.

under the welfare branch.

There will be no opposition in the Legislature to the change, as many members have complained in the past about the hard-bolled way in which the board administered the act, to the letter of the law, with no sympathy given to special cases.

The government, tackled on the subject, said it had very little control over the board. Now, through the government, the act will be more or less administered by the Legislature itself.

Dealing on Old Ferry Debated by Committee

Tempers flared and the chairman's gavel pounded for order today when the Legislature's public accounts committee, in a confused sitting, probed details of the government's dealings with the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch and Colin Cameron, C.C.F. whip, led the barrage of questions.

There were cries of "trivial," "nonsense," "we're wasting time" as the C.C.F. asked question after question of J. W. Armstrong, mechanical superintendent of the Public Works Department, and Capt. C. S. Leary, Liberal, Kaslo-Slocan, a member of the committee and former Minister of Public Works, who is associated with the Big Bend Company.

Mr. Winch asked Mr. Armstrong if it were true the government sold a ferry to the Big Bend company for \$20 and then rented it back, three months later, for \$8 a day, plus \$4 an hour for a tug, owned by the Big Bend company. Mr. Armstrong said this was true.

In reply to questions, Mr. Armstrong said the ferry was useless because of dry rot and because it was too small. He had not seen it after repairs had been made.

Capt. Leary said his company spent between \$400 and \$500 putting the ferry in shape. He admitted the ferry was not taken from the water for repairs. This would have cost \$1,000, he said.

"Do you wish to imply that I, as Minister of Public Works, bought that ferry to make money out of it from the government?" Capt. Leary asked the C.C.F.

"As Minister of Public Works you must have known that ferry would have been necessary for government service again, and should have been kept as a reserve," Mr. Winch replied.

Mr. Armstrong said he didn't know, at the time it was sold, that it would ever be needed again. He said he didn't consider it worth repairing; it was 10 or 11 years old. For a reserve he thought the government should have built a new ferry.

Chairman E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, objected to H. W. Herridge, C.C.F., Rossland-Trail, asking questions of Capt. Leary. Mr. Herridge is not a member of the committee, but was called as a witness by Mr. Winch.

"Let him whisper his questions to Mr. Winch and let Mr. Winch ask them," contributed W. T. Straith. This was done.

Capt. Leary said his company really helped the government by renting the ferry when it was needed.

"I'm just getting a little fed up on the charges of skulduggery that are handed out around this table," the former minister commented.

Reeve R. C. MacDonald, Con., Dewdney, said the whole enquiry was "small and ridiculous." Tom King, Lib., Columbia, said "the whole thing is too trivial."

Mr. Armstrong said tenders were called for sale of the ferry, but the only one received was from the Big Bend Company. He said he didn't know for sure it had been repaired when the government hired it back.

May Modify Pension Act

The Old Age Pensions Act was on the floor of the Legislature Wednesday.

Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson, explaining the amendment to the act which will bring it under his department, said the Workmen's Compensation Board, which has always administered it, wished to be relieved of the responsibility. The board had given no reason for its request, Mr. Pearson said.

"I am of the opinion an organization can be set up in the social service department to deal with the act effectively and with economy," the minister said.

There has been some differences of opinion, he admitted, between the government and the board regarding the interpretation of the act.

"We have felt the board has been rather severe in its interpretation of the act," he said. "The board has been perhaps overduly cautious."

With the change, Mr. Pearson saw some modification of the conditions the act imposes.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, felt the act should be administered in not quite so cold-blooded a manner as in the past—it should be administered more in the spirit of the act than according to the strict letter of the law. She felt it would be better to err on the side of generosity when dealing with old age pensioners.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch commended the minister for the change and reminded the government the C.C.F. had long pressed for just such a change.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, said the change might create considerable difficulty. He urged the government to press Ottawa to make old age pensions uniform across Canada. He felt the Dominion should take over the entire cost and that everyone should have pensions, irrespective of their financial means.

Minister Sells His Own Cars, Short Cuts Routine

Agriculture Minister K. C. MacDonald and F. H. Harrison, chief B.C. government purchasing agent, disagreed today on the way the agriculture department sells its used cars.

The matter was aired in the Legislature's public accounts committee.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch said the department of agriculture is the only government department that doesn't go through the purchasing agent when trading in its used cars.

Dr. MacDonald said his department is being run more economically than any other government department.

MINISTER DECIDES

"These things for the agriculture department are going to be decided on by me," said Dr. MacDonald.

"I consider it my responsibility not only to pass on purchase of new cars, but also on trade-in values," Mr. Harrison said, adding he had often managed to get increases on car trade-ins.

"I recognize my responsibility to my department and to the people of British Columbia," the minister replied. "There is no car bought in our department until we're convinced there's a necessity for it. I invite the closest scrutiny of every purchase in my department."

Dr. MacDonald said "the purchasing department in Victoria can't know the value of cars in various parts of the province, for instance, as far away as Peace River—they have to take the theoretical value."

"No, sir," replied Mr. Harrison. "I object to that." He pointed out the drivers of the cars know their trade-in value.

"I've satisfied the other departments I get value for their used cars," Mr. Harrison said.

CUTS BELOW

Mr. Winch said Dr. MacDonald is cutting below the whole established policy of unified purchasing control.

"Dr. MacDonald is merely relieving the purchasing department of that responsibility," commented W. T. Straith, Liberal, Victoria.

"That's just what he shouldn't be doing," replied Mr. Winch. Dr. MacDonald said his department gets better value for its used cars than any other department.

"I'm not prepared to admit that," Mr. Harrison said. "The doctor gets good value, but I do, too."

Big Mining Men Against Act

Representatives of B.C.'s big mining interests today said the Securities Act possesses too many dictatorial powers.

A. N. Wolverson, president of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, told the Legislature's mining committee the Criminal Code was capable of handling any situation that might arise from wrongdoing of brokers.

He said development of mining in this province demanded some change in the act.

During its 10 years of operation, Mr. Wolverson said, the Securities Act had crippled the B.C. mining industry. The normal channel for development of mining should be the old-fashioned channel of prospectors, syndicates and sound financing.

C. S. Arnold of Vancouver said: "I don't think the Securities Act is any good and would like to see it abolished."

A. E. Jukes of Vancouver said promoters did not know where they stood or when they would get their promotion money back.

The act, he said, was driving the mining industry into the hands of the larger companies. This province, he said, contained 69 of 74 known minerals, yet promotion money was lacking. He said the act should be repealed and replaced "by something that will work."

Others called as witnesses included Harold Lakes, president of the Kootenay East Chamber of Mines; G. S. Eldridge, assayer of Vancouver and executive of the B.C. Chamber of Mines; Sidney Norman, mining editor, and A. E. James of Grand Forks.

Marriages Legalized

Marriages that have taken place in B.C. in less than two months after the principals have obtained divorces will be legalized by an amendment to the "Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act," put through second reading in the Legislature Wednesday.

This has become necessary, Attorney-General R. L. Maitland explained, to help divorced members of the armed forces who, not realizing they were acting illegally, were married, with the result their wives could not obtain dependents' allowances.

From now on, divorcees intending to be married will be warned it is illegal to wed until two months after the divorce has taken place.

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Change In Labor

Overhaul of machinery in the Cameron, C. an amendment to the Conciliation

notice of withdrawal of the Legislature.

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Change Sought In Labor Act

Overhaul of provincial arbitration machinery is sought by Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, through an amendment to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, notice of which has been given in the Legislature.

Mr. Cameron's amendment, if passed, would provide as follows:

"1. It shall be lawful for employees to organize for the purpose of bargaining collectively with their employers.

"2. Employees may select their organization by a majority vote of those affected; and the employer shall then deal with such organization in all negotiations affecting relations between employer and employee.

"3. Any change of organization shall be made by secret ballot with at least 24 hours advance notice in writing to all available employees affected.

"4. Organizations may be represented by any person or persons duly appointed by the organization."

Interpretation or application of the amendment would be settled by the Minister of Labor, Mr. Cameron said. On receipt of an application by two officers of a trade union, supported by a statutory declaration to the effect that they had been requested by employees to represent them in collective bargaining, the minister would within seven days take a secret ballot of employees affected.

Securities Act

The mines committee of the Legislature is not as yet considering a probing of the "Securities Act" nor a full scale investigation into the operations of the act. Chairman Frank Putnam said.

Representations have been made to the members of the Legislature that the act stands in the way of development of mines in British Columbia, "without intimating in what way it does stand in the way of development and without giving any instances where it has," Mr. Putnam said.

"The mining committee merely asks that those who allege the act does stand in the way of development to be more explicit and state wherein it is detrimental to the mining industry, giving instances, if any," Mr. Putnam said.

When B.C.'s law-makers really stop their talking and get down to work they move quickly. Tuesday they moved with the efficiency of a machine. Under the leadership of Premier John Hart they went through a dozen introduction of bills, passed several second readings, made a number of act amendments final. It was not very exciting and the galleries were so bored they went home.

They discussed, in a business-like way, marriages and divorces, old age pensions, mines and forests, fisheries and farms, finances, local improvements.

Mr. Pattullo was on his feet half a dozen times. He gives his well-seasoned advice freely. He frequently questions the ministers. In the old days, when he was chief, he never questioned the ministers in public. He told them what to do, in private.

Mrs. Jamieson looked a little embarrassed when she got mixed up in introducing a bill. She looked relieved when Attorney-General got mixed up, too. There is a long procedure to go through and everyone makes mistakes except Mr. Speaker Whitaker and Mr. Pattullo. Even the Premier gets a little mixed at times.

In all, 16 bills were introduced. They have to do with coroners, industrial settlements, water, apprentices, the Provincial Museum, trade schools, unclaimed money, registered nurses and mental hospitals. Most of the Opposition bills will no doubt go the way of Sam Guthrie's Mechanics' Lien Act Amendment, which was thrown out Wednesday on the advice of Attorney-General Maitland.

Mines Minister Herbert Ancomb, answering a barrage of questions as he was piloting through his department's estimates said there is nobody who knows so little as he about mines. But he would learn and what the department needs is common sense, and business sagacity and it will get both under him.

Tom Uphill thinks there ought to be more fairness in divorce. A woman has to prove lots more than a man, he reported, and he thought this should be changed. Modesty, he said, forbade him from going into details. He asked the attorney-general to read the Russian divorce act.

"If and when the new order arrives I may have to read it," replied Mr. Maitland, by way of refusal.

Agricultural Minister MacDonald announced he was so anxious to save money for the people that he is doing without the services of a private secretary, thereby saving \$2,400 a year. He called his vote of \$300,000 "measly." Harold Winch wanted to know why the minister talked that way when he never spends his entire estimate. Dr. MacDonald replied that, just because the money was allotted to him, was no reason to spend it. He then told how he usually turns money back each year to the treasury.

The sword is not always drawn between C.C.F. ranks and those of the Conservative section of the government. E. E. Winch gave public acknowledgement in the Legislature Tuesday to a courtesy letter from the Mines Minister offering a sympathetic ear for any of Burnaby's mining problems.

Mr. Pattullo scored on Mr. Ancomb in a paternal admonition in the House. Mr. Ancomb had told A. J. Paton he "should not think, should not have ideas," when the Vancouver-Point Grey Conservative said he "thought" a mining engineer had condemned Zebalos. That that was his "idea" of the matter.

"The Minister of Mines surely didn't mean the member should not think, should not have ideas," the former premier said. "He got a bit irritated. He should learn to keep his temper, like me."

Every high school boy in B.C. should be able to identify the minerals of the province, W. J. Asselstine, former Mines Minister, said. Courses providing that knowledge would be far more valuable than those devoted to Hannibal crossing the Alps, he said.

Report Facts On Mines Only

Non-committal opinions of mining engineers came in for censure from T. A. Love, Conservative, Grand Forks-Greenwood, in the Legislature Wednesday.

The reports, he said, did not encourage capital.

W. J. Asselstine, Liberal, Atlin, and Mines Minister Herbert Ancomb sprang to the defence of the engineers. Both stated the mining engineers reported on facts as they saw them.

The brush came after Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo; E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, and Arthur Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, had spoken in favor of encouraging prospectors along grub-stake lines.

Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, asked if it were not possible to take special measures to stimulate production of minerals urgently needed at present.

CLOSE CO-OPERATION
Mr. Ancomb said the department was working in close co-operation with the federal government on that question. The government, he said, was dealing with the problem of assisting prospectors and hoped to get somewhere on the matter.

Mr. Asselstine outlined mining training courses during his term as minister, but noted war conditions had caused curtailment.

In reply to question by H. W. Herridge, C.C.F., Rossland-Trail, over a conference in the premier's office on oil drilling operations at Comotion Creek, the Premier said a statement would be given shortly.

The mines minister said the vote for metallurgical research had been increased this year to extend use of U.B.C. equipment and junior students in the field during the vacation period.

ESTIMATING THE C.C.F.

From Toronto Globe and Mail

At a luncheon party the other day a great Canadian industrialist was asked what he thought of the C.C.F. in British Columbia.

"They're alive," he said after a pause. "I don't say I'd vote for them; matter of fact they'd probably put me out of business if they became a government. Nevertheless, they're the only party I have any respect for." This man's career and business interests and associations would suggest that he is an old-fashioned Tory. Probably he votes Conservative. But he is an extremely shrewd observer, and frankly reported what he had seen happen under his own eyes.

He went on to say that the C.C.F. members paid their dues regularly and took an interest in public affairs. They read the papers, discussed what they read with each other, and made their private investigations. For instance, if milk prices seemed out of line in one community they would find out why. Then they would get busy writing letters and calling meetings, and soon the milk price would be reduced. They were always attacking some little abuse.

The other parties, he said, were by comparison dead. Their members were satisfied to vote at election, or perhaps make campaign contributions when asked for them. But they were not visibly active in the public interest between elections. They were not campaigning or crusading as were the members of the C.C.F. from one year's end to another. They were not making friends and winning converts. They were not obviously seeking some unselfish end, trying, so far as they could, to make the world a better place to live in. "As regards the C.C.F. Party," the man said, "I take off my hat to them."

Under Mr. Pearson

OLD AGE PENSIONERS THROUGHOUT the province will have learned with profound satisfaction that the Act under which they are paid their small monthly allowance will in future be administered by the department of the public service over which Hon. George Pearson now presides. Hitherto the Workmen's Compensation Board has had charge of this part of the province's business; but the impression has gained ground—and numerous instances to support it have been cited in recent years—that this body has been too efficient in its observance of the precise requirements of the law, whereas only by a more elastic interpretation of the provisions of the Act is it possible, in hundreds of cases, to implement the beneficent spirit and intent in which the legislation was originally conceived. This is no reflection whatsoever on the Workmen's Compensation Board. Its record, and particularly that of its able chairman, Mr. E. S. H. Winn, K.C., over the years has been an admirable one. Nor is it any secret that for some time past it has expressed the wish to be relieved of the exactions which the administration of the Old Age Pension Act have imposed upon it. The government is to be congratulated upon the change it now proposes to effect.

Legislators Hear Farmer's Problems

Farmers representing all sections of British Columbia Wednesday brought their problems once more before the Legislature's agricultural committee.

The advisory board of the B.C. farmers' institutes comes to Victoria each year to ask the government to do something to help the people on the land.

This year they ask that bounties on predatory animals be set as follows: Cougars, \$30; wolves, \$20; coyotes, \$5. They want a farmer on the game board. They urge the Agriculture Department request the federal government absorb freight rates and put the B.C. poultry industry on a parity with the same industry in eastern Canada.

The farmers are also asking that school taxes on land and personal property be abolished and that the provincial treasury, as it once did, shoulder the entire cost of education out of consolidated revenue "and thus equitably distribute the cost of education on ability to pay."

Hon. Dr. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, attended the meeting.

Delegates were Sydney Pickles, Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands; C. J. Killer, Skeena and Bulkley Valley; R. Blackburn, Nechaco; Wm. Harrison, Kamloops; D. E. MacKenzie, Lower Fraser Valley; O. B. Appleton, West Kootenay; R. Wood, Shuswap-Okanagan; W. Hogg, Cariboo; William Dicken, East Kootenay; T. Jamieson, Peace River.

C. S. Henley

Securities Act Helps Brokers, Protects Public

The Securities Act is a great blessing for the broker carrying on legitimate business. C. S. Henley of Victoria told the Legislature's mining committee today. "It is the greatest blessing to know a mine has been thoroughly investigated," he said.

Mr. Henley said 90 per cent of people who put money into mines lose it, and any protection our government can give, well, they are entitled to it." Mr. Henley pointed out the people who invest in mines are largely ones who can ill afford to lose their only \$100 or \$500 as the case may be.

He said he had never heard from the public any complaints about the Securities Act.

T. A. Love, Conservative, Grand Forks-Greenwood, asked Mr. Henley what he thought of the testimony of A. E. Jukes, Sidney Norman, A. N. Wolverton, A. E. James, C. S. Arnold, J. B. Woodworth and C. S. Arnold, all of whom told the committee Thursday they are in favor of amendments to the Act.

VISIONARY

"I would be more inclined to look over the records of the mines they have promoted," Mr. Henley replied. "I do not say these men are not absolutely sincere, but the act should be left where it is for the protection of the public. Mining engineers, from my own experience, are very visionary."

Lack of interest in mining at present, Mr. Henley said, in his opinion is because there has been a general change in mind on the part of the public, who are now more interested in financially helping the government fight the war.

Frank Putnam, Liberal, Nelson-Creston, and Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, said the public did not mind a gamble, but wanted to be sure their money went to develop the mine in which they were interested.

"What they want is to be sure their horse starts," agreed Mr. Putnam and Mr. Cameron.

"If they (Thursday's delegation) have mining securities to place before the public, the act will permit them to do so and will also protect the public," Mr. Henley said.

Former Attorney-General Gordon Wismer, called as a witness, said mining development in B.C. depended on furnishing adequate protection for the public.

"It is the public which puts up the cash money," Mr. Wismer said, as he described the act as legislation "to prevent mining of the people rather than of the mines."

Col. Eric Pepler, deputy attorney-general, was also called before the committee.

Pearson Opposes Labor Act Debate

Labor Minister Geo. S. Pearson announced in the Legislature on Thursday he is opposed to opening the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act this session.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, asked the minister if he would do anything about the request of a labor delegation, asking that employers be forced to deal with unions recognized by employees.

Mr. Pearson said the employers should have stated their case before the Legislature's labor committee.

CONTENTIOUS

The matters suggested by the labor delegation were highly contentious, he said. Giving his reasons for opposing reopening of the act, the Labor Minister said the Dominion is invading the labor field more from day to day and would probably go farther.

"The act, as it is now, gives full power to employees to organize," Mr. Pearson said. "The initiative is in the hands of the employees."

Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, said companies, in negotiations, cause undue delay. One company kept the men waiting two months. He felt the act should make it obligatory for the company to meet its men within a specified time—from seven to 10 days.

Mr. Pearson said there is a definite obligation on the part of the employer to negotiate. If employees felt they were not getting action they should so inform the labor department, he said.

Because of this, he explained, reopening of the act is not necessary. He said he had dozens of changes he wants made in the act. There are undesirable features for both sides, he admitted.

UNSCRUPULOUS

Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, said there are some unscrupulous employers, despite the war situation, who will take advantage of loopholes in the act. Work is stopped largely because this type of employer will not recognize the unions.

"Any group of employees can organize in any way they like," Mr. Pearson said.

"They are then often exposed to intimidation," Mr. MacNeil replied.

"The act enables organization under any kind of union the employees desire—employees can affiliate themselves with anyone they like," Mr. Pearson said.

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Mr. Pattullo's Baby**M.L.A.'s Warm Up on Peace River Oil; If Found, What Shall Be Done With It?**

Is there oil in the Peace River? Should it be developed by the government or by private interests?

Should the government continue exploring or give up the entire project?

These are subjects that are always good in the Legislature for hours of talk.

Oil, or expected oil, or no oil at all, in the Peace came up Thursday and nearly everyone had his say. Only the five women were silent. Chief debater was former Premier T. D. Pattullo, whose "baby" is the oil drilling in the far north.

It all started when the \$100,000 vote for oil exploration came up in the estimates.

Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Mines, announced he would bring in a bill which might open the oil area to private interests on a royalty basis.

Mr. Pattullo started the debate when he asked the government if it would continue drilling.

DOESN'T APPLY

Mr. Anscomb, replying, prefaced his remarks by saying he is and always has been against government in business, but that didn't apply in this case "because we are already in business."

He wanted to know what the government would do with the oil if it was found. He said he had never had that satisfactorily explained by the old government. It would either have to sell the oil to the existing oil companies or go into the retail business. The present government, he said, had asked the advice of an eminent Ottawa geologist, who said there might be oil and there might not be. In any event, there was \$125,000 left for this purpose from last year, in addition to the \$100,000 for the next fiscal year.

"We have enough money to carry us through to some definite conclusion," Mr. Anscomb said. "I say this is the most difficult problem facing the government at the present time. We will give it our most serious consideration."

Mr. Pattullo said he was dissatisfied with the results so far—that much harder material than was anticipated had been struck. "Even if nothing is found, this money has not been wasted, for we have obtained a wealth of information," Mr. Pattullo said.

Of the new bill fixing royalties the government could collect from anyone developing the oil possibilities, the former Premier said, "It looks pretty evident to me what this government is going to do."

"Hear, hear," said C.C.F. benches.

GAMBLING

"The possibilities there are tremendous," Mr. Pattullo continued. "I'm as satisfied as I'm standing here that we'll get oil—there will be the greatest possible regret on the part of the



HERBERT ANSCOMB

people of this province if this asset is handed over to private enterprise. It has been said this is all a gamble. Well, life, generally speaking, is a gamble—but to me this looks like a pretty safe gamble. The Minister of Mines has a fetish about private enterprise. He would give private enterprise everything—the public nothing.

"Wouldn't it have been a great thing if we had struck oil before the election?" asked Mr. Pattullo wistfully, and the House laughed.

Criticism of the oil exploration is going on ignorantly and with sinister intentions, Mr. Pattullo said, adding he is disappointed that the Liberals he once led contemplate supporting the oil royalties bill.

Mr. Anscomb objected to the sinister remark, and Mr. Pattullo said he didn't mean Mr. Anscomb was sinister, although "he's Tory to the backbone."

At one point Mr. Pattullo said to the minister: "My hon. friend is only getting deeper in the mire of ignorance."

