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Colonist
Mar 29, 1931

PREMIER RAPS MALCONTENTS WHO HURT PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Dr. Tolmie Speaks Plainly About Newspapers and Disappointed Job-Seekers Who Strove to Injure Negotiations in Interest of B.C. While He Was at Ottawa

Will Fight for Principles Of Decency in Government

Confident That, Despite Opponents' Tactics, Visit to East Will Prove Fruitful—People of Province Do Not Want Politics Designed for Personal Benefit of Individuals

THAT groundless and vicious stories emanating from political partisans and political newspapers in Vancouver did much to militate against the best interests of British Columbia at Ottawa, and retard his work there on behalf of the province, was the statement made by Premier Tolmie yesterday.

The Premier was particularly frank and outspoken in his comment on happenings in political circles in British Columbia, and particularly in Vancouver, while he was absent in the East doing his best to reach a solution of a number of British Columbia's problems. He made it clear that he is prepared to fight to a finish, not for himself, but for the right to have the interest of public affairs considered without the fetters of personal or political prejudice.

"I am not thin skinned. As the leader of the Government, I realize that I am fair game for political opponents in playing their political games, while I am in British Columbia," declared Dr. Tolmie, "but when I am acting out of the country acting on behalf of this province in dealing with people who are not at all interested in British Columbia politics, then I believe that I, or any other Premier of British Columbia, is entitled to receive that measure of consideration that will not seriously affect the public business that it is essential to transact.

VICIOUS STORIES

"While I was at Ottawa, the telegraph wires carried almost daily news stories written in the offices of Vancouver papers to the effect that I was to resign; that the Cabinet was to be completely changed, and that first this man and then that man was to take over control of the departments over which I preside.

"I cannot but conclude that these baseless and vicious stories were purposely designed to not only injure my prestige, but to prevent the accomplishment of the objectives that British Columbia is so anxious to attain.

HARMFUL INTENT

"It was known that I was engaged in discussions at Ottawa relative to transportation problems that have been left as a legacy from the former administration. Certain newspapers, particularly The Vancouver Sun, have been calling loudly and distastefully for action in opening up the interior areas of British Columbia. And yet this very paper deliberately set out to seek the ruin of the very objectives that they have been pretending were vital to the future of the province.

"Nor was The Sun the only Vancouver paper that sought to weaken my prestige in conducting the af-

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PARTY MALCONTENTS

"Ever since I was unanimously chosen as leader of the Conservative party at Kamloops in 1926, an honor I did not seek, I have been aware that there were a few who claimed to be Conservatives within the ranks of the party who were hostile to me, even as I knew that paid political spies were employed to bring about confusion in the party ranks prior to the 1928 elections. Since then this number has been added to by some who have been disappointed in obtaining jobs in the Government service. These elements are noisy and persistent in their endeavors to have me resign in the hope that they will obtain personal gain from a new leader.

"I consider it a compliment to be opposed by such men, and feel that the vast majority of the sane thinking public of British Columbia are opposed, as I am, to the creation of any political machine designed for the personal advantage of those who control it. That the chief complaint against this Government from certain factions who have worked persistently to control one or two ward associations of the party is that there is an absence of political partisanship is, I believe, a testimonial to the integrity of the administration and our endeavors to conduct the affairs of British Columbia on a system of efficiency and decency.

RUMORS AMPLIFIED

"While I have been absent, every noise created by any of these malcontents has been amplified by those newspaper interests who would prefer my defeat to the attainment of benefits for British Columbia, and these amplifications have been carried over the press wires to Eastern Canada in the hope that they would force 'Uncle Tolmie'—as one paper calls me—to return from Ottawa empty-handed.

"For years I have endeavored to accept criticism gracefully. My purpose has been to ignore the onslaughts that have been made against not only myself but every member of the Cabinet, as well as the sitting Members who have been chosen to support the Government. At no time since taking office have I objected to fair, honorable comment; in fact, I have welcomed advice from those I believed were sincere in pointing out defects in the various departments, and I can conscientiously say that at no time have I been unfair and, I hope, not unkind, to those who have done their best to cause party dissatisfaction.

NO GRATITUDE

"This I find to be a plan that does not beget gratitude but, on the other hand, has been rewarded with vile and unfounded attacks

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Vancouver Star Supports Dr. S. F. Tolmie in Replying to Newspaper Rumors

CRITICISM SHOULD BE IN LEGITIMATE BOUNDS

Says Public Life Deliberately Stripped of Dignity by Outrageous Stories

The following editorial appeared in The Vancouver Morning Star last Saturday under the caption, "Fouling Their Own Nest":

There is an old adage that bids one beware of rousing a man of a usually easy-going, not to say phlegmatic, disposition. This has lately been exemplified by the trouncing Dr. Tolmie has given several of the British Columbia papers.

It will be recalled that Dr. Tolmie had scarcely left the province for Ottawa some seven or eight weeks ago when a series of stories began to appear in certain newspapers to the effect that a very considerable revolt against his leadership was in progress among the rank and file of his own party, that his resignation was impending, and that certain other gentlemen were about to take over the government of British Columbia.

The campaign of rumor and innuendo, it must be admitted, was fed to some extent by the attacks of Conservative workers in this city who were not satisfied that they had had their fair share of what they considered the spoils of war—in other words, that the patronage system had not been carried far enough to suit them.

There was, however, at no time any ground for the reports stating in very explicit terms that this, that or the other leader was about to

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What appeared in the local press was outrageous enough, but it probably reached Ottawa in an exaggerated form. At all events the picture, as it presented itself at Ottawa, was one of chaotic conditions in the political administration of this province.

It was small wonder, therefore, that when Dr. Tolmie returned he should have taken occasion to administer a sound castigation to the offenders, who, as he was careful to point out, were not entirely limited to the opposition press.

If the consequences of these dissensions had been merely political enough harm would have been done. For, at times like these, particularly, it is playing with fire to weaken the authority of the Government by such tactics as those in which a part of the press of this province indulges altogether too recklessly.

But the consequences are not by any means entirely local. As Mr. J. B. Williams, the city solicitor, told the insurance, financial and real estate bureau of the Board of Trade at its luncheon on Friday, this province is being brought into contempt in other parts of Canada.

Mr. Williams was speaking from knowledge gained during a stay of some weeks in Ottawa on city business. Credit must be given to him here for the courage with which he delivered his home-truths in the presence of the reporters of the local papers.

EVERLASTINGLY SQUABBLING

According to Mr. Williams—and there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of his impressions—British Columbia is regarded at Ottawa as the abode of people who are everlastingly squabbling among themselves and with their Government, where to attain public office is virtually to go into the pillory and be bespattered with mud, and where public life is deliberately stripped of its dignity.

The bill, it is to be feared, is, to a large extent, a true one. Criticism of the policies and acts of an administration may be severe, but objection cannot reasonably be taken to it so long as it is fair; that is to say, so long as it is not the expression of mere petty meanness or the exposition of the smartness of political writers.

The Star, in this matter, does not put itself on a pedestal. It is quite willing to admit that it may not always have observed to the full the canons which it has laid down. It does say, however, that, in the interests of the province, and for the soundest public reasons, such attacks as those to which Premier Tolmie has been subjected should cease.

There is plenty of room for legitimate criticism of the Government without belittling its members personally or impugning their motives. But without respect for government, law and order cannot continue to be maintained—and respect for government consists in a general attitude of respect for the persons whom a majority of their fellow-citizens have honored with office.

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Premier Tolmie Roundly Attacks Vicious Critics

Leader of Conservative Ministry, Flays Snipers Who Sought Ruin of P.G.E. Negotiations While He Was at Ottawa, and Calls for Tightening Up in the Ranks

Predicts Important Results Will Accrue From Conference

DECLARING the holding of a party convention at this time utterly unnecessary, Premier S. F. Tolmie last night returned to his attack on the snipers who sought to injure the success of his recent negotiations at Ottawa by the circulation of stories to the effect that he was to be superseded in the leadership of the Conservative party, and as Premier. In straightforward language he challenged his opponents to present themselves in the light, and predicted that many would be found with Liberal banners attached to their habiliments. Thunderous cheers greeted his declarations in the crowded auditorium of the Conservative Club headquarters, where he spoke under the auspices of the Victoria Women's Conservative Association.

False reports in newspapers, "Vancouver" dispatches to Ottawa saying that the party in British Columbia was going through a crisis; and playunish bickerings had been the tactics adopted by the snipers, some of whom had kept up the fire ever since he had been chosen leader of the party at the last convention, the Premier stated.

"PARTY BEFORE SELF"

"There is a small party of snipers within the party who wish to get rid of me, and they thought my recent visit to Ottawa was an opportunity for their purpose. Now the facts are that at the last convention 430 good Conservatives gave me the nomination after I had once declined it. At my suggestion a special committee was drafted and this committee, in spite of what I had said, recommended my name to the convention. I felt that I had to accept, and that I had to place the party before myself and my own concern," Premier Tolmie continued.

"Since I accepted the unanimous nomination of that convention I have sought to transact the business of this province for the good of its people, without regard to any clique or special interest. I have endeavored to see that the province was run for the benefit of its people; that the liquor administration would be operated fairly and without regard to any clique or faction; that there should be no interference with the civil service; and that work and not politics would play the dominant role in British Columbia's administration.

SNIPING CONTINUES

"The sniping began shortly after we got back from the convention to Vancouver, and the sniping has continued ever since. I am glad to say it is confined to a small band of malcontents who think they should have control over one or two matters for their own benefit, including the liquor business and patronage. While I was at Ottawa recently the sniping continued, and I think it was highly unfair that such tactics should be resorted to when I was there on business for the people of the province, on the P.G.E. issue, which should not be in politics at all.

"I am not here to ask for sympathy. I do not need it. You have honored me with the position, and I intend to fulfill these duties to the very best of my ability, regardless of what anyone says. And with regard to this small group which is sniping to secure control of matters in which they think they see their interest, it would be far better if they would come out in the open, and declare themselves. Good Liberals are rolling the ammunition for these men to fire, and it is time you should know that.