DAY LABOR

Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, said he is disturbed, and so are many people, by the rumor that the oil may be handed over to private business. He said the former Premier assured him it would be held for the people. Mr. Guthrie asked, "If the oil—if there's any there—is going to be no good to us, how can it be of any use to private interests?—if there's no oil there, why should they want it? I think we should go on with the drilling and do it by day labor. Don't let us be fooled by the contractors. I would like the minister to assure us he is not going to hand it over to private capital."

Turning to the minister, Mr. Guthrie asked, "Have we your assurance that this oil won't be handed away before the next session of this House?"

"We haven't any oil to hand away," Mr. Anscomb replied.

Mr. Guthrie: "Well, the area then."

Mr. Anscomb: "I haven't any idea—the Mikado might be here before then."

Later Mr. Anscomb said, "We have no intention of handing away anything."

"I've every reason to believe nothing is going to get it," Mr. Guthrie said.

'DON'T QUIT'

Mr. Pattullo urged the government not to be a quitter.

"Find out what is there," he said.

"No one has said we're going to quit," Mr. Anscomb replied.

"The only difference between us," said Mr. Anscomb of Mr. Pattullo, "is that I admit I know nothing about this and he won't admit he knows nothing."

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said the government is now in the oil business, rightly or wrongly, and he thought the drilling should continue. The government, he felt, must have had some encouragement or it wouldn't have started.

"I think there must be oil there somewhere," he said.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch, noting Mr. Pattullo's remarks, said he was glad to welcome Mr. Pattullo to the ranks of those who support public ownership.

"I believe we are faced with a difficult question, whether to continue or stop," Mr. Winch said. "The geologists don't say yes and they don't say no—they say maybe."

He advised, however, that the exploration be continued.

Reeve R. C. MacDonald of Coquitlam, Conservative, Dewdney, said the whole thing is a gamble and he asked if the government is prepared to go into the gambling business.

Mr. Pattullo said it is not a gamble as the public understands gambling.

Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, said the drilling should be continued, although he admitted it was like a poker game. The government already has an ace in the hole and might get a royal flush in the next hand.

OIL BY THE SPOON

Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, said if the government is going into the oil business it should choose an area where it is definitely known there is oil, like the Flathead area of his district, where oil can be scooped up in a spoon.

Mr. Anscomb warned that the present contractor might be unwilling to continue the operation.

"The government has always been made a goat of by these people," commented Mr. Guthrie.

Mr. Anscomb wanted to know what Mr. Guthrie meant by that remark.

"Anyone who has a fetish for private interests, as the Hon. member for Prince Rupert notes, can very easily be held up," Mr. Guthrie replied.

Care in Homes Best If Possible

Plight of many people on old age pensions is more pathetic than if they had been institutionalized, Dr. Geo. Davidson, provincial welfare director, told the Legislature's social welfare committee today.

When the Old Age Pension Act came into being it was figured people on the pension could quite happily find their own accommodation, Dr. Davidson noted. This, however, has not been the case. Many of the old people would be much better off in institutions, but there is no room for them.

Dr. Davidson said, in his opinion all welfare cases are much better, if at all possible, in their own homes than in institutions.

"Institutionalization, in my opinion, is the very last thing," he said. "We were all born to live in a natural family environment and as long as we can leave cases in such environment there is no problem of readjustment to be faced."

He said he is also convinced a foster-home program is not as expensive as institutionalization.

In reply to a question from Mrs. Laura Jamieson, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre, Dr. Davidson said he thought health insurance or some sort of state medicine would help prevent cases of pre-aging.

Answering E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, who favors Oakalla under the welfare department, Dr. Davidson said Oakalla is coming to be regarded more as a treatment program and in time it might very well be considered health and welfare.

Dr. Davidson admitted the presence of senile cases in Essondale mental hospital is hampering the effectiveness of the active work.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, asked if some sort of cottage plan would not take shape to look after elderly couples, so that men and women would not have to be separated. Dr. Davidson said such a plan is feasible.

P.G.E. Directorate To See Changes

There have been certain resignations on the directorate of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Premier John Hart told the Legislature Thursday.

Replying to a question from Opposition Leader Harold Winch, the Premier said the board of directors had not yet met to make new appointments.

T. D. Pattullo, when he was premier, was president of the P.G.E. C. H. P. Tupper, former Liberal member for Similkameen, defeated at the last election by Bernard Webber, C.C.F., was a P.G.E. director.

Legislative circles believe Mr. Pattullo, although his resignation has been submitted, may be asked to continue as president of the B.C. government's railway, linking Squamish with Quesnel.

Want Industries In B.C. Interior

Up-country members of the Legislature want some of British Columbia's war industries in the interior of the province.

In the Legislature Thursday M.L.A.'s from far-distant places of B.C. put in their pleas in this regard to Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Trade and Industry.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, deplored the fact the interior has not a single war industry. There is too much waste and expense, he said, citing the Hotel Vancouver barracks, which is so expensive, he said, that people are talking about it.

Reeve R. C. MacDonald of Coquitlam, Conservative, Dewdney, said war industries should not be congregated too much in the congested areas of the coast.

Flt. Lieut. L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, asked the minister to do something to keep the bulb industry established and to start tobacco and silk worm industries.

Mr. Anscomb said, as far as he could see, the bulb growers of Vancouver Island are not asking for any assistance. Development of markets is not necessary; what is needed is production development, he said.

L. A. Shepherd, C.C.F., Delta, asked the department to boost export of potatoes from the Fraser Valley.

Dr. Gillis said he couldn't see any use voting money for the tourist industry, when he couldn't see many tourists here this year because of the war.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, wanted to know what the travel bureaus are going to do this year.

Mr. Anscomb, replying, said the situation is extremely complex. He noted Oregon and Washington had made heavy reductions in their tourist votes and said the B.C. department will not do any national advertising this year. But he thought the vote should be left in, because conditions are so uncertain.

Dr. Gillis asked the minister to use coal on the P.G.E. instead of oil.

The House debated the office of the B.C. trade commissioner in Ottawa.

Mr. Anscomb said Lloyd Craig's duties are to see what can be done to secure war industries for B.C.

"He has been successful—he has done a good job," the minister said.

E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, thought it disgraceful the government had to spend money to seek war contracts, when Canada needs everything it can get. He said the situation is "preposterous."

Political Evils

Pearson and Uphill Fight on Fernie Relief

Heated charges of political scandals and evils and civil service demoralization were heard in the Legislature Friday.

Contributors to the electrifying half hour were Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie; C. Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard; Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, and Hon. George Pearson, Minister of Labor.

Mr. Uphill, roaring with rage, started the dynamite-charged ball rolling when he wanted to know who was responsible for sending a certain relief administrator into Fernie.

"Did you appoint him to my district?" asked Mr. Uphill, leaning forward, challengingly.

"You bet I did," replied Mr. Pearson, equally challengingly. "I take full responsibility."

"Then I wish you'd ship him back into your own district," replied Mr. Uphill.

EXPLANATION

Then Mr. Pearson explained why he had appointed the man Mr. Uphill didn't like.

"Why, Mr. Chairman, administration of relief in Fernie was a scandal—it was the greatest scandal this province has ever seen," Mr. Pearson said.

He explained he hired the new administrator because "he was a tough little guy." He said he didn't mean he was tough to the people rightfully on relief, but "he was tough to the road bosses and the head of the Liberal Association."

Everybody in Fernie—"the whole city"—wanted relief, said Mr. Pearson. One Fernie man applied for relief for his son who was attending the University of British Columbia, the Labor Minister disclosed.

Mr. Uphill frequently interrupted to say people in his district are getting relief "purely and solely" because of their political affiliations or because they belong to certain orders.

Mr. Pearson defied Mr. Uphill to prove that sort of thing was going on under his appointee. He said Mr. Uphill wasn't entirely free of trying to use his influence.

"Well, there are still some scandalous things going on in Fernie," said Mr. Uphill, adding that Mr. Pearson's appointee is the cause of all the trouble. "We want to see this graft and corruption cut out."

One man, related Mr. Uphill, "a disciple of Mussolini's," got a contract for a ton of nails, while "good Britishers" were ignored.

Another Fernie man, said Mr. Uphill, was driven to the asylum because the administrator was so tough.

POWELL RIVER

Mr. Gargrave asked Mr. Pearson if it were true the relief administrator in Powell River was discharged just before the election because of his politics.

Mr. Pearson replied that some people had a bogey about politics and political reasons for this and that.

The Powell River man, the minister said, was discharged because many people objected to his manner. Even the doctor had objected. True, he said, some of the objectors may have been interested in politics, but "we came to the conclusion he wasn't satisfactory—his manner of approach was upsetting."

Mr. MacNeil, who has asked each minister how appointments are made to his department, rose, as usual, to ask the same question of Mr. Pearson.

The Labor Minister said he understood Mr. MacNeil had "a bug" about government appointments.

"This is the only way I can find out what is the government policy in this respect," he said. "To my astonishment, so far I find one minister after another snapping his fingers at the law—the Civil Service Act—and this is demoralizing to the civil servants—the ministers, I find, do not observe the law—in the British Commonwealth even cabinet ministers are not above the law."

"Political bosses are making the appointments and doing the firing," Mr. MacNeil charged. "This is the root of all our political evil."

WANTS TO KNOW

Mr. Pearson said, "I want to know who is coming to my department—I want to see and know who they are."

The minister said there are many things in the Civil Service Act that should be changed.

"But don't think my appointments are made by political bosses," he said, "for I haven't much respect for political bosses."

Mr. Uphill then wanted to know why the deputy labor minister is having his salary raised \$300 a year, while employees in lower brackets are not getting any increases.

Before answering this question Mr. Pearson wondered why Mr. Uphill, "who isn't often in this House," was there every minute of the Labor Department estimates.

Mr. Uphill replied he thought one of his own bills was coming up, otherwise he wouldn't have been there.

The deputy labor minister, Mr. Pearson explained, for a long time was looked upon as a glorious office boy. Now, with labor problems to the fore, he had much to do and the increase only brought him in line with other deputy ministers.

However, Mr. Pearson went on, "I was fired for a time, as you know," and during that time the deputy went to headquarters and obtained a promise of more pay."

Although he didn't recommend it, Mr. Pearson said, he was in favor of it.

House Discusses Union Activity

If proof is provided to show employers have discharged and black-listed men for union activity, they could be forced to take the men back, Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, said in the Legislature Friday.

He admitted, however, proving such facts was difficult.

The minister made the statement in reply to question by Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, who asked where the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act protected workmen against such vicious practices.

He knew skilled artisans needed in war industries who had been black-listed because of their union activities, Mr. MacNeil said.

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, and E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, asked the minister to reconsider the act and open it up. The minister's refusal in face of requests for such action from trades unions had been dictatorial, Mr. Winch said.

"If you are going to deal with the act, it should be done thoroughly," the minister replied, saying adequate time had been available to go into the question in committee.

Labor was interested in the one point—the right to organize and bargain collectively, Mr. MacNeil said. Labor held that right had been declined and that the act failed to protect them from intimidation on the part of unscrupulous employers.

IMPERATIVE RIGHT

"Legally the men have the right to organize—actually they have not," said Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox.

"I'm going to suggest it's time the minister stopped stalling around," he said.

"I'm not stalling—I am trying to work for the good of the workers of this province," the minister replied, commenting the act was not aimed at strengthening the position of professional organizers more interested in organization than in improving conditions for the workers.

Mr. Cameron charged the minister with taking action against Pioneer Mine strikers but declining to take the employers to court through fear of having his legislation taken to the Privy Council and thrown out.

Mr. Gargrave, Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, and Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, spoke in favor of elimination of the time lag between opening union negotiations and their completion. They saw no reason why employers should not meet employees within a reasonable time on the issue.

The lag, Mr. MacNeil said, provided opportunity for action against organizers by employers who, in some cases, fired the active figures.

Mr. Guthrie said it gave employers the chance to work on weak-kneed workers to the detriment of union moves.

These

The Legislature heard an account of the use of the term "Prime Minister" by a former Premier referred, when pensions, to "t" and then said "Premier."

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These, Your M.L.A.'s

The Legislature Friday night heard an academic debate on the use of the terms "Premier" and "Prime Minister."

Former Premier T. D. Pattullo referred, when talking on old age pensions, to "the Prime Minister" and then said "I should say the Premier."

"It's not the Prime Minister any longer," Mr. Pattullo said. "When I was Prime Minister and used the term, I was accused of trying to put on airs."

He pointed out that when "dear old Sir Richard McBride was head of the government," he used the term Prime Minister.

"There is no difference—they both mean chief," Mr. Pattullo said.

He then went on to say both terms were derived from the Latin—Prime Minister was Anglicized and Premier was French. He noted Sir Wilfred Laurier was never referred to as the Prime Minister, always the Premier.

Premier John Hart said the Constitution Act used the word Premier.

Mr. Pattullo admitted this is so, but said in every other province of Canada the head of the treasury is referred to as Provincial Treasurer. In British Columbia the Constitution says he is the Minister of Finance.

During this spontaneous debate, which had the House mystified, because it all had nothing to do with the case, Mr. Pattullo said Attorney-General Maitland was "bragging and banging" about the way the coalition government had completed the income tax agreement between Ottawa and the provinces.

Mr. Maitland, who looked tired,

said: "You can't get me arguing tonight." However he did come back with something about "what you've been doing for the last seven years."

When things begin to drag, the galleries and members alike look for an enlivening "Uphillism." Tom gave them a few Friday night.

"My future is spotless," he said. "I mean my word is as good as my bond. I never told an untruth—only sometimes when the truth wouldn't answer."

He didn't like the "understrappers" in the relief office in his district who thought "the only way to justify their salaries is to trim every way."

The session is dragging on, with the Opposition holding up the votes in the various departments. Friday afternoon Premier Hart said the Legislature would finish with labor estimates and get on with the Provincial Secretary's Department by midnight. But, when 11.30 p.m. Friday came, the House had only finished with the Labor Department.

Labor Minister Geo. Pearson must have stood up 100 times during six hours of debate on Labor Department estimates. He must have answered a thousand questions.

Mr. Pearson has another terrific day ahead of him Monday when he will have to put through the Provincial Secretary's estimates. This is one of the biggest departments of government and one of the C.C.F.'s pets. Mr. Pearson no doubt, on Monday, will be up and down again for six hours. C.C.F. members are tireless when it comes to asking questions and giving advice and suggestions.

other similar cases. Dr. Gillis also said he was not against the act but wanted to know what would happen to other cases of a like nature.

Legislature Passes Deane's Pension

The Legislature Friday passed an act to give superannuation to George Herbert Deane, retired municipal inspector of schools in Victoria.

There was some debate, Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, fearing there were other cases like Mr. Deane's and that the Legislature was creating a precedent.

Provincial Secretary Geo. S. Pearson pointed out the case was extraordinary, that Mr. Deane had been in public service for many years, but had left provincial education to take up similar work elsewhere in B.C. service. Mr. Pearson pointed out Mr. Deane had contributed to a pension fund for many years and could take out what he put in, at 5 per cent, but is desirous of superannuation.

"It is a matter of fairness and justice," the Provincial Secretary said.

Dr. Gillis said many long-time residents of British Columbia, if they went away for four years, would have to wait 20 years in B.C., on their return, before they could secure the old age pension.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, said it is only fair to give the superannuation to Mr. Deane, but pointed out there may be

SHORTEST SPEECH

From Port Alberni Advocate

James Mowat, M.L.A. for Alberni, created a sensation in the Legislature the other day. He made a short speech, one of the shortest on record, and the Press Gallery were unanimous in recording that he said more in a few minutes than more experienced politicians would say in an hour.

Last week local municipal authorities went to Vancouver to negotiate certain business with the government. Their report reads: "... to express appreciation of Mr. Mowat's assistance in the interviews, and the matters generally pertaining to Port Alberni."

When more M.L.A.'s learn what Mr. Mowat seems to know intuitively, that the people who sent them there are considerably less interested in talk than they are in action, we might be able to look with more sympathy on the publicity that emanates from Victoria. Our congratulations to Mr. Mowat for setting a very laudable example.

Winch Denies Labor Shortage

"I only wish the minister had the power to enact a law to 'scrag' certain individuals, big industrialists and some parliamentarians, too, who do this country a great disservice by giving out ponderous statements about the shortage of labor," Harold Winch, Opposition leader, said in the Legislature Friday night.

"It's not true," he said. Men by the hundreds gathered before war industrial plants in Vancouver every morning looking for work and could not get it, he said.

He spoke as debate continued on employment services and the unemployment relief votes.

Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, and others spoke of the position of men 50 and over who could not find work.

A more efficient placement service was urged for the employment bureau by Mr. MacNeil. "I hear employers say they can't get workers. I hear workers say they can't get work," he said.

Minister of Labor George S. Pearson stated the federal government had indicated its intention of extending the placement system. The province had always adopted a lenient attitude to older men, relieving them of the necessity of working out relief in difficult weather, he added.

OLDER WOMEN NEED AID

Earlier Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, had asked similar placement consideration for trained women of 50 and 60 who could not compete with younger groups.

The matter was under federal jurisdiction, Mr. Pearson said, adding, "We are hopeful something may be done."

A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, raised the question of alleged inadequate training given youths by some welding schools, saying their work sometimes destroyed expensive plates. A wider labor policy could avert the trouble, he said, through a closer check on the schools and establishment of standards.

Mr. Pearson challenged Mr. Turner's knowledge of the welding situation, saying particular attention had been given that trade, definite inspection was carried out and standards maintained for schools.

Harold Winch urged establishment of one central authority for relief, saying the province could aid municipalities by assuming complete responsibility for financing and administering unemployment. At present, he said, responsibility was shuffled around. He said in some cases municipalities were requiring unemployed to work extra time to earn the bonus which had been given them.

Mr. Pearson said he thought the time had come to take stock. He sometimes wondered if the province should not restore the relief burden to the municipalities and allocate some other form of assistance to them.

If he had a bag of funds with no bottom, he would like to take the whole thing over, he said. It could be administered more efficiently and, he added, could be run to save as much as 20 per cent. No other province in Canada paid anything like B.C.'s scale, he said.

B. G. Webber, C.C.F., Similkameen, asked if the province had set up any policy to meet the demand for seasonal labor in the Okanagan which found much of its men, declined relief through age rulings, drifting to the larger centres and leaving a labor scarcity in their own regions.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, answered some criticism on the lack of employment for older men, saying 75 per cent of the coal miners in Merritt were over 60 years of age.

He was asked the situation in Princeton. In Princeton, he replied, the miners are organized.

Mrs. Steeves Wants

Labor, Farmers For U.B.C. Board

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves' bill to "democratize the university," as she announced earlier in the week, was introduced in the Legislature Friday.

The present "British Columbia University Act," says the board of governors, shall consist of 11 members, the President and Chancellor as ex-officio members, with the Chancellor as chairman; three members elected by the Senate, and the remaining six by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

The act further says no principal or teacher in any high school shall be on the board of governors.

Mrs. Steeves' amendment would take this clause out and have the board of governors composed of: The Chancellor and President, with the Chancellor as chairman; three members elected by the Senate; one member elected by the B.C. Teachers' Federation; one member elected by the Farmers' Institute of B.C.; one member elected by organized labor; one member to be elected by the Parent-Teacher Federation of B.C., and two members to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

ECONOMICS CHAIR

When the University vote of \$400,000 came up earlier in the week, Mrs. Laura Jamieson, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre, and Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, asked that a chair of home economics be instituted.

Mrs. Hodges pointed out that 20 years ago a group of Victoria women raised \$11,000 for this chair, and this fund had now grown to \$14,000.

"It is so unusual for anyone to come to the government bearing money, that I hope consideration will be given to the need to urge the University Senate to make the necessary steps to establish this chair," Mrs. Hodges said.

Perry Defends B.C.'s Actions For Old People

C.C.F. members in the House Friday night said they would never be satisfied until old-age pensioners in B.C. receive \$30 a month, and members of the government pointed out B.C. is doing more for its aged than any other province in Canada.

BONUS VOTE

The matter came up when the House was voting \$711,000 for the \$5 a month bonus for B.C. old folk.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis, C.C.F., Vancouver Burrard, said there is "absolutely nothing in the regulations of the act to prevent this government from being a great deal more liberal."

She said the act was drawn up by an inter-provincial conference and Ottawa is not dictating in respect to pensions.

"We asked for a loaf of bread—now we have half a loaf. That's good, fine, but the old people have waited too long for this half loaf. If this government wants to look after the old people it doesn't have to wait for Ottawa. More is due. The \$5 a month extra this legislature is giving is long overdue. The old people need a lot more than they're getting."

Education Minister H. G. T. Perry said, "I think British Columbia is making a very fine contribution, when the province is only called on to pay 25 per cent of the pension costs. This is a contribution that should not be depreciated by the Opposition. We hope it will be accepted as a national responsibility, which it is, and not as entirely a provincial responsibility."

33.6 PER CENT

Mr. Perry pointed out the B.C. government is now contributing 33.6 per cent of the total pensions to B.C. aged. In addition to the bonus it pays another \$700,000 each year.

Provincial Secretary Pearson said "we can't do anything further unless we can persuade the other provinces. We didn't make the present regulations. We must keep within the regulations that are laid down."

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, urged the government to call an inter-provincial conference to deal with the pension problem.

"Be bold once in a while," she said. "In doubtful cases let us pay the whole pension ourselves, even if Ottawa objects."

Power to Cities For A.R.P. Work

B.C.'s municipalities will be allowed to raise and spend money for civilian protection when a bill entitled "Municipalities Civil Protection Enabling Act" is passed by the Legislature.

It was introduced for first reading in the House Friday by Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Under the present Municipal Act there is no authority for cities and municipalities to spend money on such work.

The bill is officially described as "An act conferring power upon municipalities to take precautions against hostile attack."

It says municipal councils shall have power to organize, establish and put into operation any plan or scheme for air raid precautions, civil protection and disaster relief; to co-operate with and make grants of money to any committee set up to undertake the organization of air raid precautions; to authorize any employee of the municipality to perform any services that the council may deem to be in furtherance of A.R.P.; to acquire by purchase or otherwise fire, demolition and other equipment or materials that the council may deem necessary or useful in the case of enemy attack; to authorize the use of real property or any equipment or chattels belonging to the municipality for the furtherance of A.R.P.; to authorize any employee of the municipality to demolish or remove any privately-owned wall, building, structure or works made

Car Drivers Liable If Accidents Occur

Legislation which excused the driver of a gratuitous passenger from liability, should an accident result, hasn't worked out very well, Hon. R. L. Maitland, Attorney-General, explained in the Legislature Friday when putting through second reading of an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act.