"COME OUT IN OPEN"

"I invite these men to come out in the open, and declare themselves. Let them say what it is they want, or else let them step out of the party, if indeed, they have ever been Conservatives at all," the Premier continued, to hearty applause.

"I notice there is some agitation for the calling of a convention, the purpose of which is not clearly stated, but it is rumored, for the selection of a new leader. I see no need for calling a convention at the present time. (Applause). Agitations of this kind sometimes take place when an election has been lost, or the Government has been defeated. I think our record will stand comparison with that of any other Government that has ever occupied the bench in British Columbia.

FOR SAKE OF PARTY

"I was asked to accept the leadership at Kamloops. I did so for the sake of the party. Much against my desire, I sacrificed a certain standing which I possessed as an ex-minister of the Government at Ottawa. We won the general election, securing thirty-five out of forty-eight seats, after the party had been in opposition for twelve years. Since then we have had four vacancies, two of which we won by acclamation. The other two contests were won by large majorities, and in one of these we captured a seat that had been Liberal ever since it had been created. I think we need not be ashamed of the showing made since 1928. (Applause).

"Like many of you, every dollar I have invested in British Columbia. If British Columbia goes ahead we all prosper. If British Columbia falls, we go down with her—but let me tell you, British Columbia will never go down. So let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and work for prosperity," Premier Tolmie stated.

"DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE"

"Mr. Pattullo is the last man who can afford to talk of extravagance or waste," the Premier continued. "He was directly responsible, by virtue of his position as Minister of Lands under the Liberal regime, for the cost to the country of over \$12,000,000 in enterprises, all of which, when they were initiated, were claimed to be self-supporting, but which have never yielded one cent. These enterprises will be a weight for the next fifteen to twenty-five years. They included the land settlement schemes, costing \$6,727,727; the Soldiers' Settlement Act plan, costing \$3,401,413; the conservation scheme, costing \$2,265,561; or a total of \$12,394,702, on which the annual fixed charges required are \$886,528.

"Mr. Pattullo was also associated with cabinets that were responsible for aggregate deficits amounting in the eleven years from 1917 to 1928 to \$16,792,703, which require an annual fixed charge of \$1,142,000. These two items amount to \$29,000,000, and it takes \$2,028,000 annually to satisfy the fixed charges on them. These are by no means all, but they are sufficient to show who is responsible for increased taxation. The wildcat schemes, under Mr. Pattullo's direct charge alone, will result in the loss of at least two-thirds of their capital expenditures. Yet, he charges us with 'extravagance!'"

GOVT CUTS COSTS

Premier Tolmie went on to show that for eleven operating departments of the Government, the last Liberal budget had called for \$6,401,600 in administration and general expenses, in the year 1928-29. Compared with this the present Government cut these costs to \$6,325,172 in 1931 in the face of growing burdens in social and other legislative schemes. The 1931 figures included statutory increases in salaries under the Civil Service Act, \$180,000 more for forest fire protection and other new costs.

"If our expenditures are put on the same basis you will find that we have actually reduced the administrative and general expense cost of Government by \$250,000," the Premier continued.

"Now as to the 'excessive cost of road machinery.' Expenditures for road machinery, including equipment fund, district vote, purchases and automobiles, under the Liberal regime, was \$1,651,700. Since we came into power in 1928, our purchases of road machinery have been \$1,690,800. If ours was excessive, then theirs was doubly so. We have nearly double the mileage of 1918 to take care of. The class of roads we build now must stand the strain of heavy international coaches weighing many tons, and going at high speed, and trucks carrying five tons and over. The metalling must be a good deal heavier, and if economy is to be practised in this department, then suitable machinery must be employed to build roads more cheaply," the Premier stated.

POLICY JUSTIFIED

The facts were, he continued, that the highway policy followed by the present Government had been justified many times over, and had been a necessary one to meet conditions of fast-growing traffic. Only necessary road projects had been undertaken, and these included 2,500 miles of construction, in addition to 15,000 miles of roads which had to be suitably maintained.

Premier Tolmie said he had no feeling to make for the pension provided for F. A. Pauline, former British Columbia Agent-General in London. It was a question whether the office was to be open only to rich men, or whether men of ability and of only moderate means

could be utilized for the benefit of the province in England. The total cost of running the branch, including market service, was \$91,000 yearly, offset by rents of part of the London building, which brought \$73,000 per annum, leaving an actual cost of \$18,000.

"I say to Mr. Pattullo that if the Liberal administration, of which he was a member, had paid the same attention to securing a dollar's value for a dollar spent when they bought the famous Campbell Warehouse from their political friend,

and had paid the value placed by the real estate board of \$65,000, instead of \$150,000; the \$85,000 thus saved would have provided pensions for ever of \$4,250 per annum, if invested at 5 per cent, and we would still have the capital. According to reports of that time, the Liberals needed an extra paper in Vancouver, and the money went towards the purchase of The Vancouver World," Premier Tolmie stated.

PUBLIC OPINION

"Judge us by our works, but try to do us justice by checking up first, Judge Mr. Pattullo by his works, and check up on his records. If you adopt this course, I am perfectly happy in leaving our respective records to the judgment of public opinion, in whose fairness my colleagues and I have every confidence.