The amendment will make the driver of a car liable if "gross negligence" can be proven.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., Vancouver North, said she feels rather doubtful about the amendment, that it will mean a lot of litigation and trouble. She foresaw a great many free rides because of gas rationing.

Asks B.C. Funds

Seeking government funds to help building costs, Dr. A. K. Haywood, medical superintendent of the Vancouver General Hospital and directors Frank Burd, Norman Cull and James Thompson Saturday met Provincial Secretary Geo. Pearson and Attorney-General R. L. Maitland.

The directors, after the conference, said the ministers gave them a favorable hearing, but made no promises.

"We need more money because building costs have risen," Mr. Burd said.

New Tax Imposed On Iron Ore

A tax of 17.5 cents per ton will be imposed on all iron ore mined in British Columbia, with a drawback of the full amount for all ore smelted within the province.

This is the main feature of an amendment to the Taxation Act, introduced in the Legislature Friday by Premier-Finance Minister John Hart.

Harold Winch Says B.C. Drug Stores Evade Laws

Opposition Leader Harold Winch, in the Legislature Monday called on the government to conduct a sweeping investigation of the pharmacy situation in British Columbia.

"The Pharmaceutical Council doesn't deal any more with pharmacy," Mr. Winch said, "but with a commercial drug store, almost a department store."

"The Pharmacy Act is being used, not to build the profession of pharmacy, but to keep a general store open after lawful hours and to invade the minimum wage laws of this province," Mr. Winch said.

He told of one apprentice in a drug store who, in two years, had not seen six prescriptions filled.

APPRENTICES

"Those boys, called apprentices, are actually working in a general store—any other store has to pay the minimum wage of \$15 a week, but these drug stores can sign young men and young women on as apprentices and they don't reach \$15 a week until the sixth six-month period," Mr. Winch said.

Too many druggists are diagnosing, Mr. Winch said. People are now going into drug stores and asking for advice, and the druggists says: "Why don't you try this, or why don't you try that," Mr. Winch said. Patent medicines are recommended.

"This is detrimental to the pharmacy profession and it is also detrimental to the health of the people of this province," he said.

"The Pharmaceutical Council should recognize its business is pharmacy and not how to sell electrical appliances or sporting goods," he said.

In Victoria, Mr. Winch recounted, a woman the other day went into a drug store and asked her druggist what he thought of a certain medicine. He said he wouldn't sell it to her, considering the nature of her complaint. At another drug store the man sold her three bottles, and before she left the store, got her to sign a testimonial to the alleged benefits of the tonic.

PATENT MEDICINES

Another store in Victoria, not complying with the pharmaceutical regulations, had its dispensary removed, but carried on with patent medicines and goods of a general nature.

"Drug stores have developed into a commercialized business—they are no longer operating as pharmacies. Active control of pharmacy should rest in government and be a department of the health department, so that it may be built up as a pharmacy," Mr. Winch said.

No High At Pre

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No Highway Commission At Present Says Bruhn

The time will come when an independent highway commission may be set up in B.C., but in the meantime a highway board, staffed by senior engineers, will advise on the province's road problems, Hon. R. W. Bruhn, Minister of Public Works, announced today.

A full-fledged highway commission would be undesirable under present conditions for several reasons, Mr. Bruhn pointed out.

"In the first place sufficient data is not available on the constitution and functions of highway commissions in other provinces and states," Mr. Bruhn said. "There seems to be considerable doubt as to their success in handling public works affairs. Too often it has been found that these commissions have had little or no value. If and when I am convinced a commission will make for better administration, I will have a proposal to make."

NO COMPLAINTS

Mr. Bruhn said that if department employees were given the opportunity and freed of political interference to carry out their duties at all times in the best interests of the people of B.C., "there would not be the complaints now being made."

"There is no question that at the present time there is general concern and dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Public Works Department is being administered and the slow progress being made in providing adequate highway facilities," Mr. Bruhn said. The new highway board, Mr. Bruhn said, will act as an advisory council and that one of its chief functions will be to gather data on all public works affairs for use of the department.

Board members, Mr. Bruhn said, will be located close to Victoria, where they will be available on short notice. One engineer will act as liaison officer, keeping contact between projects and headquarters, in order to standardize and supervise the work, and keep men and equipment working at top efficiency.

Board expenses, he said, will be light, and will be taken care of entirely without increase in present cost of administration.

"The construction and maintenance of roads in British Columbia is necessarily high," Mr. Bruhn said. "The funds are low, with the result that administration and other overhead charges appear proportionally high."

Blame for dissatisfaction with B.C. highways cannot be laid entirely on the staff, Mr. Bruhn pointed out.

ALL TO BLAME

"The truth is," he said, "we are all to blame. Beyond doubt there is too much interference by irresponsible parties, having in many cases their own selfish interests to serve. What's the use of beating around the bush? Ever since the beginning of the party system there has been waste, extravagance, favoritism and patronage, which should not be permitted. Our system of letting contracts, purchasing of plant and material must be corrected. Some officials have too much to do; others too little. There is a shortage of equipment and much of it is not satisfactory and not spread around to the best advantage. Matters of little consequence require far too much time and traveling, hence there are too many official cars on the road. Some of the appointees to the service are not entirely satisfactory."

"With so little money now available for highway maintenance there is certainly no time for waste of time, material or money. Right now we must take stock of ourselves and our problems and arrange our plans and direct our energies to what is necessary and worth while. Owing to the tremendous resources of this province and the idea that these could never be exhausted, we have simply got into soft, extravagant and badly directed ways and this must now be changed."

Great highway transformation in B.C. is impossible at present, Mr. Bruhn warned, partly because B.C. and other Canadian provinces don't draw federal aid, as do the states south of the line.

"In my opinion," Mr. Bruhn said, "this is the only way our Canadian highways can be developed to compare with those of the United States."

12 to Serve on Council Of B.C. Rehabilitation

Not more than 12 persons will constitute B.C.'s Postwar Rehabilitation Council, and the members will be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-council, to hold office during pleasure, according to a bill introduced in the Legislature Monday by Premier-Finance Minister John Hart.

The bill is known as "An act to make provision for advance planning of rehabilitation measures, industrial reorganization and employment projects designed to meet post-war conditions." In short it is to be known as the Post-war Rehabilitation Act.

The remuneration of the chairman and of the other members will be determined by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-council, says the bill.

The duties of the council shall be to form an estimate of the probable number of returned men who will be released from the defence forces at the war's end and become available for

and in need of civilian employment in this province.

The council will also make a survey to estimate to what extent persons will be thrown out of employment when war industries in the province close down.

A survey of the natural resources and industries of the province will be made by the council, whose members will also confer with operators of industries, agriculturists, organizations of employers and employees, municipal councils and others, "with a view to the creation of opportunities for the reinstatement of returned men and of persons displaced by cessation of war industries, in useful and gainful occupations."

The council will also make a study to determine to what extent war industries can be converted into peacetime industries and to make a survey of agricultural lands to determine the extent to which they lend themselves to self-sustaining or profitable settlement.

These, Your M.L.A.'s

The 14 C.C.F. members of the Legislature had a little celebration of their own Monday night in honor of the election in York South of C.C.F. candidate J. W. Noseworthy and the defeat of Conservative Leader Meighen. In fact, they rubbed the victory well into the Coalition benches, but Liberals and Conservatives took it in good part. One or two Liberals reminded them that Liberals also had been elected.

All C.C.F. members wore red; the men had red tags in their buttonholes, the three women M.L.A.'s wore red bandeaus in their hair. They marched into the House together, behind their leader, Harold Winch, who told his fellow legislators he thought "we should express our pleasure at this off with the old and on with the new." Premier John Hart then grinned indulgently—for were not two Liberal cabinet ministers elected?—and said Mr. Winch was quite out of order.

Black crepe hung on Attorney-General Maitland's desk. It was there when the House met at 8.30, but it was nearly midnight before Mr. Maitland discovered it. He said nothing, merely that he had not noticed it before.

Tom King, from Columbia, said he couldn't understand why black was on the A.G.'s desk. Here, said Mr. King, was an opportu-

nity for Mr. Maitland to move to Ottawa as Leader of the Opposition.

That, suggested Mrs. Steeves from across the aisle, could be B.C.'s contribution to Canada's war effort.

Mr. Uphill, too, wore red in his buttonhole, but he came into the House by himself.

Mr. Pattullo was on his feet more than usual Monday night. Several times he gave advice or explained this and that for the Coalition cabinet ministers.

Harold Winch, near midnight, said "We are getting along very well under the new government leader. . . I wish the ex-government leader would maintain his seat." Anti-Pattullo Liberals laughed aloud in glee.

Mr. Pattullo replied he maintained his seat in the last election. Then he added "It looks as if they (the C.C.F. and the Coalition Liberals) are ganging up as they did on Meighen." This pleased the Conservatives, who felt Mr. Pattullo was vindicating defeat of their national leader.

Mr. Hart apparently worked on standard time Monday. He kept the House going until the stroke of 12. Mrs. Steeves reminded him an hour's sleep had been lost the night before. Mr. Hart smilingly called quits.

Some Customers Stay After Closing Hours

Some customers get into a store two minutes before closing hour and remain there until they have completed their shopping.

Labor Minister George S. Pearson, explained this in the Legislature Monday when an amendment to the Shops Regulation Act was put through second reading.

The amendment will make it possible for municipalities to say how long a customer may remain in a store after closing hours

Before Legislature

B.C.'s "Dominion-Provincial Agreement Act," which will authorize the province to turn over its income tax sources to the Dominion government for the duration of the war, reached the floor of the Legislature Monday.

It was introduced by Premier-Finance Minister John Hart. It contains the various understandings and details of the vast financial change, agreed to by the Premier and Attorney-General R. L. Maitland in Ottawa two months ago.

The Legislature will be asked to approve these changes by passing the act, after which the transfer will become law.

The bill is the most lengthy introduced this session. It has 20 pages. There is expected to be little debate and it will probably pass the House unanimously.

Health Plans Being Studied

Health insurance made its annual appearance before the Legislature Monday night. It cropped up as usual when a \$10,000 vote for the Health Insurance Commission appeared in the estimates. It is \$3,000 less than last year.

Provincial Secretary Geo. Pearson said the commission is working on plans which will eventually be of benefit. He said he did not know what could be done about health insurance at present, as there is difficulty in obtaining doctors and nurses.

GETTING SOMEWHERE

"The chairman is devoting a great deal of time to studying plans," Mr. Pearson said. "He is really getting somewhere in new ideas and is preparing the way."

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said: "I'd be ashamed if I were doing as little work and drawing this money down." He added there is a strong feeling throughout the province against money going to the commission.

Mrs. Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, said she would again support the vote, because "if we killed this vote we would kill the last flicker of life in health insurance."

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, agreeing with Mrs. Steeves, said that after the war some form of state medicine will be accepted as necessary, not only by the public, but by the doctors. He said hundreds of young doctors, discharged from the armed services, would find the doors of private practice closed against them, and would be forced, economically, to turn to state medicine.

NOT ASKED

Replying to W. A. C. Bennett, Conservative, Grand Forks-Greenwood, Mr. Pearson said the chairman, whom he named as Dr. W. T. Barrett, had not been asked by the government to break his contract.

"I have an idea he earns his money, although I cannot say positively, for I have not yet had time to go into the question thoroughly," Mr. Pearson said. "But he is working on plans that will definitely be of value in the future."

Few Free Rides

Victoria Drivers Cold to Troops

People in Victoria do not often give sailors, soldiers or airmen free rides, Pte. Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, complained in the Legislature Monday.

The soldier-M.L.A. made his observation when the House was discussing amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act, which will bring back the "three-party" risk and make the driver of a car responsible if "gross negligence" can be proved.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, feared insertion of the clause would do away with free rides, especially for the armed services, because no driver would wish to take the chance of being financially crippled for life.

NO DANGER HERE

"There's no danger of this happening to any motorist in Victoria," Mr. LeBourdais said. "They're not given to picking up anyone."

He told how he had walked for 40 minutes in the rain the other night and 22 cars passed him, and in some was only the driver.

"Car drivers here in Victoria should pick up the troops," he said, telling what a great help it is when a man is on leave and time is precious.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, said Mr. LeBourdais had just been unfortunate. He recounted how he picked up an air force man the other night. He ascertained the airman was on his way to his wedding, "so," said Mr. Pattullo, "not only did I give him a lift, but I gave him \$5 also."

The Legislature, however, inserted the clause about "gross negligence."

Mrs. Steeves said working people are now giving each other lifts to and from work. She feared this practice might stop, working a hardship.

CLEVER LAWYER

"With a clever lawyer anything might happen," she said, regarding the "gross negligence."

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, agreed with Mrs. Steeves. Logging company employees, living away from the camps, are now giving each other rides to and from the camps.

In Comox-Courtenay everyone gives lifts to the sailors, he said, and he feared this would now stop.

"We've practically turned our cars into taxis for the navy," he said. "We never go to Courtenay from Comox without three or four sailors."

Opposition Leader Harold Winch, disagreeing with both Mr. Cameron and Mrs. Steeves, urged the House to look at the other side of the picture. "Passengers to and from work should be covered by insurance," he said.

Criticizes Salary Of Superintendent

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, and R. H. Carson, Liberal, Kamloops, in the Legislature Monday night objected to the government paying \$3,000 towards the \$15,000 salary of the Vancouver General Hospital superintendent.

The government pays the \$3,000 under a vote for medical consultants.

"He hasn't given any advice that I know and there is no need of it," Dr. Gillis said. "The government can get the advice of perfectly good medical men free of charge."

Provincial secretary said it was just another case of helping the city of Vancouver.

"It is helping a hospital that is doing a great provincial service," he said.

Dr. Gillis replied he knows the hospital is doing fine work, but "when the superintendent was brought here he was going to clear it up and put it on a paying basis and it's now on a worse basis than ever."

Mr. Carson thought the \$3,000 grant should be taken away. He said a man, for nothing, put a Kamloops hospital on a paying basis.

"I think you're just throwing \$3,000 away in this case," Mr. Carson said.

Education To Take Museum, Archives

Provincial museum, library and archives are to be transferred from the Provincial Secretary's Department to the Education Department.

Provincial Secretary, George Pearson, in the Legislature Monday introduced a bill transferring the museum from his department to that of education. Later he announced the archives and library would be transferred to the same department.

The House passed a vote of \$28,180 for the provincial library and archives. The vote showed the department expects \$350 in admittance fees from Helmcken House. The provincial museum in the next fiscal year will cost \$12,760.

W. T. Straith, Liberal, Victoria, spoke of the fine work the library staff is doing in distributing books to the armed forces.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, asked that the salary of the assistant librarian be raised from \$1,800 a year.

Utility Board Under Barrage

The Public Utilities Commission came under fire again in the Legislature Monday night.

Reeve R. C. MacDonald of Coquitlam, Conservative, Dewdney, said the commission is not working in the interests of the common people of the province.

"This commission was set up to look after the people and it's not doing anything about it," he said.

He advocated immediate discharge of the commission.

"The majority of this board has had no experience in public utility work," he said. "The chairman knows nothing about this business."

NO CRITICISM

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, said such a board, like the courts, should be above criticism.

Hon. H. G. T. Perry, Minister of Education remarked.

"I said it was creating a bureaucracy and that's what it's proved to be."

Mr. Pattullo said the commission is responsible to the Legislature, but the government has no control over certain sections of it.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said of the commissioners, "they won't listen to anyone. When the board was formed I said the chairman was not fitted for it—the more I come to know about it the more I'm convinced I was right. They're not doing their duty to the people of this province. I wanted the board responsible to the Legislature, not to the cabinet."

COULDN'T EARN IT

Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, said "I'd cut the salaries of this board in half at once—they're getting money they could not possibly earn in any other work in this country—the thing is wrong—\$10,000 a year for 10 years for the chairman—when so many people in this province are on the verge of starvation."

Premier John Hart cut the debate short by announcing "this whole question has been out of order."

The vote for the commission is statutory and should not be debated in the Legislature.

Investigating Marblehead

Local public works officials longer advise on work situated in the var F. H. Harrison, chasing agent, information legislature's public a mittee today.

Instead, Mr. Harrison now asks the forest advise him and the tenders from all mit where government done.

C.C.F. members mittee said the Mar across the Lardeau justified, that the petitions against it.

The Big Bend Company, with which Leary, former Minister Works is associated timber for the bridge tender of the company was \$200 Alberta Lumber Vancouver.

Capt. Leary, in need of the bridge written in 1931 by tive Association of it be constructed.

Mr. Harrison spread was not gr not unusual to go to a tenderer close if the spread was

Committee member Arthur Dixon, Minister of Public Works authorized the bridge.

"I'm purely a official of the government," Dixon replied. "I told."

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Capt. Leary said decision to build t

Investigating Marblehead Bridge

Local public works officials no longer advise on what mills are situated in the various districts, F. H. Harrison, chief B.C. purchasing agent, informed the Legislature's public accounts committee today.

Instead, Mr. Harrison said, he now asks the forestry service to advise him and then he requests tenders from all mills in the area where government work is to be done.

C.C.F. members of the committee said the Marblehead Bridge across the Lardeau River was not justified, that there had been petitions against it.

The Big Bend Cedar Pole Company, with which Capt. C. S. Leary, former Minister of Public Works is associated, supplied the timber for the bridge, although the tender of the Big Bend company was \$200 above that of the Alberta Lumber Company of Vancouver.

Capt. Leary, in defence of the need of the bridge, read a letter written in 1931 by the Conservative Association of Kaslo, urging it be constructed.

Mr. Harrison said the \$200 spread was not great and it was not unusual to give preference to a tenderer close to the work if the spread was not too great.

Committee members asked Arthur Dixon, Deputy Minister of Public Works, if he had authorized the bridge.

"I'm purely a subordinate official of the government," Mr. Dixon replied. "I only do as I'm told."

Once the government decided to build a bridge, he said, he advised on the proper site. In the case of the Marblehead, however, he had not personally seen the site, although engineers of the department had.

Capt. Leary said he made the decision to build the bridge.

\$165,000 for Island Roads

The government will spend \$165,000 on the roads of Vancouver Island in the next fiscal year.

Hon. Herbert Anscomb, acting Minister of Public Works, presented the road vote to the Legislature Monday night.

On the island the vote is divided as follows: Alberni, \$22,000; Comox, \$34,000; Cowichan-Newcastle, \$30,000; Esquimalt, \$33,000; Nanaimo and the Islands, \$25,000; Saanich, \$21,000.

Largest road appropriations are for Omineca and Nelson-Creston, \$45,000 each. Smallest is \$3,500 for North Vancouver.

The province will spend \$1,005,000 in the next fiscal year on its roads, making a total vote for maintenance of roads, bridges, ferries and wharves of \$2,119,570.

Ferries will cost \$300,000; supervision, \$57,610; bridges, \$490,000; location of roads, \$30,000; snow removal, \$65,000; machinery, \$73,000; Prince Rupert wharf, \$9,000; contingencies, \$79,960; municipal roads (classified), \$10,000.

The government only does road work in unorganized territory.

Mount St. Mary Vote Discussed

Mount St. Mary, new annex to St. Joseph's Hospital, is caring for patients who ordinarily would go to Marpole Infirmary if there was room, Provincial Secretary George Pearson told the Legislature Monday night when a \$52,000 vote for the institution was passed.

In reply to a question from Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, Mr. Pearson said the government is paying \$1.50 a day for its patients.

He said he hadn't inspected the hospital, "but I understand the accommodation is very, very fine."

Mr. Cameron brought to the attention of the minister two cases which had been pointed out to him, although he said the complaints may not be justified.

One woman patient, Mr. Cameron said, had been taken to Mount St. Mary although she had a "particular bias against a certain religious sect and she's not very happy."

Another alleged complaint, he said, was that some restrictions had been put on Seventh-Day Adventist patients attending their own services.

He said he knew nothing about Seventh-Day Adventists, "but it seems to me they should be allowed to have these services if they wish."

Mr. Pearson said both cases had been taken care of.

Wartime Houses Discussed Again

Plans for better houses at little if any greater cost than the structures erected by Wartime Housing Ltd. had been made by the federal government before the issue had been turned over to a dollar a year man, Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, said in the Legislature Tuesday.

The federal government had been prepared to proceed under the national housing administration and to draft plans with a view to future as well as present needs, she said.

Planning for the future had been entirely overlooked and Wartime Housing Ltd. had taken over the job, she added.

In North Vancouver the type of structure being built by the company was drawing protest from the residents who thought the values were being reduced by the new houses. She quoted a Vancouver architect to the effect the cost of housing provided by the company was exorbitant, the type of construction noticeably cheap, the salvage value minute and the creation of potential slum conditions inevitable.

The occupants were not quite satisfied when they learned rentals were increased through water and other charges, Mrs. Steeves said before asking the Minister of Municipal Affairs if protection could not be provided residents if further construction were to be undertaken.

The minister had no responsibility for the houses, Hon. A. Wells Gray replied.

Mrs. Steeves also asked the minister if some improvement could not be made in the ferry service to North Vancouver. Ferries were overcrowded and inadequate engine room personnel was available when they were docking, she said.

There was a danger and means of solving the problem were under consideration, the minister said.

Earlier E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, had attacked the minister over administration of Burnaby municipality. At three public meetings he had called there, residents had sought return of a municipal council instead of a commissionership, he said.

"They feel you are delinquent in your supervision of the municipality, or your appointee was delinquent in not seeing provision was made for the election of a municipal council," Mr. Winch said.

The minister had previously stated the municipality was in better shape than it had been under a reeve and council.

He said there was no patronage in municipal appointments.

"It sounds all right," said Mr. Winch.

"It is all right," replied Mr. Gray.

"I don't accept it," Mr. Winch added.

Asks T.B. Prevention Be Taught in Schools

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, in the Legislature Monday urged that prevention of tuberculosis be taught in the schools.

British Columbia will not strike a telling blow against this disease until children are taught to guard against it and take precautions to avoid it.

Dr. Gillis advocated that doctors in all parts of the province give lectures once each six months to all B.C. school children.

"We can spend all the money we like on Tranquille and the preventorium, but we won't get ahead of tuberculosis until we educate our children against it," Dr. Gillis warned.

"Tuberculosis is a pulmonary disease, and is curable," he said.

"We must teach our children how to keep well." We've got to get into every part of B.C. and teach prevention to the mothers, the fathers and, especially, to the children themselves."

He said medical men would be glad to give free lectures in the schools. In his opinion, such lectures would have a greater effect in promoting health than any other measure.

Civil Service To Be Surveyed

The entire B.C. civil service will be surveyed by the government in the next year, Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson said in the Legislature Monday night.