"The increase in expenditures has been mainly in the following items, and neither I nor my colleagues, nor anyone here tonight would like to suggest that they should be reduced or cut out: Mothers' pensions, increase \$152,100 as between 1928-29 and 1931-32; education grants, increase \$551,100 in the same period; old age pensions, increase \$410,450; hospitals and charitable grants, increase \$810,468; public works from revenue.

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RICH NEW AREA

"You already know that complete surveys have been made of the passes in the Peace area, and of the 16,000,000 acres of the subsidy lands. We know that nine million tons of bituminous coal is in the area; that there is assurance of petroleum there; silver, lead, zinc, waterpowers, or, \$8,468,000 and agricultural land beyond our expectations.

"My hope is that Mr. Bennett will fulfil the promise he made as to the Peace outlet. The conference will be held this month, and I am very hopeful of results from that meeting. What we desire is provision for the Peace outlet that will link up with the P.G.E. Railway in a permanent solution of the problem of transportation in that immensely rich territory," Premier Tolmie continued.

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A social hour, under the auspices of the Women's Conservative Association, followed. Mrs. E. A. Wilson rendered vocal selections during the course of the meeting.

The gathering was attended by a record turnout of men and women from Victoria Conservative Associations. Dr. Tolmie, entering the hall with Mrs. Tolmie, was greeted with prolonged cheers, and the singing of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." Again at the close of his speech he was given a right hearty ovation, testifying in no uncertain manner not only to his personal popularity but to the support behind his ministry.

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False reports in newspapers, "Vancouver" dispatches to Ottawa saying that the party in British Columbia was going through a crisis; and picaresque bickerings had been the tactics adopted by the snipers, some of whom had kept up the fire ever since he had been chosen leader of the party at the last convention, the Premier stated.

"PARTY BEFORE SELF"

"There is a small party of snipers within the party who wish to get rid of me, and they thought my recent visit to Ottawa was an opportunity for their purpose. Now the facts are that at the last convention 430 good Conservatives gave me the nomination after I had once declined it. At my suggestion a special committee was drafted and this committee, in spite of what I had said, recommended my name to the convention. I felt that I had to accept, and that I had to place the party before myself and my own concern," Premier Tolmie continued.

"Since I accepted the unanimous nomination of that convention I have sought to transact the business of this province for the good of its people, without regard to any clique or special interest. I have endeavored to see that the province was run for the benefit of its people; that the liquor administration would be operated fairly and without regard to any clique or faction; that there should be no interference with the civil service; and that work and not politics would play the dominant role in British Columbia's administration.

SNIPING CONTINUES

"The sniping began shortly after we got back from the convention to Vancouver, and the sniping has continued ever since. I am glad to say it is confined to a small band of malcontents who think they should have control over one or two matters for their own benefit, including the liquor business and patronage. While I was at Ottawa recently the sniping continued, and I think it was highly unfair that such tactics should be resorted to when I was there on business for the people of the province, on the P.G.E. issue, which should not be in politics at all.

"I am not here to ask for sympathy. I do not need it. You have honored me with the position, and I intend to fulfill these duties to the very best of my ability, regardless of what anyone says. And with regard to this small group which is sniping to secure control of matters in which they think they see their interest, it would be far better if they would come out in the open, and declare themselves. Good Liberals are rolling the ammunition for these men to fire, and it is time you should know that.

"COME OUT IN OPEN"

"I invite these men to come out in the open, and declare themselves. Let them say what it is they want, or else let them step out of the party, if indeed, they have ever been Conservatives at all," the Premier continued, to hearty applause.

"I notice there is some agitation for the calling of a convention, the purpose of which is not clearly stated, but it is rumored, for the selection of a new leader. I see no need for calling a convention at the present time. (Applause). Agitations of this kind sometimes take place when an election has been lost, or the Government has been defeated. I think our record will stand comparison with that of any other Government that has ever occupied the bench in British Columbia.

FOR SAKE OF PARTY

"I was asked to accept the leadership at Kamloops. I did so for the sake of the party. Much against my desire, I sacrificed a certain standing which I possessed as an ex-minister of the Government at Ottawa. We won the general election, securing thirty-five out of forty-eight seats, after the party had been in opposition for twelve years. Since then we have had four vacancies, two of which we won by acclamation. The other two contests were won by large majorities, and in one of these we captured a seat that had been Liberal ever since it had been created. I think we need not be ashamed of the showing made since 1923. (Applause).

"Like many of you, every dollar I have invested in British Columbia. If British Columbia goes ahead we all prosper. If British Columbia fails, we go down with her—but let me tell you, British Columbia will never go down. So let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and work for prosperity," Premier Tolmie stated.

"DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE"

"Mr. Pattullo is the last man who can afford to talk of extravagance or waste," the Premier continued. "He was directly responsible, by virtue of his position as Minister of Lands under the Liberal regime, for the cost to the country of over \$12,000,000 in enterprises, all of which, when they were initiated, were claimed to be self-supporting, but which have never yielded one cent. These enterprises will be a weight for the next fifteen to twenty-five years. They included the land settlement schemes, costing \$6,727,727; the Soldiers' Settlement Act plan, costing \$3,401,413; the conservation scheme, costing \$2,265,561; or a total of \$12,394,702, on which the annual fixed charges required are \$886,528.

"Mr. Pattullo was also associated with cabinets that were responsible for aggregate deficits amounting in the eleven years from 1917 to 1928 to \$16,792,703, which require an annual fixed charge of \$1,142,000. These two items amount to \$29,000,000, and it takes \$2,028,000 annually to satisfy the fixed charges on them. These are by no means all, but they are sufficient to show who is responsible for increased taxation. The wildcat schemes, under Mr. Pattullo's direct charge alone, will result in the loss of at least two-thirds of their capital expenditures. Yet, he charges us with 'extravagance!'"

GOVT CUTS COSTS

Premier Tolmie went on to show that for eleven operating departments of the Government, the last Liberal budget had called for \$6,401,600 in administration and general expenses, in the year 1928-29. Compared with this the present Government cut these costs to \$6,325,172 in 1931 in the face of growing burdens in social and other legislative schemes. The 1931 figures included statutory increases in salaries under the Civil Service Act, \$180,000 more for forest fire protection and other new costs.

"If our expenditures are put on the same basis you will find that we have actually reduced the administrative and general expense cost of Government by \$250,000," the Premier continued.

"Now as to the 'excessive cost of road machinery.' Expenditures for road machinery, including equipment fund, district vote, purchases and automobiles, under the Liberal regime, was \$1,651,700. Since we came into power in 1928, our purchases of road machinery have been \$1,690,800. If ours was excessive, then theirs was doubly so. We have nearly double the mileage of 1918 to take care of. The class of roads we build now must stand the strain of heavy international coaches weighing many tons, and going at high speed, and trucks carrying five tons and over. The metalling must be a good deal heavier, and if economy is to be practised in this department, then suitable machinery must be employed to build roads more cheaply," the Premier stated.

POLICY JUSTIFIED

The facts were, he continued, that the highway policy followed by the present Government had been justified many times over, and had been a necessary one to meet conditions of fast-growing traffic. Only necessary road projects had been undertaken, and these included 2,500 miles of construction, in addition to 15,000 miles of roads which had to be suitably maintained.

Premier Tolmie said he had no apology to make for the pension provided for F. A. Pauline, former British Columbia Agent-General in London. It was a question whether the office was to be open only to rich men, or whether men of ability and of only moderate means

could be utilized for the benefit of the province in England. The total cost of running the branch, including marketing service, was \$91,000 yearly, offset by rents of part of the London building, which brought \$73,000 per annum, leaving an actual cost of \$18,000.

"I say to Mr. Pattullo that if the Liberal administration, of which he was a member, had paid the same attention to securing a dollar's value for a dollar spent when they bought the famous Campbell Warehouse from their political friend,

and had paid the value placed by the real estate board of \$65,000, instead of \$150,000; the \$85,000 thus saved would have provided pensions for ever of \$4,250 per annum, if invested at 5 per cent, and we would still have the capital. According to reports of that time, the Liberals needed an extra paper in Vancouver, and the money went towards the purchase of The Vancouver World," Premier Tolmie stated.

PUBLIC OPINION

"Judge us by our works, but try to do us justice by checking up first, Judge Mr. Pattullo by his works, and check up on his records. If you adopt this course, I am perfectly happy in leaving our respective records to the judgment of public opinion, in whose fairness my colleagues and I have every confidence.

"The increase in expenditures has been mainly in the following items, and neither I nor my colleagues, nor anyone here tonight would like to suggest that they should be reduced or cut out: Mothers' pensions, increase \$152,100 as between 1928-29 and 1931-32; education grants, increase \$551,100 in the same period; old age pensions, increase \$410,450; hospitals and charitable grants, increase \$810,488; public works from revenue, unemployment, \$100,000. These, with other and statutory grants, total \$9,616,171, compared with \$7,612,033 in 1928-29, an increase of \$2,024,138.

"Apart from these increases, other items for which we were partly and the Liberal administration partly responsible, included an increase in the sinking funds from \$1,618,811 to \$2,098,682; interest charges increased from \$3,710,075 to \$5,459,742; or, \$8,465,624 as against \$6,611,098 in the last year of Liberal rule, taking into account operating deficits on the P.G.E., which have now been materially reduced. We have reduced the calls on the public purse on account of the P.G.E. to the extent of \$375,000," the Premier stated.

Premier Tolmie continued with a review of the financial aspects of Government, showing interest charges paid, and increases under many heads due to world depression.

DEFINITE RESULTS SHOWN

Premier Tolmie turned to the criticism of the Liquor Board appointments, made by Mr. Pattullo in his recent speaking tour of the Island. Mr. Pattullo, in his recent speaking tour of the Island. Mr. Pattullo had neglected to say that the new board had effected savings that now amounted to \$331,000 a year, or \$27,000 a month, he stated. These included the recently-negotiated reduction in the price paid by the board for British Columbia beer, which meant a saving of \$300,000 annually on last year's consumption as a basis; pooled freight costs, saving \$14,400 a year; a close check on "breakages," saving \$12,000 a year; and the recent instance of the renewal of burglary insurance for \$12,988, for risks that had before cost the people \$27,000. These were results that spoke for themselves and could not be gainsaid, the Premier stated.

"The matter of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway," the Premier continued, "is our greatest problem, and one that everybody should be interested in without any political bias. The P.G.E. has cost us \$60,000,000, and the settlement of this matter means much in every way. I have no doubt that at the conference to be held at Ottawa this month considerable progress will be made. I do not feel at liberty to say more at this time, because of negotiations

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Colojust
May 30, 1931

Hon. J. W. Jones Given High Praise by British Newspaper



HON. J. W. JONES

LONDON, May 29 (CP).—"An object lesson in sound finance," is The Morning Post's description of the policy of Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance for British Columbia, in reducing expenditure and introducing a special revenue tax of 1 per cent on all incomes.

The Post adds: "As far as we are concerned, this is an experiment which is unique within the British Empire, though it has long been a regular feature of German fiscal legislation. Mr. Jones is a man of courage who grasps the nettle with both hands and does not flinch from applying heroic remedies to an exceptional crisis. The world in the present juncture of its affairs needs more men of the calibre of Mr. Jones."

Colojust
June 3, 1931

STATEMENT ON COAL TWISTED

Colonel C. W. Villiers Calls on Premier to Express Regrets

Attempts by a section of the Liberal press to make political capital out of the reference made by Col. C. W. Villiers, head of the Canadian Collieries and the Western Fuel Corporation, to the new twenty-five-cents-a-ton bonus for British Columbia bunkered coal, fell sharply to the ground last evening, when Colonel Villiers issued the following denial of these reports:

"I am not the least ungrateful nor ungrateful for the assistance and interest taken in the coal industry by Premier Tolmie and Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Mines. I did not say, as reported in the afternoon press, that I had received no support from the Premier nor the Provincial Government, and I expressly told my interviewers that I wished they would make this clear.

"I did say that Alberta and Nova Scotia had driven a steady campaign in support of the respective actions they wanted; that they had been personally represented at Ottawa by their Premiers, and that perhaps British Columbia's case had not been pressed so steadily.

"My disappointment is with the result, and not with the Provincial Government, which, I know, is only too willing to use its best efforts

for the coal industry of British Columbia," Colonel Villiers stated.

CALLED ON PREMIER

Colonel Villiers called on Premier Tolmie yesterday afternoon, as soon as he had read the published account of his remarks in the afternoon press. He told Dr. Tolmie he regretted the incident, and had not been responsible for any criticism that appeared, from these reports, to be leveled at the Premier.

His reference to the coal subsidy and the bonus on bunkered coal, Colonel Villiers explained, had been based on the action of the interests he represents in application to the Dominion for a subsidy of \$1 a ton, to assist Vancouver Island mines in reaching higher export tonnage of their output.

The bonus of twenty-five cents a ton would be insufficient to induce coal-burning ships to call at this coast, in place of oil and motorships, the industry felt, and also would be inadequate to permit continuance of pioneering work done in shipping British Columbia coal to South America.

Discussing the incident yesterday, after Colonel Villiers had called on him to express regret at the reported accounts on the issue, Premier Tolmie stated that he had taken up the case of the British Columbia coal industry personally and persistently at Ottawa on his recent visit.

PRESSED B.C. CASE

"I called personally on Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, and saw as well the ministers of his Cabinet, and did all that lay in my power to support representations from the coal operators of this province. At the same time, it is only fair to state that the Federal Government must view this matter from the angle of the Canadian coal industry as a whole, and the action taken points to the desire to open up Manitoba and Ontario to Canadian coal," the Premier stated.

"The subsidy of twenty-five cents a ton on bunkered coal may not go the whole way asked by the coal operators, but it at least showed a desire on the part of the Federal Government to assist the Coast fields in so far as lay in its power at this time," the Premier concluded.

PLEASED WITH ACTION

SYDNEY, N.S., June 2 (CP).—C. E. McNaught, president of the Dominion Steel & Coal Corporation, gave out the following statement today on the Dominion budget brought down yesterday:

"The position of the Canadian coal industry has quite evidently received earnest and sympathetic consideration. Mr. Bennett is to be congratulated on the sincerity of his effort to deal with the Canadian fuel question on a broad national basis.

Colojust
June 5, 1931

Premier Demands Malcontents Show Their True Colors

Insists That Snipers Come Out Into Open and Declare Themselves or Join Forces of Opposition—Government Places Good of Province First

VANCOUVER, June 4.—Amid scenes of unrestrained enthusiasm Premier S. F. Tolmie, speaking at a banquet given by the Kerrisdale Conservative Association to Hon. S. L. Howe, told "snipers" within the party to either cease their unwarranted tactics or get out.