This will be done, Mr. Pearson said, "to bring it into better shape, particularly in relation to salary schedules."

"It is the intention of the government to bring in an expert and see if order can be made out of chaos," Mr. Pearson said.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, asked consideration for retired civil servants on small pensions.

Mr. Pearson said this was trading on dangerous ground, because favoritism is bound to be charged. Mrs. Hodges pointed out the case of a retired servant on \$41 a month. She thought perhaps a cost-of-living bonus would be a way out.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch asked, in the case of \$5 a month more for old age pensioners, who would give the money when the old people are confined to institutions. Mr. Pearson assured Mr. Winch "We will do the right thing."

"Then I take it the old people will get the money," Mr. Winch said.

"I said we would do the right thing," Mr. Pearson replied.

Hot Legislative Debate On Peace River Oil Bill

Despite opposition of the 14 C.C.F. members, Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, and T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, the amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act, making it possible for private interests to develop potential oil in the Peace River area, passed second reading in the Legislature Tuesday night. Coalition Liberals and Conservatives voted solidly together.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch said the government already has large interests in possible oil and "we should not now throw up our hands."

"We may feel assured the private companies are not going in there unless they have some certainty there is oil—we are strongly opposed to any legislation that will give into private hands any further opportunity of exploiting the natural resources of this province."

NO MILLIONS

Education Minister H. G. T. Perry said "there is a possibility of oil in the Peace River—that is all." He said B.C. hadn't the millions necessary to develop it, if it were found.

"I submit we have not the resources to develop that country," Mr. Perry said. "There is no purpose putting it on the reserve unless we shall have the cash money, in time. I see no likelihood of having the necessary money to spare—with the money we need for our various services we shall have no money to speculate—but we shall share in any profit any companies make. If private companies go in there the money will be spent largely in B.C. The province is bound to benefit. The only thing we would lose is the profits the companies would make. But, always remember, a tremendous percentage of the profits would be taken by the province. We would have 15 per cent of the gross receipts. But the fact remains—we have not yet the money to do it ourselves."

UNSEEMLY

C. Grant McNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, said the act was being rushed through with unseemly haste in order to help private interests.

"Our past history shows we have left the door open to private interests to loot our natural resources for private profit—here we have an opportunity to do something for the people," Mr. MacNeil said.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, feared the bill would "hand ourselves over, not only to the private interests inside Canada, but to interests outside Canada."

Oil, she said, is an international monopoly—oil today is a most desired resource.

"I think we would be taking a step the people of Canada would reproach us for for years," she said.

Attorney-General Maitland saw great income for the province, great taxation, should private companies develop the oil. It hadn't been decided, anyway, he said, whether the government would go ahead or not with drilling for oil.

The former Premier, opposing the bill, said it was a retrograde step.

BEFORE 1943

"We only know that before the next session of this House we'll find the oil companies operating there," he said.

When Mr. Maitland wanted to know how he knew this, Mr.

Pattullo replied: "Sometimes I think the ranting and desk pounding of my hon. friend is to cover up his inadequacy."

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Coquitlam, feared private interests would exploit the area already developed by the government.

Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, said: "This oil is going to be handed away, as far as I can see. I venture to say there is oil there; otherwise, why are my Tory friends going to hand it away to the robber barons?"

J. A. Paton, Conservative, Vancouver-Point Grey, said he could see no reason why the "robber barons" could not be allowed to sink some of their money in "a Peace River wild cat."

Securities Act Unchanged

The Legislature's mining committee, which examined the Securities Act, recommends to the House that the act be given further study this year.

Over the signature of chairman Frank Putnam, the report says the committee, after fully considering the evidence of 12 witnesses, for and against, has not had enough time or opportunity to hear as much evidence as it should to justify any recommendation, other than repeal of the section which says there shall be no appeal to the courts from the rulings made under the act.

"The committee also feels that more publicity should be given to the purposes of the act and its aims in connection with the mining industry, and that further study be given this matter during the interval and submitted with recommendations at the next session of the Legislature," says the report.

Want 8-Hour Day For Beer Parlors

B.C. temperance workers today asked Premier John Hart and his cabinet to:

1. Prohibit all advertising of liquor.
2. An eight-hour day for sale of liquor in all stores, clubs and beer parlors, all such places to be open at the same times.
3. Segregate men and women in beer parlors.
4. Co-operate with the federal government in securing scientific tests for intoxication following motor car accidents.

Rev. R. J. McIntyre, secretary, B.C. Temperance League, led the delegation, which was introduced by Rev. Hugh McLeod, pastor of Victoria First United Church.

Mr. McIntyre, explaining his request that men and women be not allowed to drink together in beer parlors, said he had been told by medical authorities that this practice greatly contributed to the spread of venereal disease.

Rev. A. E. Cooke, Vancouver, chairman, social service committee of the United Church Presbytery, told the cabinet drinking is having a bad effect on people and is wasting resources and income that should be expended on the war effort.

Mrs. Jas. Gray, Vancouver, provincial president of the W.C.T.U., also represented the Provincial Council of Women and W.M.S. organizations.

Rev. Andrew Roddan, Vancouver, told the cabinet much of his duties are concerned with evils produced by drink.

Rev. W. L. McKay, Vancouver, and Rev. Jas. Hyde, Victoria, were others in the delegation.

"The cabinet gave us a splendid hearing," Mr. McIntyre said. "They promised to consider the matter and said they were sympathetic to many of our appeals. We are hoping for some definite action before the present session ends."

War Damage Insurance Must Be Specified

An amendment to the Insurance Act, introduced in the Legislature Monday night, relieves companies of war damage unless provided for in the policy.

The act is amended by inserting in the statutory conditions the following clauses:

In cases other than motor vehicle liability policies the insurer shall not be liable for loss or damage that is caused, directly or indirectly, by bombardment, invasion, civil war, insurrection, rebellion, revolution, military or usurped power, or by operations of armed forces while engaged in hostilities (whether war be declared or not), or by civil commotion arising from any of the foregoing, unless the policy or an endorsement thereon expressly provides otherwise.

The amendment shall not affect contracts of insurance made before the date on which the act is assented to.

Cassidy Reports Tabled in House

The Cassidy reports, which the Pattullo government several times refused to let the Opposition see, have been tabled in the Legislature by Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson.

The two reports, dealing with B.C.'s social services, were prepared by Dr. Harry M. Cassidy when he was director of social welfare.

The C.C.F. Opposition two years ago, by resolution, asked that the reports be given to the Legislature. The Pattullo government, on division, killed the resolution, after vigorous opposition by former Premier Pattullo and former Provincial Secretary Dr. G. M. Weir, both of whom said the Cassidy reports were merely the opinion of one person.

This session Opposition Leader Harold Winch again put a resolution on the order paper asking for the Cassidy reports.

Before the House got around to discussing the resolution, however, Mr. Pearson filed the reports. Mr. Winch will now withdraw his resolution and study the reports.

Chief points brought out by Dr. Cassidy are:

1. Unnecessary overlapping and duplication of work.
2. Poor co-ordination between policies and procedures of certain provincial health and welfare branches, which often leads to difficulty.
3. Lack of integration of health and welfare services in one department, or at least two departments, leads inevitably to an absence of central planning.
4. The municipalities often fail to provide certain essential services for which they are legally responsible.
5. There are substantial variations in social service policies and procedure from place to place.
6. The province has done but little to set standards of services for local authorities and to set up effective supervision of their activities.

Coroners' Amendment Defeated By House

Amendment of Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, to the Coroners' Act, which would place on juries inquiring into the deaths of miners and loggers men who have been employed in those industries not less than three years, was defeated by division in the Legislature Monday night.

C.C.F. members and Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, voted in favor of the amendment, and Liberal and Conservative coalitionists, joined by T. D. Pattullo, voted it down.

Mr. Guthrie brings the matter up every year and it is always defeated. He asks that one-third of the jurors be miners and loggers.

These

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The House morning, a r sion—a recor eral years. C.C.F.'s ma tion and A brought on h C.C.F., anxio was determin if adjournm granted. Fh one was tire the members restaurant fo mier called c

These, Your M.L.A.'s

Former Premier T. D. Pattullo found himself late Tuesday night voting with the C.C.F. and Labor parties in the Legislature. It was on the matter of Peace River oil, which is Mr. Pattullo's pet "baby," by his own admission.

As the former Premier, smiling broadly, stood up with the Opposition and his old friend Tom Uphill, E. E. Winch called out to him "you're in good company." "We're both in good company," gallantly replied the former provincial chieftain.

The C.C.F., with nerves slightly frayed at midnight, taunted Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, for not voting with the Opposition. It was on the division about allowing anyone, including politicians, into company towns.

"Nancy, Nancy, Nancy," said Dolly Steeves, as she stood with the Opposition.

"I've lost my bet," cried out Ernie Winch, and Mrs. Steeves explained the Burnaby member bet some money Mrs. Hodges would vote with the C.C.F.

"Now you all know why Union government is impossible," said Harold Winch, not explaining his remark.

Mrs. Hodges, still sitting, said she had always favored labor, as Sam Guthrie called out to her "stay with the workers," and Mrs. Hodges replied, "I am one."

Mr. Maitland accused the C.C.F. of always smelling political rats. "If you smell one it's easy enough to think you've seen them," he said.

The House sat until 1.25 this morning, a record for this session—a record, in fact, for several years. After midnight the C.C.F.'s main bill—an amendment to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act was brought on by the Premier. The C.C.F., anxious for adjournment, was determined to talk all night, if adjournment would not be granted. Finally, when everyone was tired out and many of the members had moved to the restaurant for a snack, the Premier called quits for the night.

Tories Chide Ex-Premier On Tax Matter

Actions of ex-Premier Pattullo in regard to the Siros Report came up for criticism as the Dominion provincial income tax agreement bill passed its second reading in the Legislature Tuesday night.

Mr. Pattullo, according to W. A. C. Bennett, Conservative, South Okanagan, could have made a much better bargain for B.C. at the Siros Conference if he had continued discussions.

Adequate compensation for surrender of income tax would have been given by the Dominion authority if its suggestions had been accepted by this province, Mr. Bennett maintained. In addition, B.C. would have been spared the cost of unemployment relief.

PROBLEM

He predicted that while "unemployment relief may seem a small matter now, it is going to be a terrific problem when the war is over."

Mr. Pattullo hotly denied the charge that Dominion proposals had been left untouched by arbitrary refusal of the B.C. delegates to discuss them.

"The Dominion government refused to alter its arbitrary agenda," he said. "This would have meant the loss of our income tax rights."

Mr. Pattullo had an impatient answer for R. C. MacDonald, Conservative, Dewdney, who felt the failure of the conference had resulted in increased costs for municipalities.

"If you continue this discussion, you will get yourself into a mess," he warned.

"We couldn't be in a worse mess than you got us into," Mr. MacDonald retorted.

Mr. Pattullo said his attitude had been dictated by his hope of protecting B.C. interests in post-war years. He had, he asserted, "been villified across Canada," and "described as a Quisling" for his attitude at the Siros conference.

"Take the power of flexible taxation away from any province and you leave it powerless," he said.

Because it was a war measure, and didn't deprive the province of its income tax rights in perpetuity, Mr. Pattullo said he had agreed to the Dominion-provincial agreement bill before the House.

CONTROL

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, saw the bill as giving the Dominion government complete control of B.C.'s major source of income.

"When we agree to it we will have surrendered our most important taxation power," he protested.

He believed also that if the bill passes, the province will have given up the powers by which it might have brought about "equity of war sacrifice." He predicted that fathers and mothers of young British Columbians may soon be facing the Legislature with demands as to why the surrender had been made.

The by-election in South York, which brought defeat of the Conservative Party Leader by a C.C.F. candidate, was an indication of changing thought trends in Canada, Mr. Cameron said. It showed equity of sacrifice was the Canadian objective.

Company Towns Given Airing In Legislature

The Legislature after midnight defeated a bill introduced by Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, that would allow free access to anyone to company towns.

This bill is brought up annually by the C.C.F. and is always defeated by the government. Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, joined the C.C.F. in the 1942 vote and the coalition voted solidly against it, joined by T. D. Pattullo.

"I wish to have the rights of private property interfered with in the interests of the public welfare," Mr. Cameron said, as he told how he had often been bodily thrown out of company towns. "It is high time," he said, "that the rights of private property shall be curbed, when men shall now be allowed to talk with the person they have elected to this Legislature."

FASCIST

Opposition Leader Harold Winch said the principle of companies controlling roads and sidewalks in company towns was Fascist.

"In company towns I have been stopped by the police on public highways and told I could go no farther unless I had the permission of the company," Mr. Winch said. "If we were really honest in our fight for democracy we would see that we have democracy established in this province, and control these towns and companies and see that the post offices and telegraph offices are freely opened to the public."

Mr. Uphill said that in the company towns the police, the teacher and the postmaster are controlled by the companies.

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland defied Mr. Uphill to prove police are so controlled. He resented such an insult to the police. That a policeman be under the influence of a company, he said, was a foul crime.

TOWNERS

Mr. Uphill continued that in certain company towns the preacher is compelled to preach "according to the wishes and desires of the company."

"Nonsense, there's no such thing," interjected Premier Hart. "The police know perfectly well they have to lean on the side of the operators of these towns," Mr. Uphill said, adding he got on very well with the older policemen, but "these young policemen get bulldozed in the same manner as the workers."

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, said conditions in some of the company towns are disgraceful, that a repressive atmosphere is felt as soon as visitors step on the docks, from the boats. He said his friends in the company towns met him after dark for "fear of intimidation from the employer." In a company town, Mr. Gargrave said, a man has no time of his own—"he's exploited on the job and off the job."

The bunkhouses in one company town, Mr. Gargrave related, were infested with bedbugs and cockroaches. He wondered if company towns came under the Health Act. In Ocean Falls, he said, employees had been forced to move into the town from summer residences they had established outside the town limits.

Mr. Maitland pointed out all these complaints are covered in the "Company Towns Regulation Act."

Hot Debate in House On Political Patronage

The Legislature got itself into an uproar Wednesday afternoon when charges and denials of political patronage flew thick and fast for an hour and a half.

The unscheduled debate started when Opposition Leader Harold Winch moved an amendment to the legislative public accounts committee's report. Mr. Winch and the C.C.F. wanted the report to contain references to certain findings of the committee, regarding government purchases and tenders.

"We obtained, in committee, a clear picture of public accounts and purchasing methods," Mr. Winch said. "We have now, for the first time the startling admission as to policies followed in government purchases, yet this report contains no mention of these matters. We have learned it is the practice for defeated government candidates to advise the government on purchases—we feel this is a vicious principle, because the defeated candidate has been repudiated by the electors. This leaves a loop-hole for patronage—it does not give to faith and confidence in government."

INJUDICIOUS

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, objected to members of the House, "especially when they are ministers," conducting business for their companies with the government. He said he was not suggesting any wrong-doing, but "it is extremely injudicious."

H. W. Herridge, C.C.F., Rossland-Trail, said that in Kaslo-Slocan there has been the greatest orgy of political patronage known in B.C.'s history. He said people went to him and said they couldn't do anything else but vote Liberal. If people wanted to get on relief they had to purchase at certain stores. If they didn't they had to carry their purchases home in the dark of night.

Labor Minister George Pearson said politics was not allowed to enter into unemployment relief.

"So far as I know the political affiliations of applicants for relief have never been taken into consideration," Mr. Pearson said.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, said he had never admitted only the elected members had the sole right to advise on purchases.

"As Premier I would never go to the C.C.F., for instance, for advice—because I know that advice would be prejudiced."

The purchasing agent who said defeated candidates advised on government purchases had been a little unfortunate in the way he expressed himself, Mr. Pattullo said.

C. Grant MacNeill, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, said Mr. Pattullo admitted patronage does exist in B.C.

Evidence given before the committee by the chief purchasing agent, he said, pointed to the fact that he was, under some compulsion in his purchases—that he was forced to place his business with supporters of the government.

NOT SO MUCH

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said, "I don't deny there might be a little patronage in certain constituencies—but not nearly as much as the Opposition would tell you—and less in the last government than there would be if the present Opposition were in power today—certainly there is bound to be a little patronage."

Dr. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, and Capt. C. S. Leary, Liberal, Kaslo-Slocan, former Minister of Public Works, defended their departments, giving the same evidence as they had before the committee. Capt. Leary said a "disgruntled Liberal" had something to do with the stories spread about him. Dr. MacDonald said "I've no apology to make—I defy the Opposition to put a finger on any account of my department that won't stand the most minute investigation."

Education Minister H. G. T. Perry, a former Speaker, said the whole discussion was out of order. Mr. Speaker Whittaker said he realized this, but it was the only way the committee minority could present its views.

Mr. Whittaker then ruled out of order Mr. Winch's amendment and when the vote was called to sustain the chair all Liberals and Conservatives voted together with the C.C.F. solidly against the Speaker's decision. Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, and W. A. C. Bennett, Conservative, paired, and Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, and Ft. Lieut. L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, were absent.

Pattullo and C.C.F. Lose Battle for Oil

With the C.C.F. opposition, joined by Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, and T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, fiercely fighting the government every inch of the way, the amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act, allowing private companies to drill for oil in the Peace River area, became law in the Legislature late Wednesday night.

It was one of the most hectic, rough-and-tumble sittings of the session, with question after question and two divisions, appeals from the rulings of the chairman and intervention of Mr. Speaker.

THREE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Pattullo moved three amendments to the act, each one of which was defeated. Opposition Leader Harold Winch moved one, hoisting third reading of the bill six months. This, likewise, was defeated.

On the divisions the coalitionists voted solidly against the opposition, Mr. Uphill and Mr. Pattullo. R. H. Carson, Liberal, Kamloops, and Public Works Minister R. W. Bruhn, were out of the House.

Mr. Pattullo pointed out the bill, fixing royalties not in excess of 15 per cent on oil taken out by private companies was not good enough. There was nothing to stop the government setting

royalties at 2 per cent, for instance. One of his amendments would fix the royalties at 12½ per cent.

This was ruled out of order on the grounds it interfered with government revenues.

GAS ARGUMENT

Mr. Pattullo, battling for nearly two hours, tangled with most of the coalition cabinet ministers and frequently tussled with Premier John Hart. He and Ft. L. L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, tangled on gasoline prices when Mr. Pattullo said he was convinced that eventually price restrictions on gasoline would be lifted. Mr. Eyres said it was the dealers, not the oil companies that lost out. Mr. Pattullo insisted his gasoline legislation had saved the people of B.C. \$2,000,000 a year.

"Several oil companies have intimidated to the government, unofficially, of course, that they wish to get into that area," Mr. Pattullo said.

He insisted the government could find the money to continue development for the good of the people. The amendment "handing this over to the companies," he termed "iniquitous."

He repeated he is convinced oil will, sooner or later, be struck—"and probably sooner," he said.

These, Your M.L.A.'s

Ex-premier T. D. Pattullo and his former chief lieutenant, now Premier-finance Minister John Hart, crossed swords in the Legislature Wednesday.

Mr. Pattullo said he was getting a little tired of "this holler than thou stuff." He was referring to the C.C.F. Then he took in Attorney-General Maitland and said the same applied to him.

He said the government of which the A.G. is a part is trying to appear holy when at the same time it is preparing to hand Peace River oil away to private companies.

"You've no authority to say that," shot back Premier Hart.

"Will my hon. friend deny it?" replied Mr. Pattullo.

"I may tell the hon. member for Prince Rupert, as the responsible minister in this case, that we have no intention of handing anything over to anybody for

nothing," said Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Mines.

"Was anyone ever alone among so many?" asked Mr. Pattullo as he voted with a solid coalition block.

"Have you gone back to them?" asked Mr. Guthrie.

Labor Minister Geo. Pearson sat through a two-hour barrage of criticism and attack on a labor act Wednesday afternoon and hardly said a word. He felt he had explained himself time and time again, and seemed to say to the opposition, by his silence, "talk away, talk all night—you can't make me mad."

Mr. Uphill says he is broad-minded. After voting with the C.C.F. most of the day against the coalition, he suddenly turned around and on two occasions voted with the coalition against the C.C.F.

Peace River oil seemed the order of the day. It crept into the discussions in the most unexpected places, promoted largely by Mr. Pattullo.

Mines Minister Herbert Anscomb, under whose ministerial preserve Peace River oil now comes, several times intimated Mr. Pattullo didn't know what he was talking about, to which the ex-premier replied, waving his hands "there has been more wind and less substance from this hon. gentleman than from any other member in the House."

Turning to Mr. Maitland, who had done some quiet, polite heckling, Mr. Pattullo said something about "this supposedly legalistic hair-splitting," and that the A.G. is "running with the hare and hunting with the hounds." Generally castigating the government, he said it is becoming more and more reactionary. The Opposition loved this and applauded. Mr. Maitland found voice long enough to say he wasn't getting into an oil discussion with anyone.

All in all it was quite a day. Premier Hart was determined to sit far into the night, discussing resolutions. But Harold Winch protested, said everyone was tired, but would sit until 4 in the morning if necessary. Whereupon Mr. Hart called it a day, announced a sitting for the morning and intimated prorogation for Thursday afternoon.

U.B.C. B Killed i

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GOVERNMENT

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U.B.C. Bill Killed in House

Amendment of Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, to the University of British Columbia Act, which, as she put it, "would democratize the university" was defeated in the Legislature Wednesday evening, after Hon. H. G. T. Perry, Minister of Education, had opposed it.

Mrs. Steeves' amendment would have composed the board of 11 governors of the chancellor, the president, three members elected by the senate; one from the B.C. Teachers' Federation; one from the Farmers' Institutes of B.C.; one from organized labor; one from the B.C. Parent-Teachers' Federation of B.C., and two appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. At present six members are named by the council.

GOVERNMENT FRIENDS

"There has been some inclination in the past to appoint friends of the government—often businessmen who have no particular interest in educational affairs," Mrs. Steeves said.

There had been a rather ridiculous situation in this regard, she said, noting that a Liberal woman member of the board had been let out when the Tolmie government was elected "and she lasted only as long as the Tolmie government and then the Liberal lady was put back."

Mrs. Steeves drew the attention of the House to a recent statement of the Chancellor who said, she quoted, "a bunch of politicians doesn't know anything about education."

"This denotes a contempt for democracy," Mrs. Steeves said. "We—as politicians, in the highest sense of the word—should deeply resent this remark."

She said she had every admiration for the university, it has done splendid work, "but its work can be extended to do far more for the general public of the province."

Many students, she said, go to the University of Washington, "which is more suitable for students who haven't much money to spend."