The Premier, who on his return from Ottawa, where he found malcontents were seeking to thwart his plans for the progress of the province, declared himself convinced that his placatory and conciliatory methods were being taken advantage of by those who did not appreciate his courtesy, was in a real fighting mood. He demanded, in no uncertain tones, a united Conservative party, and made it evident that he intended to continue to lead that party.

The Premier also emphasized that the prosperity of British Columbia was paramount, and that this meant that it was of greater importance than the giving of jobs to individuals.

"The time has come," he said, when all should realize we cannot give a job to everyone. We have to realize we are here to serve the Province of British Columbia as a whole. There is nothing to be gained by sniping at the Government; you are only supplying ammunition for the Liberals.

"Let us get together and decide whether we are Conservatives or not. And if we are not, let us join the Liberals or the other parties, there are plenty of them.

"The Government needs your hearty co-operation at every turn. If British Columbia goes down we all go down together, but there is no fear of that, for no part of the British Empire is so favorably placed as our province, and our destiny is assured."

Of unemployment, he said that the question now being debated by the Government was whether to carry on with the relief measures, now in vogue, or to embark on a great scheme of new public works, which would not only relieve the situation, but create assets for generations to come.

SPLENDID RECORD

He believed that the Government's record with respect to unemployment compared favorably with the late Premier Oliver's brusque suggestion, in 1921, that the unemployed "put on their overalls and get to work."

Negotiations were now under way for a conference of Western Governments and municipalities on the problem, to be merged later into a Dominion-wide conference.

"We have had sixteen cycles of depression like this in the last 100 years," the speaker said, "and we have weathered them all. We will weather this one."

IS OPTIMISTIC

As for the P.G.E., the Liberal party had created \$63,000,000 worth of debt for the province with that road, he said, and carrying charges amounted to \$3,000,000 yearly. Yet he did not despair, if the Government could interest other parties to take it over wholly, or jointly with the Government.

Mr. Bennett, he said, had definitely promised an outlet from the Peace River country, and recently the Province had made a joint survey with the two transcontinental railways of the area, after no trace had been found of the statistics boasted of by Mr. Pattullo.

VALUABLE RESOURCES

The survey had disclosed 9,000,000 tons available of high-quality coal, pulp wood, placer gold, water power and plenty of suitable passes—only very low indeed, which would require no snowsheds—in fact, the

problem of building a road was not so serious as had been anticipated.

"And," he said, "for the first time in the history of the P.G.E., we can now go into a conference with the two railways, with a view to having it taken over, with some confidence that it will be brought about."

He defended the \$350-a-month allowance awarded to Mr. Pauline on his recent retirement as a thing above politics, declaring that Mr. Pauline, by his administration of British Columbia House in London, had saved the province hundreds of thousands of dollars. It was the least that could be done for a faithful servant.

These were some of the matters Mr. Pattullo had been attacking him on recently. He said he believed it was an eminently satisfactory record, and he defied Mr. Pattullo to match it. Mr. Pattullo's land development schemes, he asserted, had left the province with \$12,000,000 indebtedness, much of it irrecoverable. Out of eleven Liberal budgets, prior to the Conservative administration taking over, nine had shown deficits.

Other speakers included Hon. S. L. Howe, Hon. R. L. Maitland, Hon. N. S. Loughheed, Hon. W. C. Shelly, Hon. W. A. McKenzie, and other Cabinet ministers. Mr. Maitland brought great applause in defending the 1 per cent tax, which he called an experiment in fair taxation that was being watched approvingly by Governments all over the world.

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Colonist
June 6, 1931

Party Executive Whole-Heartedly Endorses Leader

Premier S. F. Tolmie Given Full Confidence as Conservative Chief—Delegates From All Parts of Province Meet Here—Plans Laid to Strengthen Organization in All Districts

Meeting Decides Emphatically Against Summoning Convention

ENTHUSIASTIC endorsement of the leadership of Premier S. F. Tolmie, and expressions of united confidence in the Conservative Ministry under his command, were outstanding features of the regular gathering of the provincial executive of the British Columbia Conservative Association, which took place yesterday at the Empress Hotel. Dr. Tolmie addressed the meeting and received a hearty thanks at the close of a straightforward talk in which he placed the views of the Government before the chosen representatives of the party throughout the province.

The meeting was attended by delegates from all points in the province, by members of the Cabinet and representatives of all central associations throughout British Columbia. It went emphatically on record that there was no necessity for a special convention of the party at this time.

EXPLAIN SITUATION

Vancouver delegates stated firmly that convention talk which had arisen there had not entertained the slightest suggestion that the purpose of such a gathering would be to discuss a change of leadership, and endorsed the able and untiring services of Dr. Tolmie on behalf of the people of the province.

Organization matters were discussed at a meeting held by the organization committee in the morning.

DISCOUNT PROPAGANDA

Reports were presented by Col. W. W. Foster and Capt. Frank J. MacKenzie, organizer for the party in British Columbia. These reports showed that there was little ground for talk of unrest in the party throughout the province, and this had been carefully fostered by Liberal propaganda. Depression, shared generally with every other country in the world, had increased the number of those who turned to governments for aid and work, and that this factor was generally recognized both within the party and by the general public.