LITTLE CONTROL

Mr. Perry felt the government would not have enough control of university expenditures if only two members of the board were appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

The amendment defined what classes the board members should belong, he said. He pointed out there are now representatives of labor and farmers on the board.

If Mrs. Steeves' appointees were accepted, he said, he saw no reason why representatives of miners, loggers, fishermen, the Canadian Legion—"and I could go on ad infinitum, if we are going to have class legislation of this kind"—should not also demand inclusion.

He assured the House, however, he would look into the matter during the coming year.

Mrs. Laura Jamieson, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre, supporting Mrs. Steeves felt workers and farmers should be represented on the board. She said she could see no reason why the university should not be accountable to the legislature.

"If this amendment were passed the people of British Columbia would feel they had a real part in their university," she said.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said he agreed largely with the amendment, in which, he said, he couldn't see very much class legislation.

He said he would like to see a clergyman on the board, for he knew there are "certain radical elements at the university," he felt a clergyman could help to combat.

"Personally I am strongly opposed to six appointments to the board from the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council," Dr. Gillis said.

LABORERS HAPPY

"Labor conditions in this province are good," continued Dr. Gillis. "The laboring people are very happy. Everything is fair and above board. There may be a little delay caused in some cases—the labor delegation did not ask for immediate action."

Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, said that in labor committee he had voted for the change.

"But I gathered from the labor delegation that they didn't expect these changes at this time," he said. "We voted to have the Minister of Labor consider the changes. There has been undue haste in this matter—we didn't expect a bill to this effect to be brought in a few days later."

Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, said doctors and lawyers are thoroughly organized and he thought labor should be also. There is no reason for not reopening the act, he said, unless the coalition government represents the capitalistic class and is protecting capitalistic interests.

The vote on division was 27 to 14. Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, and Frank Putnam, Liberal, Nelson-Creston, paired. W. A. C. Bennett, Conservative, Grand Forks-Greenwood; R. C. MacDonald, Conservative; Dewdney, and Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, were not in their seats.

House Kills C.C.F. Bill

By straight party vote, the Legislature Wednesday defeated a C.C.F. amendment to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act that would have set a time limit for employers to start bargaining negotiations with their employees.

A two-hour debate preceded the vote, one of the most hotly contested of the session. Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, introduced the amendment.

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, said the present act recognized collective bargaining by words, "but that doesn't mean it is recognized by law."

He said "a millionaire race-horse owner tells mechanics how to drive rivets and how many they shall drive." The proposed C.C.F. legislation, he said, would heighten the morale of the workers.

OUTSIDE LAW

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, said workers would prefer to organize themselves within the law, "but if they have to, they'll organize themselves without the law—and I'll be a party to it."

Mr. Winch asked what interests the Minister of Labor represents.

"I feel he represents today less than ever before, the interests of labor in this province," Mr. Winch said. "He hasn't consulted labor in this matter—he may have consulted other interests, who are well able to speak for themselves."

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, resented what he called a personal attack on the Minister of Labor.

"If any man has done more good for labor in this province than the present minister, I want to know who he is," Dr. Gillis said. "He has done a great deal of good for labor and he should be given full credit."

"He can defend himself," said Mr. Winch.

Bill Killing Ends Session

B.C.'s 20th Legislature ended its duties today, with a morning sitting to debate a host of C.C.F. resolutions.

This morning the House defeated a resolution of Arthur Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, asking the B.C. Legislature request the Ottawa government to put labor representatives on all war boards. Labor Minister George Pearson said, that while he was not arguing against labor representation, he felt the Dominion government knew better what to do under the circumstances than the B.C. Legislature. When a division was called Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Liberal, Victoria, and Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, voted with the C.C.F.

The House also killed a resolution of W. W. Lefaux, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre, asking the Attorney-General to consider appointment of permanent Crown prosecutors. T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, and Dr. Gillis voted with the Opposition. On a verbal vote the Speaker said the resolution carried, but Premier Hart called for a division, which killed it.

Resolutions of Mrs. Laura Jamieson, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre (asking medical aid for recipients of old-age and mothers' pensions were also defeated on divisions.

Mr. Pattullo's resolution asking that "at no time shall the province surrender in perpetuity the right to participate in income tax with the Dominion government" was killed after the Speaker ruled it out of order on the ground it dictated government policy. When Mr. Pattullo called a division, Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie; W. A. C. Bennett, Conservative, Grand Forks-Greenwood, and the C.C.F. voted with the former Premier.

Strongest Defence

The B.C. Legislature this afternoon unanimously passed a resolution calling the attention of the Dominion government to the "immediate necessity of completing the strongest and fullest measures of defence against our enemies."

The resolution was moved by Premier John Hart and seconded by Opposition Leader Harold Winch.

Quiet Closing For Legislature

Thursday saw the quietest prorogation of the B.C. Legislature in years. All the formalities were strictly observed, but there was no hilarity, no song singing, no throwing of sessional papers, in time-honored fashion. As soon as the Lieutenant-Governor left the chamber the members sang God Save the King, and quietly dispersed.

Premier John Hart, for the first time, met His Honor in the foyer and accompanied him to the throne. Several of the cabinet ministers wore frock coats and medals.

The two Coalition ladies, Mrs. Tilly Rolston and Mrs. Nancy Hodges wore corsages, gifts from the Coalition caucus.

The House opened Dec. 4, to be adjourned immediately until Jan. 8, when a new premier and new cabinet had been installed. It sat five weeks to the day, passed 52 acts, debated a variety of subjects.

His Honor was accompanied to the Parliament Buildings by Lieut.-Col. Vincent McKenna, Lieut. Nell Fraser and A. M. D. Fairbairn, private secretary.

Archives' Valuables May Be Hidden

Valuable papers and historical documents in the Provincial Archives will be stored away for the war's duration, if advice of the Legislature's public accounts committee is taken by the government.

The committee recommended that photostat copies of the papers and documents be taken and left in the usual places in the Archives.

The papers and documents—rare old letters, legal bills, royal commissions, government orders—trace the history of British Columbia from its earliest days.

Prorogation Speech Voices Confidence

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech from the Throne, proroguing the Legislature on Thursday afternoon follows:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

At the close of the First Session of the 20th Parliament of British Columbia, it is my desire, in relieving you from your legislative duties, to express my sincere appreciation of the care and earnestness that have characterized your deliberations.

It was with deep regret that I learned of the recent death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, our former Governor-General. I am pleased to note that your Assembly have passed an appropriate resolution of sympathy with His Majesty the King and members of the Royal Family.

I observe with satisfaction that this Legislature have ratified an agreement whereby are surrendered certain provincial revenues to the Dominion government for the furtherance of the nation's war effort.

AGED HELP

I also have noted with gratification and pleasure that provision has been made for increasing the allowances to Old-age Pensioners, whose domestic and pecuniary position has been disturbed by the exigencies of the war. This provision, I am sure, will do much to ameliorate the situation in which many of these aged people have been placed.

The Act providing for the establishment of a Post-war Rehabilitation Council, working in close co-operation with the federal authorities, is a wise measure, providing, as it does, a means of anticipating and endeavoring to find satisfactory solutions of the serious problems that may arise when hostilities cease.

Acts have been passed to further safeguard the interests of our gallant men in the fighting

services, and I have noted the sincerity of the members in pledging themselves to any undertaking within the scope of their power to prosecute the war until victory is ours.

The further strengthening of British Columbia's financial position by debt retirement, with consequent savings in interest and sinking fund charges, I am sure, will commend itself to all citizens.

The assurances that have been given to co-operate to the full in the nation's war program, and the measures that already have been taken to implement these pledges, are evidence of the government's compliance with the people's will.

CONFIDENCE

Since you last assembled, many of our valiant men have been in action in the bitter struggle in which this Dominion, as a member of the great Commonwealth of Nations, has become involved. We face the outcome of that struggle with fortitude and unbounded confidence, and with a supreme faith in the rightness of our cause.

I thank you for the adequate provision you have made for the public services, and I sincerely trust that the efforts you have put forth during the Session now closed will result in the continued development and prosperity of all parts of British Columbia.

In relieving you from your legislative duties, I join with you in invoking the aid of Divine Providence for the preservation of those Christian and democratic institutions for which the British Empire and her Allies now are fighting, and trust that, when this Legislature again convenes, events will have occurred which will bring us to a closer realization of that lasting peace so longed for by all free-thinking people.

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Ostrich-like Ottawa

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S LEGISLATURE has sent a resolution to Ottawa to call the attention of the Dominion government to the "immediate necessity of completing the strongest and fullest measures of defence against our enemies." The amazing point about this timely action by the governing body of this province is that it should be necessary at all—that in spite of all that has happened in so many parts of the world, and especially since Pearl Harbor, our legislators are figuratively on their hands and knees imploring the federal authorities to take their heads out of the sand.

Premier Hart's resolution, incidentally, takes on particular significance in the light of news from the southern Pacific, and the probable events that Singapore's fall may foreshadow. One well-known American commentator continues to remind Washington of the vulnerability of Alaska; he takes it for granted, of course, that this northern United States territory is being prepared for defence, not only for its own safety, but also as a deterrent to Japanese ambitions in the north Pacific generally. He argues:

"Has not the whole course of the war thus far proved that we must do much better than that? This long series of desperate rearguard actions beginning in Poland in the autumn of 1939—is there to be no end of them? Are we of the free nations perpetually to wait for attack and fight those long, heart-breaking rearguard actions? Are we still thinking in terms of the defence of Alaska as we thought of the defence of the Philippines and the defence of Hawaii? Or are we thinking in terms of Alaska as a jumping-off place for an attack on the heart of Japan? Alaska can be made a threat to Japan. Dutch Harbor is actually closer to San Francisco than is Hawaii, and it is closer to Japan, too. The land-based airplane strength that will keep a Japanese naval force away from Alaska; the bomber strength that will at length make Japan feel at home what she has visited on a half dozen peoples—these may be based on Alaska. Industrial Japan is not now within bombing range of the Alaskan bases. But new planes, new bases, new developments may well put it in range a little later."

We in British Columbia have the right to assume and believe that the joint defence board set up under the original Ogdensburg agreement—negotiated by Mr. Mackenzie King and Mr. Roosevelt in the summer of 1940—has taken into account the whole of the coastline between the 49th parallel and Point Barrow. If Canada's part of that job had not been effectively carried out before Dec. 7, if there is still as much to do as the Legislature's resolution implies, not a minute is to be lost. Remember everything—not only Pearl Harbor and Singapore!

Anticipating the Future

TRANSCENDING IN IMPORTANCE

most of the legislation which has just passed to the statute books of British Columbia was an Act to make provision for the advance planning of rehabilitation measures, industrial reorganization, and employment projects designed to meet post-war conditions. This is a matter to which Mr. Hart has given considerable and exhaustive study, not only because he was Minister of Finance when the full impact of the first Great War's aftermath made itself felt in this province, but also because as head of the provincial coalition government at this stage of the Battle of the Continents he is anxious, so far as may be possible, to profit by the lesson of national unpreparedness in 1918-1919—which obliged British Columbia to embark upon numerous enterprises to meet an economic and industrial condition occasioned mainly by large-scale demobilization. Not that all of those projects launched during the regime of the late John Oliver were financially risky or unsound in their economic conception. Far from it; but it requires little or no imagination to recognize the fact that if time and thought could have been devoted to them well in advance, more lasting benefits to all concerned would certainly have been obtained.

While space does not permit of a detailed analysis of the measure sponsored by Premier Hart and approved by the Legislature, the Act's preamble is elastic enough to convey to the average mind its comprehensive nature and, at the same time, to constitute a clarion call to the public generally to devote careful consideration to a study of its prime objective—intelligent anticipation of post-war conditions. To give effect to the plan, a board of 12 persons is to be constituted with wide powers to deal, for example, with the cases of men released from the armed forces; to formulate plans for training so as to fit for civilian occupations such of these former service men as may require, and would be benefitted by, such training; to take action in respect of natural resources, with the object of dovetailing their development into a general rehabilitation scheme; and, generally, to establish machinery that will work effectively as soon as it is required, particularly in co-operation with all agencies with the one objective of cushioning British Columbia during the period of transition from war to peace. The Act in all its implications is forward-looking in the broadest sense of the term and should be studied by every citizen.

Coalition a Success

COMPLETELY REFUTING THE POST-election forebodings of those partisans who showed an understandable disinclination to surrender some of the prerogatives of established political custom, Mr. Hart and his coalition ministry are entitled to the warm congratulations of the people of British Columbia on the harmonious and eminently satisfactory manner in which the business of the first session of the 20th Legislature of the province has been conducted. The deliberations of the new House were noteworthy for the high plane of debate, for commendable restraint in these explosive times, and for the manifestation of an evident desire on the part of Liberals and Conservatives alike to outlaw all attempts at political manoeuvre, and to pool all their resources in a common interest—their country in its hour of peril.

Of this coalition government Mr. Hart has proved himself a wise and able head. In addition to the heavy role of leadership in the experiment to which he committed himself, and his former and new colleagues, the first minister felt obliged to retain the treasury portfolio, not only because of his thorough familiarity with its intricacies and exactions, but also because of his desire to institute practical economy at the top. Whether he will be able to continue in the dual role of Premier and guardian of the public till, however, is a matter which he must decide for himself. The human machine has its limitations.

No reference to the unique session which ended yesterday would be doing the 20th Legislature justice if it omitted congratulations, too, to the members of the official opposition. They performed their task conscientiously and well; they demonstrated to the members of the coalition party numerous points in organization and strategy which no seasoned parliamentarian would fail to respect. There is naturally a distinct line of demarcation between the fundamental philosophies to which the C.C.F. and the Liberal-Conservative merger subscribe; but when it comes to the all-important humanities, the principles which the realities of the hour compel us all to recognize, the 48 members of the House find a good deal in common. Thus, although Mr. Winch declined to accept, first, the invitation of Mr. Maitland—on the morrow of the election—and, second, that of Premier Hart, to join in a triple nonpartisan alliance for the duration of the war, the public can rest assured that all its elected representatives are also agreed on the requirements of the prime consideration—that of an all-out fight against the enemy of mankind.

F E B

1942

B.C. Needs More B.C. Control

This province continues to suffer because of excess mileage between us and the central seat of government in Canada. We are 3000 miles from Ottawa—and every mile appears to count against us.

Four-fifths of the population and wealth of this Dominion are contained in the area within 1000 miles of the federal capital. What happens in the farthest fringe, particularly occupied by British Columbia, is, in the nature of things, a matter of afterthought for the government. We allege no intentional neglect; the trouble is that our importance, in the eyes of the average Ottawa authority, merits only casual attention.

There exists a choice of two remedies. Either would be a tremendous help to us and we believe to the federal government. One remedy would be the appointment of a resident federal minister in Vancouver or Victoria. The alternative consists in giving new and extensive authority to departments of the provincial government over our natural resources.

Today Ottawa is exercised with national problems relating to the war—and properly so. Negotiations of tremendous import between London, Washington and Ottawa, the vast consideration that must be given to the sources and effect of our united war effort, estimates of rehabilitation problems—these must claim Ottawa's first attention. We had some experience in these subjects recently when it turned out that most determined and carefully-planned views on disposal of Pacific Coast Japanese had to be presented to the government to secure adequate decision on matters relating to the defense of this Coast.

Then there is a secondary group of national questions, especially having to do with natural resources, fisheries, lumber and the like, where we get distinctly poor service from Ottawa. Cabinet ministers are busy with the war, with the result that administration of departmental matters is left to a bureaucratic staff, which slowly and ponderously tries to do business at long-distance on a prewar basis. The inability to face directly into changed conditions which require essential decisions almost on the spot leads to tragic results. The old system of red tape is applied while officials operate on the schedule of the eighteen-nineties, assert their authority and set up as realities mere mirages of difficulties that do not exist at all. In this way there is vastly too much centralization in Ottawa and the loss of time spent in securing a new viewpoint is appalling.

Take the matter of fixing prices under the timber control. This has been under some attack recently in Vancouver. There

exists no resentment at a necessary setup of prices, but the thing has got to be made to work. If the present schedules persist, scores of smaller sawmills will be forced to close within a few months because logs will not be produced in sufficient quantities. The trend under present timber control is to make it difficult—or even impossible—for sawmills to operate without first buying stands of timber for themselves and installing their own logging outfits. The former time-honored and perfectly logical system of buying and selling of logs in the open market as an incidental commodity in the industry promises soon to be a thing of the past. The regulations will have to be modified to suit the local situation. What the timber controller has decided is good for the Gatineau or the St. John River, will simply not work out here.

In fisheries, a subject of tremendous importance, there exists a great crisis that calls loudly for careful immediate study, followed by firm and decisive action. Instead of which, what are we getting? Well, in Ottawa you have a fisheries department steeped in a lot of out-dated traditions, built up to protect successive dynasties of officials—and here again it is a national setup, permeated by political expedient and ruled by red tape that rules the situation.

Here is the crisis: With Japan in the war, and Alaska threatened, United States authorities have decided they must abandon any thought of fishing for salmon in Bristol Bay and other places beyond the Panhandle coastline. A fifth of the annual pack of Pacific pink salmon has thus disappeared overnight. Naval necessity may also reduce halibut fishing areas in the North Pacific. This year there exists an unprecedented demand for fish to feed Britain and her Allies—and a double load may be put on the available coastline of British Columbia to produce this food. The season is all but ready to open, but has any official been sent from Ottawa to study the business on the ground here, make new surveys of fishing areas, to get views of fishermen and packers concerning possibilities of expanding output during the next few years? Nobody has come, because the bureaucratic mind at Ottawa is still geared to what sufficed in 1920 or 1933.

The plain truth is that a committee of British Columbia officials, fishermen and packers would agree on a competent course of action within a week to bring to market every available pound of fish needed for the war, but an easy and natural solution like that won't get far in Ottawa. The same principle applies regarding some other subjects we could mention.

House May Wind Up Business in Week

VICTORIA, Feb. 2.—Prorogation of the first session of the twentieth legislature in from a week to 10 days' time seems probable today.

With main debates over, and one-quarter of provincial expenditures for the coming year already approved, the new Dominion-Provincial agreement remains as the chief business before the legislators.

Maitland Says New Haven May Be Closed

VICTORIA, Feb. 2. — New Haven, the Borstal-type boys' home in Burnaby, may be closed as a wartime economy, Attorney-General R. L. Maitland, K.C., told The Vancouver Sun today.

"It has been suggested that the corrective school which has a permanent staff of eight under Superintendent Angus MacLeod, and 11 inmates, might be replaced for duration of the war by a hospital for war emergency.

"The matter is under consideration," Mr. Maitland said, "but I can't make a detailed statement until the proposal has been fully studied."

Since the school was founded, 213 first offenders at Oakalla Prison Farm, ranging in age from 17 to 23, have passed through the school, more than 80 percent of whom have been rehabilitated into useful citizens.

The school had had an average population of 30 until recently.

Marketing 'Cesspool' Here, Says MacDonald

Farmers' Choice Of Boards Rapped

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—British Columbia should not give up marketing control, which has worked to the benefit of vegetable growers, Hon. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, insisted before the Legislature, Monday.

In a 70-minute duel with his critics, the minister admitted the Lower Mainland is "the cesspool of marketing control," and added that Fraser Valley producers had been unwise in choosing some of their representatives on the B.C. Co-Operative Vegetable Marketing Board. Nevertheless, he urged that the Natural Products Marketing Act be given a further trial.

LACK OF LOYALTY

"There isn't a real farmer producing potatoes in B.C. who won't admit returns made to him are better than he received before control," Dr. MacDonald declared.

Questioned by R. C. MacDonald (Cons., Dewdney), as to cost to date of the marketing inquiry, its probable duration, and whether sufficient evidence had been taken to justify a conclusion, Dr. MacDonald parried by replying that the cost is being borne by the provincial government, not his department—that the probe is continuing longer than he had anticipated, but "that no commission ever rose within the expected time"—and that the commissioner couldn't turn in a complete report until evidence had been heard on interior marketing conditions.

While he championed control, the minister was not blind to flaws in the existing structure. He gave the reason for control as "the lack of loyalty of producers themselves, who were unwilling to stay within the confines of their organizations."

GROWERS INDISCREET

Chief headache in administering the act on the Lower Mainland is potato bootlegging by "Orientals and persons of other races, with the attributes of Orientals in their marketing views."

Wheels would spin more smoothly, too, if more care were exercised in naming board members.

"I have often thought," Dr. MacDonald said, "that the people of the Fraser Valley have not been as discreet as they might be in picking their representatives on the board."

Difficulties of administering the act are such that he was tempted to seek its abolition, but he was prevented, he asserted, by the fact that such action would force growers back to prices of \$4 or \$5 per ton, and would restore Orientals to control of the market.

FIGHT TO LAST DITCH

"I'm confident that something can be done," he said, "but you have on the Lower Mainland a cesspool of marketing control that is extremely hard to deal with."

Allegations that the board agency "had failed to the extent of \$1600" did not convince him that it "had failed in furthering the interests of the producers."

"There has been," he admitted, "a weakness in handling the product controlled by the board," but that "pales into insignificance when compared with the services rendered."

Even the partial success achieved so far is one of the most worthwhile efforts of the department of agriculture—"and as long as I am minister, I am going to fight this kind of thing to the last ditch."

By "this kind of thing," Dr.

MacDonald referred to actions of newspapers and individuals in allegedly highlighting unfavorable publicity given the board, and seeking to overthrow it on the strength of asserted weaknesses in the agency.

'MINORITY RULE'

He was challenged by Dr. Joseph Gillis (Lib.-Yale) who said the act is not functioning as it should while a spread of \$18 exists between price paid to producer and charged to consumer.

"How in the name of common sense can anyone get up and defend a situation like that?" Dr. Gillis demanded. "The trouble is, a minority is ruling."

The minority, he explained, is composed of some 400 farmers who want control, against 1800 in Fraser Valley who don't. He urged that when the investigating commission brings in its report, Dr. MacDonald take steps to correct a situation, "which isn't working right as long as you have this spread."

In reply, Dr. MacDonald harked back to 1904 when he stated potatoes were bought at \$6 a ton from the producer and sold to the consumer for as high as \$33 a ton.

Survey Being Made On War Insurance

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—Attorney-General R. L. Maitland revealed to the Legislature Monday evening that a survey of opinion is being made in all provinces, with a view to possible establishment of war insurance for person and property.

In answer to a question by Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., MacKenzie), as to whether any such insurance was contemplated, Mr. Maitland said that a federal representative visited British Columbia a few days ago to carry out the survey.

"Opinion has been taken in all provinces, and I think you will hear something soon," he stated.

ALL SERVICES

Few Opposition members failed to test the rivets of the Attorney-General's recent civilian protection announcement during the evening sitting. From him they received the following information:

1. The provincial ARP committees being established must represent all community services to be really first-class. Services and number of personnel will be settled by the government.
2. Powers of the committee will be very much restricted by the federal authority, which gives this province complete freedom only in shaping its blackout rules. But Ottawa will "go as far as it is necessary" in giving financial assistance.
3. The B. C. committee will probably be empowered to take over direction of municipal committees which fail to do a good job. Municipalities won't be able to "profiteer" by relying on the

committees to bring their fire and other standing emergency services up to strength through ARP equipment. Before receiving aid, they will be required to have regular fire and police departments at standard size.

4. ARP responsibility rests on the individual as well as the government, and many Vancouver residents have accepted this by constructing shelters in their basements. The committee will give all service possible, at present won't consider building shelters in all districts of the province.

Leader in the critical testing-out of Mr. Maitland's proposed civilian protection policy was Mr. Gargrave. He said he was "certainly not enthused over the report of the attorney-general" and "didn't think Mayor Cornett had been particularly pleased over the comments made."

PUMPS OF LITTLE VALUE

Concerned with "the appalling lack of co-ordination between various authorities," Mr. Gargrave felt the new committee might offer a solution. One of his main objections, however, was that the province must take its orders from Ottawa on ARP.

"I sincerely hope the Japanese will wait for Ottawa to pass on our suggestions and recommendations before they come over here," he remarked. Whacking at the existing setup, he pointed out that the 100 firepumps loaned by Ontario are of little value for conflagrations in buildings as their jet isn't delivered under sufficient pressure.

He roused a chuckle with a tale of ARP in the little Sooke community of Shirley.

There, he said, the warden was "over 70, and stone deaf. He didn't hear the blackout warning, and, in consequence, his house was the only one lit up."

Free Legal Advice 'Available to All'

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—Attorney-General R. L. Maitland and William T. Straith, K.C., Liberal, Victoria, Monday night, said in the Legislature that no person need do without legal advice or assistance because he lacks funds.

The Attorney-General explained operations of the Junior Vancouver Bar's "legal aid to the poor," and Mr. Straith followed it with a description of the similar Victoria system.

Mrs. Dolly Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, who raised the issue, suggested that free legal aid be organized and publicized by the Government.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, stated that he had tried the free legal aid in Victoria on behalf of a drug addict. The junior barrister to whom the case had been assigned had refused to take it unless paid \$35, he said.

MacDonald Would End Civil Service Act

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—While estimates for his department were under consideration in the House on Monday Dr. K. C. MacDonald, agriculture minister, said that "doing away with the Civil Service Act would be fine."

"Most of the civil service examinations are held in Victoria," said the minister. "I do not intend to send a stenographer from this city to interior points when suitable applicants are available close at hand. I am of the opinion that doing away with the Civil Service Act would be fine."

Sirens Stored Here— Two Tones Wanted

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—Opposition Leader Harold Winch asked Attorney-General R. L. Maitland, Monday evening, why 28 RCAF-approved air raid sirens now in Vancouver had not been installed, while contract for 47 more had been cancelled, and an order placed with another firm for sirens of a more complicated and less established type.

British Columbia, Mr. Winch said, is more in danger of air attack than an invasion attempt, and in consequence warning sirens assume first importance. Following a conference in Vancouver three months ago, 75 five-horsepower sirens were contracted for at \$40,000 with Federal Supply Company, an eastern manufacturer of 30 years standing and maker of sirens used in Halifax, U. S., Pacific Coast cities, and by the RCAF.

DOESN'T JIBE

"I learned 28 of them reached Vancouver some days ago," Mr. Winch stated "and at approximately the same time, the contract was cancelled. The 28 are in storage in Vancouver—the remainder are in the Federal Supply Co. factory waiting shipment.

"I understand now that another contract has been let to Burlec Co., not a long-established firm. It doesn't make the motors, and these are the main part of a siren, nor does it manufacture its own automatic equipment. This work would have to be farmed out. I also understand this is not a weatherproof siren."

This action, Mr. Winch felt, didn't jibe with appeals made in B. C. for ARP equipment.

"In view of the Attorney-General's statement of the other day (Friday), it would go a long way toward setting the public mind at rest if he would explain what is taking place."

Mr. Maitland replied that his department has nothing to do with purchase of ARP supplies,

which is in charge of a special committee set up three months ago.

FASTER DELIVERY

"I certainly don't propose to interfere with orders, manufacturers or anything else," he said.

The committee, he continued, decided after studying the Federal Supply Co.'s sirens, that a two-tone device should be used. National Research Council at Ottawa backed its findings.

"First information given me was that deliveries couldn't be made of the Federal Supply Co.'s sirens at that time because of priorities," Mr. Maitland said, "while the two-tone sirens could be delivered, and were guaranteed to be here in much faster time than the others. I was not spoken to by any company, and if so, I would have referred them to the committee. I don't have anything to do with purchasing, and frankly, I don't want to."

BOMB'S TONE

In reply to a comment by Mr. Winch that he "found it all very confusing," Mr. Maitland reminded him that "as I said the other day, there are a number of things to be worked out."

Here E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby), entered the discussion.

"It's worse than ridiculous, it's criminal," he remarked. "If sirens are available, they should be installed, whether two-tone or not. A bomb has only one tone."

House Seeks New Rights For Unions

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—The government will be requested by the Legislature to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act so that employers must bargain with the union which employees designate as their bargaining agency.

The Legislature's new labor committee Monday night voted in favor of the change in the act, which now says the employer may counter with a suggestion of a company union.

The committee, through the Legislature, will ask consideration of this change by Labor Minister George S. Pearson at the present sitting.

Committee members met 26 delegates representing unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, the Canadian Federation of Labor and the Canadian Congress of Labor. J. J. Robertson of Victoria was chairman.

The Labor brief also asked that the British Columbia government take immediate steps to bring low scale wages "frozen" by the federal government up to a level consistent with "the increased wages that are general throughout most industries,"

that health insurance be put into effect; that a representative of labor be included on the Workmen's Compensation Board; that sufficient funds and equipment be made available for ARP work; that cost-of-living bonuses be made retroactive to August, 1939, and that industries now working their employees more than eight hours a day revise their present method of employ-

ment to eliminate overtime as far as possible.

Gov't to Consider Wage Bonus for Civil Servants

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—Questioned Monday under salary votes in the police branch if the province intended to pay the cost of living bonus to civil servants, Premier John Hart said that the government had not yet had time to give adequate consideration to what would be involved; but would consider it at the earliest opportunity.

The bonus, if decided upon, could be paid under the Civil Service Act. It was desired particularly to give consideration to the position of low-salaried groups and married men, Mr. Hart said, in reply to further questions, when estimates of the Attorney-General's Department were under discussion in the Legislature.

Attorney-General Maitland said that protests had been made against chimney construction in certain wartime housing, and the province was seeking to adjust the matter. The province had considered training public prosecutors in provincial cases, and would make a trial of that plan in Vancouver shortly.

Lower Auto Licenses

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—Attorney-General R. L. Maitland told the legislature on Monday that the government will give careful consideration to representations seeking a reduction in automobile license fees. He was answering a question if license fees would be cut because of the restriction on tires.

Divorce Amendment Introduced in House

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—An amendment to the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act was introduced in the Legislature by Attorney-General Maitland Monday and given first reading.

It provides for validation of marriages solemnized before Jan. 31, 1942, where either party previously has been granted a divorce absolute but the necessary time limit has not expired for appeal against such divorce, provided no such appeal has been lodged or other impediment has arisen.

'No Increase' Says Victoria

Gov't Assailed Over Teachers' Pay Grant

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Announcement by Hon. H. G. T. Perry, Minister of Education, that the government had decided against raising its grant toward teachers' salaries, drew brisk criticism from opposition members in the Legislature, Tuesday afternoon.

The request for an increase, pressed by B. C. Teachers' Federation, was refused on two counts: Additional cost to the government would be too heavy, and municipalities already hard pressed for revenue would be forced to raise their school board grants to carry their share of the boost.

Present maximum of government assistance to both urban and rural schools is \$680. Minimum salary set by the Council of Public Instruction is \$780 for elementary schools, \$1100 for junior high and \$1200 for senior high.

'WHERE YOU SIT'

If school boards so wish, Mr. Perry said, they are at liberty to raise salaries, but he personally did not favor an order imposing an increase on the boards.

Hon. Harold Winch, leader of the opposition, was "amazed at Mr. Perry's views," which he termed the exact opposite of those expressed by the Minister on the floor of the House previously, and at the Liberal party convention. At the convention, Mr. Winch said, Mr. Perry had introduced a motion that education costs be removed from the land and borne by the provincial treasury in full.

He suggested that "a lot depends on where you sit," and that Mr. Perry, as Minister of Education, had been forced to change his views by his colleagues.

The Minister vigorously denied this, contending that his personal views were unchanged; he believes, as an ethical principle, that education costs should be a full state responsibility.

TAXES AND EDUCATION

Mr. Perry said that the government will, this year, thoroughly investigate the question of taxation in regard to education.

"The time has come when we must fix a proper system of taxation, particularly on land," he declared.

The Minister announced that no changes in text books are contemplated during the ensuing year.

He told the House that 23 schools have been closed because of lack of teachers and that 40 temporary permits had had to

be issued to teachers with uncompleted courses.

'RIDICULOUS SITUATION'

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves (C.C.F., North Vancouver) pointed out that new curricula taught in rural and urban schools make necessary the hiring of experienced teachers. Unless rural salaries would permit the hiring of top-grade instructors, she feared a decline in education standards throughout the province.

In her own urban riding, she said, teachers were being paid rural salaries, although living costs had increased. She gave minimum elementary salary in North Vancouver as \$800.

As to high schools, "it is a ridiculous situation when a boy of 16 can go to a shipyard job, and make a salary very much larger than that of the teacher who was instructing him a month before."

Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre asked that school inspectors be appointed solely on merit. In the past, he said, some inspectors had been appointed solely for political reasons.

Anscombe Replies To Ferry Query

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Acting Public Works Minister Herbert Anscomb has informed the legislature, in reply to questions from Herbert Herridge (C.C.F., Rossland-Trail), that the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company purchased a ferry barge on the Arrow Lakes from the government for \$20.

The government has rented a barge on the Arrow Lakes, Mr. Anscomb said, from the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company as a substitute ferry, at \$8 a day for 20 days.

Doukhobor Debate In B.C. Legislature

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Promise of a "full dress" discussion of the Doukhobor question as it affects the Grand Forks area, was promised the Legislature Tuesday night by Tom Love, Conservative member for Grand Forks-Greenwood.

Mr. Love, complained that Doukhobors, who have purchased choicest fruit lands in his district, have refused to register with the Dominion government as required under the War Measures Act.

Blind School Overcrowded

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—B. C.'s school for deaf and blind children at Jericho Beach is dangerously overcrowded, C. E. MacDonald, superintendent told the Legislature's Social Welfare Committee Tuesday.

The institution houses 20 more than health and fire regulations allow, Mr. MacDonald said.

Giving figures the superintendent told the committee that 33 girls have one bathtub, three toilets and six washbasins; 23 young boys have one tub, two toilets and three basins and 21 older boys have two tubs, two toilets and two basins.

The classrooms and dormitories have reached the saturation point and soon the students will have to dine in two shifts, so crowded is the dining room.

"We reached our limit in 1925," Mr. MacDonald said.

There are at present '88 children in the school.

The Social Welfare Committee also heard Geo. Ross, superintendent of the Boys' Industrial School at Coquitlam, who said he would prefer boys be committed to the school for an undetermined length of time, rather than a certain period. In this way there would be no resentment among the boys.

Forestry Dep't to Encourage Yule Tree Cutting

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Chief Forester C. D. Orchard announced to the Legislature's Forestry Committee today that his service will experiment next summer with a "trapline system" of Christmas tree cutting, by which a number of bona fide settlers and farmers would each be permitted to cut 5000 young evergreens on crown land.

To date, the Forest Branch has forbidden Christmas tree cutting on crown land save for a few specified areas valueless for any other form of lumbering.

The ban would remain, however, on coast areas where timberlands could be more profitably reserved for logging.

Farmers and settlers would be educated in conservation methods by Forestry officers.

Christmas tree cutting on suitable ground is not wasteful, as if proper cutting methods are followed, and depletion avoided, a new crop is ready for the axe in seven years, he said.

War Brings New Problem In Forests

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—British Columbia, caught with more than 100,000 acres of unburned logging slash on its hands, faces a threat from incendiary Japanese attack so grave that the entire provincial appropriation of \$474,087 would be required to cope with it.

This information was given to the Forestry Committee of the Legislature today by Chief Forester C. D. Orchard, who stated that a few enemy aircraft scattering incendiary "calling cards" could sow fires throughout the coast area.

The chief forester said the situation calls for an expanded outlook service, and use of standby crews—truck units equipped with fire-fighting gear and radio communication — "in numbers never before considered."

"Adequate protection against this danger to the coast would cost us approximately our entire forestry budget," Mr. Orchard said. "This is more than British Columbia can afford."

Dominion aid is obviously required, Mr. Orchard said. Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands, has already been in touch with Ottawa, and has reason to hope the federal authority will back the province by recruiting a "forest battalion" of youths, or men too old for overseas service, as an incendiary guard.

It will require a big organization, such as we've never seen before, if we're to make things perfectly safe," Mr. Orchard concluded.

Four billion feet of lumber are required from the British Columbia woods this year, and operators who smashed their all-time production record in 1940 are hitting a pace that may see the total achieved.

Mr. Orchard said forests yielded \$120,000,000, a third of all B.C.'s primary wealth, in 1941. Government share in revenue was \$4,000,000.

Charges that the branch had indulged in "wartime profiteering" by increasing its stumpage rates to loggers were unjustified, the chief forester told the committee. Bates had risen, but the price paid per thousand feet to lumber wholesalers was up \$7.65.

The coast has 800,000 denuded acres which call for reforestation, Mr. Orchard said.

Legislature Seeks More Control Over University Spending

Perry Finds Little Data On Outlays

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—Dissatisfaction of a number of members of the Legislature with the comparative independence of government control enjoyed by the University of British Columbia found expression Tuesday night when Mrs. Dorothy Steeves (C.C.F., North Vancouver) announced she would introduce a bill aimed at "democratizing the board of governors of UBC."
Hon. H. G. T. Perry, minister of education, was one of the group who felt the university pursued too free a course in view of the fact that approximately half of its budget came from government coffers.

NO REPORT

Only way in which the government could assume a director's share of authority, Mr. Perry said, would be through amendment of the University Act.

The minister felt that boards such as the UBC governing body become most undemocratic when permitted to sheer away from legislative authority.

"They expect to spend \$870,000," he said. "Of this sum, \$410,000 will be in fees, while we provide \$430,000. We're paying about half the cost, and certainly we're entitled to get a full report on how it is spent."

Such a report, Mr. Perry asserted, is not furnished, an omission which he, as newly-appointed minister of education, found "amazing." Only data furnished him, he told the House, is the "book report" contained in the estimates.

C.C.F. members urged a chair of home economics for the university, backing their proposal by the claim that in its present organization, the university serves only an extremely limited portion of the population.

Dr. L. S. Klinck, president of the University of British Columbia, today refused comment on statements made in the Provincial Legislature Tuesday by C.C.F. members and by the Minister of Education, Hon. H. G. T. Perry.

Meanwhile, The Vancouver Sun learned that six out of nine members of the Board of Governors are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. In addition, President Klinck and Chancellor R. E. McKechnie are ex-officio members.

Suppose They Found Oil At Commotion

The Legislature feels uneasy about continued expenditure chasing an oil prospect at Commotion Creek.

There was talk of limiting the 1942 appropriation to \$100,000; and Mr. Asselstine, whose department under the Pattullo administration bored for the oil, gave some sage advice. Either spend enough to get the oil or drop the proposal, Mr. Asselstine challenged—but don't merely fiddle with the matter to the extent of \$100,000. Either press the search or quit, he argued.

As ideas go, this is a bright one; but the essential question at Commotion Creek is something else entirely. Let us suppose there is oil at the bottom of that hole, so far in solid rock. Let us suppose there is oil and that Commotion Creek will yield it in vast quantities. What we should like to know—and this is the question Mr. Asselstine says nothing whatever about—is how the government or anyone else can get that oil to market, and where is the market? Freight rates are a tremendous factor.

Commotion Creek is some distance from railhead at Dawson Creek. The freight rate from Dawson Creek (after you hauled it there or piped it) down to Vancouver would

be \$31.60 cents per ton. Provincial Bureau of Statistics at Victoria works out the cost of California crude oil delivered in Vancouver at \$7.85 per ton. Turner Valley supplies many prairie points, but freight charges are such that Winnipeg and Brandon can get their oil by other routes cheaper than the train haul from Turner Valley eastward. Canada has vast fields of coal of its own production, but still imports more than half its coal supplies. Alberta mines can not ship a ton of coal to Ontario without loss. Subventions paid by the people of Canada make up for this loss.

In the Legislature a few days ago a member made a plea for redress in freight rates so the people of the Peace River would be able to ship their scrap iron and old rubber and other salvage here. They were giving the salvage free, but the freight cost more from point of shipment than the material was worth when it arrived at Vancouver.

The same thing applies to crude oil. From Commotion Creek it would cost, delivered here, three times as much as from California. From this standpoint, there is no justification for spending another cent on the government "oil well" in wartime.

Gov't Takes Over Normal School

VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—The Provincial Normal School at Victoria is being taken over by the Dominion government for war purposes, Education Minister H. G. Perry announced Tuesday in the Legislature. It is understood that the building is being considered for use as a military hospital.

"The provincial government has just been advised from Ottawa that the Provincial Normal School building at Victoria will be required by the Dominion. In view of that, the position of normal schools generally will have to be reconsidered by the province," Mr. Perry said.

New Administration For Aged Pensions

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Feb. 4.—The Old Age Pension Act will be transferred in administration from the Workmen's Compensation Board to the Provincial Secretary's department, under an amendment introduced in the Legislature Tuesday by Provincial Secretary Geo. S. Pearson.

In the past the provincial secretary has had little to say in administration of the act. Now it will come under the personal supervision of Mr. Pearson, who will be able to rule in cases that need personal attention.

Most of the complaints have been in regard to administration of the act, but the cabinet has

always pointed out it has had little control over the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Claim Securities Act 'Crippled B.C. Mining'

Vancouver Stock Exchange Head Tells Committee 'Change Is Demanded for Development'; New Channels

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—A. N. Wilverton, president of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, told the Mining Committee of the British Columbia Legislature today he thought the criminal code was capable of taking care of any situation arising through wrongdoing of brokers, and some of the clauses in the Securities Act should be reviewed in detail. Development of mining in the province demanded some change, he said.

GOOD TREATMENT

While the Vancouver Stock Exchange had brought millions of dollars into the province in the past year, it was unfortunate that much of this money had gone into old established mines, Mr. Wilverton said. The normal channel for development of mining should be the old fashioned channel of prospectors, syndicates and sound financing. The Securities Act had crippled the mining industry during its 10 years of operation, he said.

SURF INLET

J. B. Woodworth, Vancouver, told the committee of disagreement with E. K. De Beck, superintendent of brokers under the Act, as to release of his escrow stock in the Surf Inlet Mine. Mr. De Beck said the matter was highly controversial and litigation was still proceeding.

Attorney-General Maitland asked if the mining industry believed Mr. De Beck was doing things not in the interests of the industry, if an appeal to the courts should be allowed. Now the only appeal is to the attorney-general.

C. S. Arnold, Vancouver, thought Mr. Maitland's suggestion was good but that appeal to the courts might take from four months to two years. "I don't think the Securities Act is any good and would like to see it abolished," he said.

A. E. Jukes, Vancouver, said promoters didn't know where they stood or when they would get their promotion money back. There were too many dictatorial powers in the act and it was driving the mining industry into the hands of the larger companies. This province contained 69 of the 74 known minerals, yet promotion money was lacking. Repeal the act and bring in something that would work, he suggested.

GOV'T GRUBSTAKES

Government grubstaking of prospectors along lines followed by Australia was urged in the Legislature Wednesday by Harold E. Winch, leader of the opposition.

Such action, Mr. Winch felt, would aid in development of British Columbia's mineral resources, and would be of special value at a time when "war minerals" are much in demand.

"We have skimmed over this matter," Mr. Winch said. "It's time now that we got down to formulating plans for assistance to prospectors and others trying to develop our mineral resources."

Australia leads in taking on the prospector as a partner, he told the House. In certain states of the Commonwealth, bona fide prospectors in parties of not less than two draw £1 per man per week for rations, receive special explosives permits, are loaned equipment, and get free railway transportation to jumping-off places nearest the areas they wish to prospect. They report once a month to the authorities.

"The government puts up half the cost, and takes a percentage of prospectors' returns," Mr. Winch said. "But if the values are not there, the stake is regarded as a gift, not a loan."

In South Australia, he added, the state government even places diamond drilling gear at the disposal of prospectors.

Aid to the B.C. prospector was "perhaps more important at the present time than any other," he concluded.

VOTE REDUCED

Louis LeBourdais, Cariboo Liberal, was sorry to see that Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Mines, had reduced the vote for mining roads and trails (from \$55,000 to \$50,000) in his 1942 estimates.

"Mining development in the past has been just as fast and no faster than transportation," Mr. LeBourdais said.

He cited the Manson Creek gold development and the Pinchi Lake cinnabar property as instances where roads had made quick production possible.

In early days, he said, the B.C. Government grubstaked prospectors on a 50-50 basis.

MacDonald Under Fire

Gov't Cars Not Sold in Regular Way

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—The chairman's gavel pounded for order today when the Legislature's Public Accounts Committee enquired into the Agriculture Department's purchase of cars and the government's dealing with the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch and Colin Cameron, C.C.F. Whip lead the barrage of questions.

Agriculture Minister K. C. MacDonald and F. H. Harrison, chief B.C. purchasing agent, disagreed on the way the Agriculture Department sold its old cars.

Mr. Winch said the Department of Agriculture is the only government department that has not gone through the purchasing agent when selling used cars.

'DECIDED BY ME'

Dr. MacDonald said his department is being run more economically than any other Department.

"These things for the agriculture Department are going to be decided on by me," Dr. MacDonald said.

"I consider it my responsibility not only to pass on purchase of new cars but also on trade-in values," Mr. Harrison said.