James H. Beatty, third member for Victoria in the Provincial Legislature, was appointed chairman of the publicity committee, which includes the following: Gordon A. Cameron, Victoria; J. Kirkpatrick, Pentstemon; Frank J. Mackenzie, Vancouver (organizer); Ewen McLeod, North Vancouver; E. F. Morrison, Kelowna; A. M. Tyrrell, Kamloops; F. P. Payne, Nelson; J. W. Corbett, M.P.P., South Vancouver; Mrs. H. H. Davies, Revelstoke, and R. J. Hamilton, Vancouver.

The organization committee recommended that district organizers be appointed at several places, including the nomination of women to this work. More frequent district meetings were also recommended.

WILL HAVE REPORTS

On the question of publicity, the delegates decided to meet the campaign of negative publicity of the Liberal organization by distribution through its district associations reports of the definite and concrete actions of the Government in carrying out its policies, to let the people know the facts.

The meeting went on record as appreciating what had been done by the daily and weekly press in carrying the news of Government action, particularly in times admittedly difficult for all Governments.

FINE SPIRIT SHOWN

The executive meeting was one of the best attended in recent years, and was significant for the fine spirit shown by the delegates and their desire to work in one accord, it was stated later by Lindley Crease, K.C., chairman, and president of the provincial body. The organization committee met under the leadership of Col. W. W. Foster. Dr. Tolmie was warmly received when he entered the Princess Louise room at the Empress Hotel, where the meeting was proceeding, and got a decided ovation at the close of a brief but straightforward discussion of party matters.

The delegates adjourned at 5 p.m., and were the guests of Premier and Mrs. Tolmie for tea at their Saanich home, returning later for the executive dinner at the Empress Hotel.

Premier Confident Australian Pact Will Benefit B.C.

WHILE the contents of the new Canadian-Australian Treaty have not yet been fully divulged, and will likely be presented in the House of Commons before the details become known, encouraging provisions that will materially assist British Columbia's trade with the Commonwealth are known to be included in the pact, it was intimated yesterday by Premier Tolmie. Favorable provisions in regard to British Columbia lumber, if included, would serve at this time to supply encouragement to that industry when it is most needed. It is regarded as certain that the preferential terms of the treaty will be of great importance to this province.

MAY FLY OVER ALASKA ROUTE

Premier Tolmie Invites Lindberghs to Province—May Make Round Trip

Issuing an invitation yesterday to Colonel Charles Lindbergh and Mrs. Lindbergh to fly over the inland route of British Columbia, along the proposed line of the Yukon-Alaska Highway when they come North on the start of their projected transpacific flight, Premier Tolmie included an invitation to dine with him at the old Tolmie home here.

NEW YORK, June 5 (AP).—Col. Charles A. Lindbergh was waiting today to test the big Lockheed-Sirius plane, which he and Mrs. Lindbergh will pilot to the Orient, and possibly back again this Summer.

POWERFUL MACHINE

The machine, more than twice as powerful as that in which a little more than four years ago he flew to Paris, was in the hands of experts at a plant near North Beach, L.I., being equipped with pontoons in place of its recently installed retractable landing gear. The work was all but finished, but the flying colonel's plans still were in the making, he told interviewers.

The entire journey, with the announced destination China and Japan, will be made with water stops, Colonel Lindbergh said. He added that his wife would do her share of the flying. "She always has assisted me," he said. She recently received her pilot's licence.

WILL HAVE RADIO

The low-wing monoplane will be equipped with radio and both of its passengers will be able to operate the set. On none of his previous important flights has Colonel Lindbergh had wireless in his plane.

The colonel indicated that the take-off would most likely be from Bowers Bay, adjacent to the North Beach airport. He declined to say definitely that Seattle would be his last landing place in the United States before start on the north and westward swing.

Premier Is Accorded Hearty Endorsement By Own Constituency

The Saanich Central Conservative Association, in the Premier's own constituency, last night expressed its unbounded confidence in their member and the Government that he heads in no uncertain manner.

The meeting, which was thoroughly representative of the whole of the Saanich districts, was largely attended and was enthusiastic in its support of Premier Tolmie.

Not content with numerous verbal tributes to the Premier and his Government, the association, on motion of Fred Appleby, seconded by George M. Watt, went on record as follows:

EXPRESS CONFIDENCE

"The Saanich Central Conservative Association wishes to express its confidence in the Premier and congratulates him upon the splendid speeches made to the Women's Conservative Association and at the convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and the stand taken by him towards those who seek to deprecate his party and the conduct of the Government generally."

Appreciation was expressed of the efforts made by the Government to administer the unemployment relief in a fair and impartial manner.

PICNIC PLANS

On behalf of the picnic committee Mrs. Frank Osborne reported that all indications pointed to a most successful picnic at Beaver Lake on Dominion Day. A large number of excellent prizes had been secured for the competitive sports.

Speakers for the occasion, it was announced amid applause, would be Premier Tolmie, Hon. J. W. Jones, C. H. Dickie, M.P., and H. Despard Twigg, M.P.P.

President W. O. Wallace presided at last night's meeting.

Col.
June 6, 1931

Colonist
June 10, 1931