"I recognize my responsibility to my department and to the people of British Columbia," the minister replied. "There is no car bought in our department until we are convinced there is a necessity for it. I invited the closest scrutiny of every purchase."

'RELIEVING' DEPARTMENT

Mr. Winch said Dr. MacDonald is cutting below the whole established policy of unified purchased control.

"Dr. MacDonald is merely relieving the purchasing department of that responsibility," said W. T. Straith, Liberal, Victoria.

"That's just what he shouldn't be doing," replied Mr. Winch.

Dr. MacDonald said his department gets better value for its used cars than any other department.

Mr. Harrison said he is not prepared to admit that.

SOLD FERRY; RENTED IT BACK

There were cries of "trivial," "nonsense" when the committee enquired into dealings between the government and the Big Bend Cedar Pole Co. with which Capt. C. S. Leary, Liberal, Kaslo-Slocan, former Minister of Public Works, is associated.

J. W. Armstrong, chief mechanical superintendent for the Public Works Department, was on the stand.

Mr. Winch asked if it were true the government sold a ferry to the Big Bend Co. for \$20 and then rented it back three months later for \$8 a day, plus \$4 an hour for a tug owned by the Big Bend Company.

Mr. Armstrong replied this was true.

In reply to questions Mr. Armstrong said the ferry was useless because of dry rot. He had not seen it after repairs had been made and the government hired it back.

Mr. Leary said his company spent between \$4000 and \$5000 putting the ferry in shape.

"I'm just getting a little fed up on the charges of skulduggery that are handed out around this table," the former minister commented.

Pension Board Too Severe, Pearson Says

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—The old-age pensions act is always good for debate in the Legislature.

Wednesday mere mention of the act brought several members to their feet.

Provincial Secretary Geo. S. Pearson, explaining the amendment to the act which will bring it under his department, said the Workmen's Compensation Board, which has always administered it, wished to be relieved of the responsibility. The board had given no reason for its request, Mr. Pearson said.

"I am of the opinion an organization can be set up in the social service department to deal with the act effectively and with economy," the minister said.

There has been some difference of opinion, he admitted, between the government and the board regarding the interpretation of the act.

"We have felt the board has been rather severe in its interpretation of the act," he said. "The board has been perhaps overly cautious."

With the change, Mr. Pearson saw some modification of the conditions the act imposes.

Opposition leader Harold Winch commended the minister for the change.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, felt the Dominion should take over the entire cost and that everyone should have pensions, irrespective of their financial means.

B. C. Legalizes Some Speedy Remarriages

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Feb. 5. — Marriages that have taken place in British Columbia less than two months after the principals have obtained divorces will be legalized by an amendment to the "Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act," put through second reading in the Legislature Wednesday.

This has become necessary, Attorney-General R. L. Maitland explained, to help members of the armed forces who, not realizing they were acting illegally were married, with the result that their wives could not obtain dependents' allowances.

From now on, divorced persons intending to be married will be warned it is illegal to wed until two months after the divorce.

Farmers Ask Relief From School Taxes

VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—Farmers representing all sections of British Columbia Wednesday brought their problems before the Legislature's Agricultural Committee.

The advisory board of B. C. Farmers' Institutes comes to Victoria each year to ask the government to help the people on the land.

This year they ask that bounties on predatory animals be set as follows: Cougars, \$30; wolves, \$20; coyotes, \$5. They want a farmer on the game board. They urge the agriculture department to request that the federal government absorb freight rates and put the B. C. poultry industry on a parity with Eastern Canada.

The farmers are also asking that school taxes on land and personal property be abolished

VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—Members of the Legislature dismissed at the second reading Wednesday a private bill asking an amendment of the Mechanics' Lien Act to extend the period in which workmen could file claims from 31 to 60 days.

The bill, introduced by Samuel Guthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle) was opposed by Attorney-General R. L. Maitland, who felt it would give more aid to shady contractors than to workmen seeking back wages.

\$60 to \$70 Foot Drilling Costs

Fate of Peace River Oil Well Still in Balance

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 6.—Debate which preceded the passing of a \$100,000 vote for continued oil exploration in Peace River Block, Thursday, is a mere sample of argument expected when legislators tackle a bill, now before the House, calling for an amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act which would open the northern reserve to private interests on a royalty basis.

Closely linked with the bill, introduced by Hon. Herbert Anscumb, minister of mines, is a problem being considered by the government in the light of its latest geologists' report: whether to continue drilling in the 5500-foot Commotion Creek hole, sink a new well elsewhere, or abandon the search for oil.

3000 FEET MORE

The report said a further 3000 feet of drilling would be required to reach the shale in which oil might be found. The next 1000 feet, it added, would be "of critical importance."

"We have \$125,000 still unspent in our current estimates," Mr. Anscumb said. "If a new arrangement could be made with the contractor we could put that sum to use within the next seven and a half weeks. If we did that, and used the \$100,000 allotted (in 1942 estimates) we would have enough to carry us to a conclusion."

He stressed the fact that the provincial government has yet to make up its mind, however, and added a warning that the contractor might be unwilling to continue the operation.

WHAT TO DO WITH IT?

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal member for Prince Rupert, was skeptical as to Mr. Anscumb's statement that the government had not reached a decision.

"The government has not decided what it is going to do, but it looks pretty evident to me," declared the former premier, who battles for retention of the government reserve.

Mr. Anscumb had another question for the House—what would the government do with oil if it were found? A pipeline of about 360 miles would be required to bring oil to the coast, while railhead was 80 miles distant. British Columbia would be forced either to sell its product to the companies, which have their own distribution systems, or go into the retail business with stations throughout the province.

The original drilling contract, he said in a review of operations to date, was let at \$22.50 a foot. When a bit was lost, "fishing" was financed by an extra \$50,000 grant. This was followed by \$25,000 in order that work might proceed.

\$60 TO \$70 A FOOT

Mr. Anscumb said that when the hole reached its present 5500 feet—and remained just a hole—an expert geologist was borrowed from the Dominion government. He did not visit Commotion Creek, but reported on the strength of data to hand at Victoria.

Language of the report was too difficult for laymen, so on request he furnished a synopsis "such as a business man could understand." In it, the well was termed an inconclusive test at its present depth. If the shale stratum dipped steeply away from the line of boring chances of hitting it were slight, but if the dip was moderate, further drilling was in order.

Owing to extreme hardness of the formation cost of future drilling would be from \$60 to \$70 a foot.

"We might pay \$70,000 to go down the next 1000 feet and still have nothing to show for it," Mr. Anscumb summarized.

Arguing a provincial topic, members lost the listlessness that has marked many of their sittings. Mr. Pattullo, in one of his several objections to Mr. Anscumb's suggestions, labelled the minister "a Tory to the backbone," and accused him of "making a fetish of private interests." He won a laugh by speculating, "Wouldn't it have been a great thing if we'd struck oil before the last election!"

TAKE ROYALTY

Mr. Pattullo said the government would regret it if private companies were to start drilling in the area. Mr. Anscumb said if there is to be no further drilling, the government would wish to assume power to lease oil lands and possible oil lands to private interests. The government would retain the right to regulate operations, and would take a 15 percent royalty instead of the usual 2½ cents per barrel, he summarized.

Pattullo May Remain As P.G.E. President

VICTORIA, Feb. 6. — There have been certain resignations on the directorate of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Premier John Hart told the Legislature Thursday.

Replying to a question from Opposition Leader Harold Winch, the Premier said the board of directors had not yet met to make new appointments.

T. D. Pattullo, when he was Premier, was president of the P.G.E. C. H. P. Tupper, former Liberal member for Similkameen, was a director.

Legislative circles believe Mr. Pattullo, although his resignation has been submitted, may be asked to continue as president.

'Opening of Labor Act Not Essential Now'

—Pearson

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 6. — Labor Minister Geo. S. Pearson announced in the Legislature Thursday that he is opposed to opening the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, this session.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, asked the Minister if he would do anything about the request of a labor delegation, asking that employers be forced to deal with unions recognized by employees.

Mr. Pearson said the employers should have stated their case before the Legislature's labor committee.

The matters suggested by the labor delegation were highly contentious, he said. Giving his reasons, for opposing re-opening of the act the Labor Minister said that the Dominion is invading the labor field more from day to day and would probably go further.

"The act as it is gives full power to the employees to organize," Mr. Pearson said. "The initiative is in the hands of the employees."

Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, said that companies, in negotiations, cause undue delay. One company kept the men waiting two months. He felt the act should make it obligatory for the company to meet its workers within a specified time—from 7 to 10 days.

Mr. Pearson said there is a definite obligation on the part of the employer to negotiate. If employees felt they were not getting action they should so inform the Labor Department, he said.

Because of this, he explained, re-opening of the act is not necessary.

Grant MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, said there are some unscrupulous employers, despite the war situation, who will take advantage of loopholes in the act. Work is stopped largely because this type of employer will not recognize the unions.

"Any group of employees can organize in any way they wish," Mr. Pearson said.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1942

Up-Country Wants B.C. War Industries

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 6.—Up-country members of the Legislature want some of British Columbia's war industries in the interior of the province.

In the Legislature Thursday M. L. A.'s from the interior put in their pleas in this regard to Hon. Hubert Anson, Minister of Trade and Industry.

Dr. J. J. Gillis (Liberal, Yale) deplored the fact the interior has not a single war industry. There is too much waste and expense, he said, citing the Hotel Vancouver barracks, which is so expensive, he said, that people are talking about it.

TOBACCO, SILK URGED

Reeve R. C. MacDonald of Coquitlam (Conservative, Dewdney) said war industries should not be congregated too much in the congested areas of the coast.

Fit. Lt. L. H. Eyres (Conservative, Chilliwack) asked the Minister to do something to keep the bulb industry established and to start tobacco and silk worm industries.

Mr. Anson said, as far as he could see, the bulb growers of Vancouver Island are not asking for any assistance. Development of markets is not necessary;

what is needed is production development, he said.

L. A. Shepherd (C.C.F., Delta) asked the department to boost export of potatoes from the Fraser Valley.

WHAT ABOUT TOURISTS?

Dr. Gillis said he couldn't see any use voting money for the tourist industry, when he couldn't see many tourists here this year because of the war.

Colin Cameron (C.C.F., Comox) wanted to know what the travel bureau is going to do this year.

Mr. Anson, replying, said the situation is extremely complex. He noted Oregon and Washington had made heavy reduction in their tourist votes and said the B. C. department will not do any national advertising this year. But he thought the vote should be left in, because conditions are so uncertain.

Dr. Gillis asked the minister to use coal on the P.G.E. instead of oil.

The House debated the office of the B. C. trade commissioner in Ottawa.

SITUATION 'PREPOSTEROUS'

Mr. Anson said Lloyd Craig's duties are to see what can be done to secure war industries for B. C.

"He has been successful—he has done a good job," the minister said.

E. T. Kenney (Liberal, Skeena) thought it disgraceful the government had to spend money to seek war contracts, when Canada needs everything it can get. He said the situation is "preposterous."

Pearson Defends War Labor Board

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 6.—Charges of slackness in operation of the Regional War Labor Board are unjustified, Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, told The Vancouver Sun Thursday.

Mr. Pearson pointed out that the Regional Board is not permitted to interpret the wage-pegging order-in-council which is its chief administrative concern in British Columbia, but can merely act on by-laws and interpretations furnished by Ottawa.

Problem has been "to know the mind of the Dominion government," the Minister said. One set of interpretations has been received, and another resulting from the recent conference of War Labor Boards in Ottawa, is expected this week.

The B.C. Board sat for two days this week, considering 54 applications, the majority of those placed before it to date.

VICTORIA, Feb. 6.—An amendment to the motor vehicle act introduced in the Legislature Thursday by Attorney-General Maitland restores the right of gratuitous passengers in an automobile to sue for damages where there has been gross negligence on the part of the driver. It also authorizes use of one license plate instead of two as a war measure to conserve metal.

C.C.F. Charges Denied

Pearson Holds Legislation Fair to Labor

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, countered a C.C.F. challenge to reopen the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act on Friday with a heated defense of the act as it stands.

His defense quickened into a verbal blitz against union business agents whose sole objection to the act is that it prevents the setting up of union dictatorships, and employees more concerned with building up their unions than achieving satisfactory conditions.

"Employees have complete power to organize under the act," Mr. Pearson insisted, denying Opposition charges that it leaves loopholes by which employers can intimidate workers who seek to organize and bargain collectively.

'CONFUSING ISSUE'

Grant MacNeil, C.C.F. member for Vancouver Burrard, highlighted the attack with an assertion that intimidation extended to war industries, where skilled artisans had been discharged and blacklisted for union activity.

The storm blew up in the afternoon sitting of the Legislature when Mr. Pearson, answering Opposition criticism, said he didn't feel that union protests against the act required action at the present time.

Mr. MacNeil told the Minister he was confusing the issue.

"The only points asked," he said, "were the right to organize and the right to bargain collectively. A union delegation which appeared before the Legislature's labor committee this week, he added, had maintained that many workers were denied these rights, and were given no protection under the act.

Study of arbitration cases in the past year would show that employers had been able to escape the provisions of the act," Mr. MacNeil stated.

'TIME TO SCARE'

Other C.C.F. members who attacked the act on the ground that its provisions are inadequate to meet the needs of labor were Colin Cameron, Comox, and Samuel Guthrie, Cowichan-Newcastle.

The latter charged that employers, under the act, are able to stall off attempts at employee organization "in order to get time to scare weak-kneed men out of the idea."

Nancy Hodges (Lib., Victoria) "couldn't see why, if labor has the right to organize, the employer could not be required to meet his employees within a set time."

Mr. Pearson summed up his defense of the act thus:

"There are all powers needful for employees to organize. They can join any union, or make any affiliation they wish, but as long as a union is not recognized, it hasn't got the power to enforce its opinion upon the working men."

C.C.F. Urges Pensions Be \$30 a Month

VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—C.C.F. members in the House Friday night said they would never be satisfied until old-age pensioners in B.C. receive \$30 a month, while members of the government pointed out B.C. is doing more for its aged than any other province in Canada.

The matter came up when the House was voting \$711,000 for the \$5 a month bonus for B.C. old folk.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis, C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard, said there is "absolutely nothing in the regulations of the Act to prevent this government from being a great deal more liberal."

Education Minister Hon. H. G. T. Perry said "I think British Columbia is making a very fine contribution, when the province is only called on to pay 25 percent of the pension costs."

Mr. Perry pointed out the B.C. government is now contributing 33.6 percent of the total pensions to B.C. aged.

In addition to the bonus it pays another \$700,000 each year. Provincial Secretary Hon. J. S. Pearson said, "we can't do anything further unless we can persuade the other provinces."

MacNeil Wants Board To Administer Pensions

VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—C. G. MacNeil (C.C.F., Vancouver-Burrard) asked Friday that an administrative board be set up to handle the Old Age Pensions Act, which will be divorced from the Workmen's Compensation Board by an amendment before the Legislature, and placed in the Provincial Secretary's department.

Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, said the form of administration has not yet been decided upon.

Henley Defends Securities Act

VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—The Securities Act was defended in the mining committee of the Legislature Friday by C. S. Henley, Victoria broker, who asserted that in the years before the act was passed, "90 percent of those putting money into mining stock lost it."

Apathy of investors toward mining development could not be charged to the act, Mr. Henley said, but to a change in public viewpoint brought by the war.

"I don't think you'd have more development today if the Securities Act was thrown wide open," he told the committee. "People are more interested in putting their money into such investments as Victory Bonds."

His own impression, he said, is that the act should not be tampered with, because it provides the investing public with needed protection. This was particularly important for the average investor, whose limit isn't much over \$100.

House Tempers Short As 'Scandal' Aired

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 7. — The Legislature Friday heard heated charges of political scandals and evils, graft, corruption and civil service demoralization.

Contributors were Tom Uphill (Labor, Fernie); C. Grant MacNeil (C.C.F., Vancouver - Burrard); Herbert Gargrave, (C.C.F. Mackenzie), and Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor.

TOUGH LITTLE GUY

Mr. Uphill started the ball rolling when he wanted to know who was responsible for sending a James Shilling as relief administrator to Fernie.

"Did you appoint him?" asked Mr. Uphill of the labor minister.

"You bet I did," replied Mr. Pearson.

Then Mr. Pearson explained why he had appointed the man.

"Why, Mr. Chairman, administration of relief in Fernie was a scandal," Mr. Pearson said.

He explained he hired the new administrator because "he was a tough little guy." He said he didn't mean he was tough to the people rightfully on relief, but "he was tough to the road bosses and the head of the Liberal Association."

Everybody in Fernie—"the whole city"—wanted relief, said Mr. Pearson. One Fernie man applied for relief for his son who was attending university.

"Well there are still some scandalous things going on in Fernie," said Mr. Uphill, adding that Mr. Pearson's appointee is the cause of all the trouble.

OBJECTED TO MANNER

One Fernie man, said Mr. Uphill, was driven to the asylum because the administrator was so tough.

Mr. Gargrave asked Mr. Pearson if it was true that the relief administrator in Powell River was discharged just before the election because of his politics.

The Powell River man, the minister said, was discharged because many people objected to his manner.

Mr. MacNeil, who has asked

each minister how appointments are made to his department, rose to ask the same question of Mr. Pearson. The Labor Minister said he understood Mr. MacNeil has "a bug" about government appointments.

This made Mr. MacNeil mad and he told the House the reason why he asks the question.

"This is the only way I can find out what is the government policy in this respect," he said. "To my astonishment I find one minister after another snapping his fingers at the law—the Civil Service Act—and this is demoralizing to the civil servants.

The Minister said there are many things in the Civil Service Act should be changed.

Mr. Uphill then wanted to know why the deputy labor minister is having his salary raised \$300 a year.

Before answering this question Mr. Pearson wondered why Mr. Uphill, "who isn't often in this House," was there every minute of the Labor Department estimates.

Mr. Uphill replied he thought one of his own bills was coming up, otherwise he would not have been there.

The Deputy Labor Minister, Mr. Pearson explained, for a long time was looked upon as a glorified office boy. Now, with labor problems to the fore, he had much to do and the increase only brought him

in line with other deputy ministers.

VICTORIA, Feb. 7.—A dust engineer has been appointed by the Workmen's Compensation Board to investigate silicosis danger in British Columbia mines, Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, informed the Legislature Friday.

Students Disagree With Legislature Charges

Students of the University of British Columbia expressed disagreement Friday with charges laid by Herbert Gargrave in the Legislature Tuesday that the Legislature is subsidizing a class of society at the University that can afford to pay for itself.

"Surveys have shown that most students work for their fees," stated Keith Porter, student council treasurer, and Lois Nicholson, president of the WUS, maintained that there is not just one class of society at the University. Other students voiced similar opinions and pointed to recent work surveys for verification.

UBC Change Asked in House

Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 7. — An amendment to the British Columbia University Act which would "democratize" the Board of Governors has been placed before the legislature by Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, (C.C.F., North Vancouver).

The amendment would require a governing board as follows:

1. The chancellor and president of the university to be ex-officio members, the chancellor to be chairman.
2. Three members to be elected from the university Senate.
3. One member to be elected by the B.C. Teachers' Federation.
4. One representative of organized labor.
5. One member to be elected by the Parent-Teachers' Federation of B.C.
6. Two members to be appointed by the government.

Doesn't Achieve Aim

Says McKechnie

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves' proposed amendment would not have the effect which its designer says she wants, in the opinion of Dr. R. E. McKechnie, chancellor of the University.

"The protest originally arose against the freedom from legislative control which the University was supposed to enjoy," he said.

"The government has always recognized labor and the teachers' group by appointing representatives from these organizations. Yet it retains the power of appointment. Mrs. Steeves wants to give this power away."

Bill Legalizes ARP Expenditures

VICTORIA, Feb. 7. — British Columbia municipalities may go ahead with their own civilian protection measures if a bill introduced into the British Columbia Legislature Friday and given first reading is made law.

The bill, introduced by Hon. A. Wells Gray, municipal affairs minister, would give each of the province's 78 municipalities specific powers to operate any plan for air raid precautions, civilian protection or disaster relief.

It also would allow each municipality to make money grants for those purposes; to use civic employees in any emergency capacity; to purchase equipment necessary to deal with enemy attacks; to use all city property as occasion demands, and to demolish privately-owned buildings rendered unsafe through enemy action.

Dr. Pattullo has an ingenious proposal regarding old-age pensions. Pay it to every one on arrival at the stated age. Those who already have excess incomes will repay it to the government by way of income taxes. Those who need it will have it. There will be no cost for administration, no indecent investigations, no trouble—the whole thing will be automatic. The idea is worth considering.

FEBRUARY 10, 1942

C.C.F. Ranks Split On Amendment to Motor Vehicle Act

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—First disagreement of the session within the C.C.F. ranks came Monday afternoon when Opposition Leader Harold Winch sided against Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, North Vancouver, and Colin Cameron, Comox, on an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act proposed by Attorney-General R. L. Maitland and passed by the legislature.

The amendment permits passengers to sue grossly negligent drivers for injuries or property damage suffered in automobile accidents.

Mr. Winch supported the bill at its third reading after his party-members had spoken against it, on the grounds that it would mean fewer "lifts" for workers and servicemen.

Museum Goes to Education Dept

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—Provincial museum, library and archives are to be transferred from the Provincial Secretary's Department to the Education Department.

Provincial Secretary George Pearson introduced a bill transferring the museum from his department to that of education. Later he announced the archives and library would be transferred to the same department.

No War Damages Unless in Policy

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—An amendment to the Insurance Act introduced in the Legislature late last night relieves companies of war damage unless provided for in the policy.

The amendment will not affect contracts of insurance made before the date on which the Act is assented to.

F. Ranks Split Amendment to Vehicle Act

Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—First dissent of the session within F. ranks came Monday when Opposition Leader Winch sided against Dorothy Steeves, Northover, and Colin Cameron, on an amendment to the Vehicles Act proposed by Attorney-General R. L. Maitland passed by the legislature.

Amendment permits passers to sue grossly negligent drivers for injuries or property damage suffered in traffic accidents.

Winch supported the bill on third reading after his members had spoken out, on the grounds that it meant fewer "lifts" for bus and servicemen.

Winch Goes to Education Dept

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—Provincial Secretary George Winch announced that the museum, library and archives would be transferred from the Provincial Secretary's Department to the Education Department.

Provincial Secretary George Winch introduced a bill transferring the museum from his department to that of education. He announced the archives would be transferred to the same department.

War Damages Loss in Policy

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—An amendment to the Insurance Act passed in the Legislature at night relieves companies of damage unless provided for in the policy.

Amendment will not affect contracts of insurance made before date on which the Act is brought into force.

B.C. Highway Vote Reduced to Million

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 10.—Warning by T. D. Pattullo, Liberal member for Prince Rupert, that failure to boost the \$1 million allocated for roads in Public Works Department estimates would result in an annual depreciation bill of many times the sum failed to keep the Legislature from passing the vote, Monday night.

Mr. Pattullo, in spirited defence of public works policy under his regime as premier, urged that the grant be doubled by borrowing from capital accounts, in order that the department could contemplate a long-range highway program.

The trouble with many members, he said, was that they fail to appreciate the size of the province, and the problems involved in its communications.

Total vote for maintenance of roads, bridges, ferries, wharves and other works was \$2,119,570. Roads will absorb \$1,005,000 of the sum, and funds will be shared as follows:

Alberni, \$22,000; Atlin, \$18,000; Burnaby, \$10,000; Cariboo, \$63,000; Chilliwack, \$28,000; Columbia, \$30,000; Comox, \$34,000; Cowichan-Newcastle, \$30,000; Cranbrook, \$25,000; Delta, \$25,000; Dewdney, \$37,500; Esquimalt, \$33,000; Fernie, \$23,000; Fort George, \$42,000; Grand Forks-Greenwood, \$36,000; Kamloops, \$41,000; Kaslo-Slocan, \$34,000; Lillooet, \$35,000; Mackenzie, \$21,000; Nanaimo and the Islands, \$25,000; Nelson-Creston, \$45,000; New Westminster, \$40,000; North Okanagan, \$31,000; North Vancouver, \$3,000; Omineca, \$45,000; Peace River, \$30,000; Prince Rupert, \$15,000; Revelstoke, \$29,000; Rossland-Trail, \$18,000; Saanich, \$21,000; Salmon Arm, \$29,000; Similkameen, \$33,000; Skeena, \$29,000; South Okanagan, \$30,000; Vancouver-Point Grey, \$50,000; Yale, \$25,000.

Other costs are:
Supervision, \$57,610; Ferries, \$300,000; Bridges, \$490,000; location of roads, \$30,000; snow removal, \$65,000; machinery, \$73,000; Prince Rupert wharf, \$90,000; contingencies, \$79,950; municipal (classified), \$10,000.

Company Towns Bill Defeated in House

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—The Legislature after midnight defeated a bill introduced by Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, that would allow free access to anyone to company towns.

This bill is brought up annually by the C.C.F. and always has been defeated by the government. Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, joined the C.C.F. in the 1942 vote and the Coalition voted solidly against it, joined by T. D. Pattullo.

"I wish to save the rights of private property interferred with in the interests of the public welfare," Mr. Cameron said, as he told how he had often been bodily thrown out of company towns. "It is high time," he said, "that the rights of private property shall be curbed, when men shall not be allowed to talk with persons they have elected to his Legislature."

Opposition Leader Harold Winch said the principle of companies controlling roads and sidewalks in company towns was Fascist.

Mr. Uphill said that in company towns the police, the preachers and the postmaster are controlled by the companies.

Attorney-General R. L. Maitland defied Mr. Uphill to prove the police are so controlled. That a policeman would be under the influence of any company, he said, was a foul slander.

Mr. Uphill continued that in certain company towns the preacher is compelled to preach "according to the wishes and desires of the company."

"Nonsense. There's no such thing," interjected Premier John Hart.

The bunkhouses in one company town, Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, related, were infested with bedbugs and cockroaches. He wondered if company towns came under the Health Act.

Mr. Maitland pointed out all these complaints are covered in the "Company Towns Regulation Act."

Seek Right To Appeal in Mining Act

Want Court Action Above Decisions of Gov't Administrator

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Mining committee of the Legislature Tuesday recommended that the Securities' Act be amended to permit court appeals from decisions of the administrator. The proposal followed testimony by a succession of witnesses called from Vancouver and Victoria.

In his report, Frank Putnam, Liberal member for Nelson-Creston and committee chairman, said:

"Your committee, in view of criticism of the Securities' Act, thought it advisable to investigate it. Twelve witnesses were called to give evidence for and against the Act.

"After fully considering the evidence, your committee feels it has not had enough time or opportunity to hear as much evidence on this subject as should justify any recommendation other than the repeal of Section 10, sub-section 4."

The clause referred to limits appeals to the Attorney-General's department, and refuses the taking of protests to a further authority.

The committee also urged a better general understanding of the aims of the Act in connection with mining, and asked that further study be given it during the recess so that it might be considered at the next session.

Establishment of an iron and steel smelter in British Columbia, and construction of more mining roads and trails, was also suggested by the committee.

Cassidy Reports Tabled in House

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—The much-discussed Cassidy reports on British Columbia's social services have been tabled in the Legislature by Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson.

The two reports were prepared by Dr. Harry M. Cassidy when he was director of social welfare. Two years ago the CCF asked that they be given to the legislature but the Pattullo government, on division, killed the motion.

Selective Logging Experiments Urged

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Selective logging should be tested by the Department of Lands in certain Crown-held limits with a view to improving present cutting methods, Colin Cameron, C.C.F. member for Comox, told the Legislature Tuesday.

He proposed that experiments be carried on either by the forest branch or by operators working on lease and under branch supervision.

Methods proposed were block and strip logging, which would leave "staggered" areas of timber for natural reforestation.

Hon. Mr. Wells Gray said his forestry department would be willing to co-operate with any logger eager to make the experiment, but pointed out that limits suitable for selective logging are rare in British Columbia.

Bill to Throw Open Peace R. Oil Lands Passes Second Reading in Stormy Debate

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—The amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act proposed by Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Mines, which would throw the Peace River oil reserve open to private companies on a 15 percent royalty basis, weathered its second reading in the Legislature Tuesday evening.

On a division called for by T. D. Pattullo, Liberal member for Prince Rupert, the House voted 30 to 16 in favor of the bill.

The division, coming after an hour of bitter debate, lifted the session to the tensest of its few dramatic moments. Mr. Pattullo rose alone on the coalition side to oppose abandonment of the reserve, which 5500 feet of drilling have not yet proved to contain oil. Allied with him was the entire C.C.F. block, and Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie.

"You're in good company now, at last!" called E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby.

"We both are," the former premier replied with a grim smile.

Fresh from a lengthy caucus, government members championed the bill. Pithiest reason was that given by Alex. Paton, Conservative, Vancouver-Point Grey.

"I certainly see no reason why some of the robber barons can't sink their money in a wildcat in the Peace River," he remarked.

"Robber Barons" was Samuel Guthrie's term for the oil companies. The Cowichan-Newcastle

opposition member wanted to know "why our Tory friends are ready to hand the area over," especially when no oil had yet been found?

"This rouses my suspicions," he said. "There is reason to believe either that oil has been found there, or that oil will be found in a short time."

Mr. Pattullo, waging what the vote appears to mark as a losing fight to retain the reserve, drew on his Yukon experience to express his opinion of the bill. "This is the most 'reprobateless' thing I ever heard of," he declared, quoting a Klondyke old-timer. "It is 'the most unkindest cut of all.' It is a retrograde step."

The Commotion Creek hole, Mr. Pattullo said, has been sunk to the stage where proof should be found. He himself was satisfied further drilling might yield "oil in very large quantities, to the benefit of British Columbia, Canada and the Empire."

It would be preferable, he insisted, to ask Dominion co-operation on the project, especially since tapping of a new oil supply would have a major war value under present conditions. He was, he repeated, satisfied that private firms would be operating in the area before the next session.

With a snap-shot at Attorney-General R. L. Maitland—"Sometimes I think he pounds his desk to cover his inadequacy"—he went on to state his intention of asking for the division.

"I wish to put the members on record for posterity," he said. "Posterity too," he reflected might find some writer "perhaps casting a little eonium on my memory for attempting to save this oil for British Columbia."

Private companies became octopi as well as robber barons as opposition members backed Mr. Pattullo.

Charles G. MacNeil, C.C.F., Vancouver Burrard, accused the government of not putting all its cards on the table.

"I think the House will demand a more adequate explanation from the government as to why it should turn away from its pledge and with such unseemly haste give private interests first claim on this province," he said. "We are being stampeded into this, and suspicion will arise that it is being done hurriedly and under pressure by interests anxious to get their fingers on oil prospects."

Mr. MacNeil urged consultation with the Dominion government, which would be keenly interested in any oil indications.

"Our minister of mines doesn't know what may yet be proved under the soil in this area," he said.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, "smelled a rat, or perhaps an oily smell." She warned against oil interests as "octopi governing the private monopoly field."

Hon. H. G. T. Perry, minister of education, believed Canada would be better advised to spend

money on war enterprises than in speculative ventures. It would not be right to ask federal aid at this time, and moreover, the Dominion, with skilled oil men in its employ, had made no request to take part in development.

In British Columbia, hard pressed to meet its welfare and maintenance expenses, no funds were available, nor would they be for many years to come.

"If we haven't the money to do the job ourselves, we have no right to withhold this vast area of 50,000 square miles from those who wish to develop and use it," Mr. Perry said. He favored an opening, with the protective precaution that B.C. should share in any future profits.

While private companies were developing the area, they would be spending money in the country, the minister pointed out. Under government control, money spent comes from the taxpayer. If oil were struck, "the only thing we'd lose is the profit—but we'll have power of taxation of profits again when the war is over."

Mr. Maitland drew a parallel between oil development as proposed in the bill and operation of existing basic industries. Mining and lumbering, done by men who know their business, keep payrolls going and yield big tax revenue.

"It's easy to smell a rat, if you like to go round smelling rats," he remarked.

Ottawa Has Own Plan for Fire Guard in Woods

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands, dropped a hint to the Legislature Tuesday that plans for a youth battalion to guard British Columbia woods from incendiary hazard may have struck a snag at Ottawa.

The plan, forwarded to federal authorities three weeks ago, is still under discussion, Mr. Gray said, but a proposal of a different sort is now being weighed. The Minister offered no detail as to what the counter-suggestion might be.

Heightened danger to the woods, already laid before the forestry committee of the Legislature by Chief Forester C. D. Orchard, was aired on the floor of the House after Mr. Gray stated bluntly that he was more concerned with protection against fire than with the bogey of possible Douglas fir depletion.

Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., Mackenzie) asked why, if the dangers were so great, a much larger appropriation had not been made for the forest branch.

"When a fire starts, we don't look at our estimates," Mr. Gray stated.

Mrs. Steeves Hits 'Short-Sighted' Housing Project

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Plans for better houses at little if any greater cost than the structures erected by Wartime Housing Ltd. had been made by the federal government before the issue was turned over to a dollar a year man, Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, said in the Legislature Tuesday.

Planning for the future was entirely overlooked when Wartime Housing Ltd. took over the job, she added.

Mrs. Steeves quoted a Vancouver architect to the effect that the cost of housing provided by the company is exorbitant, the type of construction noticeably cheap, the salvage value minute and the creation of potential slum conditions inevitable.

Mrs. Steeves also asked if some improvement could not be made in the ferry service to North Vancouver. Ferries are overcrowded and inadequate engine room personnel is available when they were docking, she said.

She was told that the problem is now under consideration.

Pattullo Warmly Defends His Stand At Sirosis Parley

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Actions of Ex-Premier T. D. Pattullo with regard to the Sirosis report came up for criticism as the Dominion-Provincial income tax agreement bill passed its second reading in the Legislature Tuesday night.

Mr. Pattullo, according to W. A. C. Bennett (Cons., South Okanagan), could have made a much better bargain for British Columbia at the Sirosis conference if he had continued discussions instead of quitting the parley.

Adequate compensation for surrender of income tax field would have been given by the Dominion authority if its suggestions had been accepted by this

province, Mr. Bennett maintained.

In addition, British Columbia would have been spared the cost of unemployment relief.

Mr. Pattullo hotly denied the charge that Dominion proposals had been left untouched by arbitrary refusal of the British Columbia delegates to discuss them.

Mr. Pattullo said his attitude had been dictated by his hope of protecting British Columbia interests in post-war years.

Because it was a war measure and didn't deprive the province of its income tax rights in perpetuity, Mr. Pattullo said he agreed to the Dominion-Provincial Agreement Bill before the Legislature.

RCAF Aid Urged in Fighting Forest Fires

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—Flight-Lieutenant Leslie H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, urged in the Legislature Tuesday that an effective liaison be established between the Royal Canadian Air Force and the forest branch in protecting the woods against incendiary attack.

Flt.-Lt. Eyres proposed that an aircraft carrying fire-extinguishing bombs be placed at the disposal of the branch.

(Experiments conducted in the U. S. found that the "blast" from a heavy bomb often blow out a small fire.)

Winds Debate

war enterprises than the ventures. It would not ask federal aid for, and moreover, the with skilled oil men had made no ready part in develop-

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B.C. 'Drys' Ask 8-Hour Liquor Sale

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA, Feb. 11.—B. C. temperance workers today asked Premier John Hart and his cabinet to:

1. Prohibit all advertising of liquor.
2. To institute an eight-hour day for sale of liquor in all stores, clubs and beer parlors, all such places to be open at the same times.
3. Segregate men and women in beer parlors.
4. To co-operate with the federal government in securing scientific tests for intoxication following motor car accidents.

Rev. R. J. McIntyre, secretary of the B.C. Temperance League, led the delegation.

Mr. McIntyre, explaining his request that men and women be not allowed to drink together in beer parlors, said he had been told by medical authorities that this practice greatly contributed to the spread of venereal disease. Other members of the delegation were Rev. A. E. Cooke of Vancouver, chairman of the Social Service Committee of the United Church Presbytery; Mrs. James Gray of Vancouver, provincial president of WCTU; Rev. Andrew Roddan and Rev. W. L. McKay of Vancouver, and Rev. James Hyde of Victoria.

"The cabinet gave us a splendid hearing," Mr. McIntyre said. "They promised to consider the matter and said they were sympathetic to many of our appeals."

7 M.L.A.'s On B.C. 'After War' Board

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 11. — Seven members of the Legislature will be chosen as a nucleus for the Post-War Rehabilitation Board set up through a bill which was unanimously approved on second reading at the Tuesday night sitting of the Legislature.

Of the seven, Premier Hart stated, at least two will be picked from the C.C.F. opposition.

The bill, as introduced, calls for 12 members, but Mr. Hart proposed that the number be added to from outside the Legislature at a later date.

Mr. Hart pointed out that the government and the Legislature faces a heavy responsibility in preparing for post-war conditions.

Evidence that the federal government is also facing the problem lay in the fact that a bill along somewhat similar lines will be introduced in Commons and will lay stress on land settlement.

Past experiences in land settlement schemes would aid the B.C. government in outlining its program for returned men.

"They will not be placed on lands without proper tests being made," Mr. Hart said, "nor will they be put on lands which are not suitable. Homes must be ready for them—and they must not be put on the land with the feeling that their backs will be broken in trying to pay for it."

MacNeill Protests Late Calling of Arbitration Bill

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 11. — Weary legislators rose at 1:15 a.m. today from their seats, where they remained in an effort to bring the session to a Thursday close. Latest of a succession of bills considered was an amendment to Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act introduced by Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox.

Debate on the proposed amendment, which provides that employees may seek the organization of their choice by majority vote, after which the employer would be required to deal with that union in labor negotiations, was adjourned before the second reading.

Protest was made by C. Grant MacNeill, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre, that late calling of the bill—at midnight Tuesday—placed its supporters at a disadvantage in arguing it.

House in Uproar

Political Patronage Charged by C.C.F.

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—The Legislature got itself into an uproar Wednesday afternoon when charges and denials of political patronage flew thick and fast for an hour and a half.

The unscheduled debate started when Opposition Leader Harold Winch moved an amendment to the legislative public accounts committee's report. Mr. Winch and the C.C.F. wanted the report to

contain reference to certain findings of the committee, regarding government purchases and tenders.

"We obtained, in committee, a clear picture of public accounts and purchasing methods," Mr. Winch said. "We have now, for the first time, the startling admission as to policies followed in government purchases, yet this report contains no mention of these matters."

'VICIOUS PRINCIPLE'

"We have learned it is the practice for defeated government candidates to advise the government on purchases—we feel this is a vicious principle, because the defeated candidate has been repudiated by the electors."

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, objected to members of the house, "especially when they are ministers" conducting business for their companies with the government. He said he was not suggesting any wrongdoing, but "it is extremely injudicious."

H. W. Harridge, C.C.F., Rossland-Trail, said that in Kaslo-Slocan there has been the greatest orgy of political patronage known in B.C.'s history. He said people went to him and said they couldn't do anything else but vote Liberal. If people wanted to get on relief they had to purchase at certain stores.

PREJUDICED ADVICE

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal, Prince Rupert, said he had never admitted only the elected members had the sole right to advise on purchases.

"As Premier, I would never go to the C.C.F., for instance, for advice—because I know that advice would be prejudiced."

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said: "I don't deny there might be a little patronage in certain constituencies—but not nearly as much as the Opposition would tell you. Certainly there is bound to be a little patronage."

House Rejects 11-Governor Plan for U.B.C.

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 12. — The amendment of Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, to the University of British Columbia Act, which, as she put it, "would democratize the university," was defeated in the Legislature Wednesday after Hon. H. G. T. Perry, Minister of Education, had opposed it.

Mrs. Steeves' amendment would have composed the board of 11 governors, of the chancellor, the president, three members elected by the senate; one from the B.C. Teachers' Federation; one from the Farmers' Institutes of B.C.; one from organized labor; one from the B.C. Parent-Teachers' Federation of B.C., and two appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. At present six members are named by the council.

Mrs. Steeves drew the attention of the House to a recent statement of the chancellor who said, she quoted, "a bunch of politicians doesn't know anything about education."

"This denotes a contempt for democracy," Mrs. Steeves said.

Many students, she said, go to the University of Washington, "which is more suitable for students who haven't much money to spend."

Mr. Perry felt the government would not have enough control of University expenditures if only two members of the Board were appointed by the Lieut. Governor in Council.

He pointed out there are now representatives of labor and farmers on the board.

If Mrs. Steeves appointees were accepted, he said, he saw no reason why there should not be representatives of miners, loggers, fishermen, the Canadian Legion . . . "and I could go on ad infinitum, but we are not going to have class legislation of this kind."

Oil Bill Passes Third Reading in Legislature

To Open Peace River Reserves to Drilling by Private Interests; Pattullo, Winch Contest Move

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—Contested every inch of the way by T. D. Pattullo, former premier, the act to amend the Coal and Petroleum Act, which will open Peace River oil reserves to drilling by private interests passed its third reading in the Legislature Wednesday night.

Only formality remaining before it becomes law is approval by Lieutenant Governor W. C. Woodward, this afternoon.

Mr. Pattullo, who had the solid support of the opposition, looked on the oil reserve as a potential source of revenue with which British Columbia might be able to maintain its social welfare services. He warned that funds for this purpose might be hard to come by, with provincial revenue slashed by the Dominion agreement on taxation.

FORESEES STRIKE

"I'm satisfied that we're going to strike oil sooner or later—and probably sooner," he declared earnestly.

Harold Winch, opposition leader, added his voice to Mr. Pattullo's.

"We have handed away enough of our natural resources in the past, and B. C. has not benefited," he said. "We feel very strongly that those oil potentialities should be reserved for the province."

Mr. Winch saw it as a "strange coincidence" that a similar drive had been made to open the Social Securities Act, this he asserted was done by individuals to seek a return to the grand old days when mining was done in the stock market.

Money for further oil exploita-

tion could be founded by the government, Mr. Pattullo insisted. He lashed out at Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Mines, who introduced the amendment.

"There has been more wind and less substance from this honorable gentleman than from any other member in the House," he said.

LOSING BATTLE

Mr. Pattullo carried his losing battle through two amendments which he proposed, one was the government royalty be fixed at 12½ percent rather than at the sliding scale of from one to 15 percent as stipulated in the act, with the proviso that the fixed figure hold until other rates were provided by legislation.

Defeated in this, he then sought to peg royalty at a definite 15 percent of gross proceeds, should oil be struck. This would be additional to the annual rental of 15 cents per acre as provided in the act.

Mr. Winch asked that the third and final reading be given six months hence.

Divisions were called on each suggestion, and in each case the government benches voted a uniform "Nay."

House Rules Out Labor Act Amendment

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—A proposed amendment to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act by which employers would have been required to deal with unions of their employees' choice was defeated by a vote of 27 to 14 in the Legislature Wednesday afternoon.

As at present constituted, the act provides that employers must deal with agents chosen by their personnel to represent them. They are not, however, required to recognize any union as a collective bargaining agency.

PEARSON CHALLENGED

Opposition members, who fought for the bill through a two-hour debate, warned that failure to protect labor interests by the legislation suggested might result in damage to the war effort through strikes and industrial friction. The Kirkland Lake gold mines tie-up was cited as an example of what may occur in British Columbia.

Labor, declared E. E. Winch, C.C.F. member for Burnaby, in a challenge hurled at Labor Minister George S. Pearson, is not satisfied with its treatment.

"If the law will not adapt itself to their needs, they'll have to do it outside the law," he said.

Mr. Winch added that in his opinion, Mr. Pearson "represents, less than before, even, the interests of labor."

Dr. Joseph Gillis (Lib., Yale) resented what he termed a personal attack on the minister.

"Mr. Pearson has done a good job, and should be given credit for it," he said.

BLAMES AGITATORS

The Yale member blamed the majority of strikes on "highly-paid agitators." General working conditions in British Columbia were satisfactory, and he had found labor "happy."

Dr. Gillis clashed with Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., MacKenzie) over an allusion to "a millionaire race-horse owner attempting to tell men how many rivets they shall drive in a given time." Mr. Gargrave offered the allegation as an ominous sign of a government policy which will hamper war work by alienating labor sympathies.

Dr. Gillis didn't believe the assertion. He pointed out that men of wide experience have a valuable place in directed war production.

B.C. Legislature Winds Up Session

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Feb. 12.—First session of British Columbia's twentieth Legislature was prorogued this afternoon by Lieut. Gov. W. C. Woodward, who entered the Legislative Chamber at 3 p.m. to approve the list of bills passed.

Overshadowed by greater events at Ottawa and in the Far East British Columbia members brought in three acts important to the future of the province. They were:

1. An amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act opening Peace River oil lands to private enterprise on a royalty basis.
2. An act, wide in scope, to prepare the way for soldiers who will return at war's end through a post war rehabilitation committee.
3. An act, ceding income and corporation taxes to the Dominion authority for duration of the war, in return for a fixed grant to the province.

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