

D E C

1939

A Duty to the Forests.

AMONG the acts rushed through the Provincial Legislature in its closing hours was one providing for better protection for British Columbia's forests and parks. British Columbia's forests and parks are unquestionably in need of further protection. They are in need of constant guarding, of more intelligent methods of development and of forward-looking conservation. But the passing of acts of the Legislature will not provide the protection unless, with the acts, goes the appropriation of sufficient money.

That is what is lacking, just now. We have an excellent forest service in British Columbia. But it is starved. The government of the province takes from the forests of the province in the way of royalties, stumpage, rentals and license fees about \$3,000,000 a year, and it returns to the forests in the way of protection, administration and reforestation only a pittance. It admitted in its submission to the Rowell Commission that the revenue it draws from the forests is not true revenue but is derived from the sale of capital resources. Yet it fails to take adequate measures to conserve these resources.

For years the late P. Z. Caverhill, when he was chief forester, called the government's attention to the inadequacy of the Forest Protection Fund. Since his death, his successor, Mr. E. C. Manning, has been continually preaching conservation. When he was economic advisor to the government, Dr. W. A. Carrothers called attention to the need. So the government is fully informed.

The government knows what the situation is and how dangerous it is. But it does not move to meet it. Last year, its legislation increased its own contribution to the Forest Protection Fund by less than 5 per cent., but the industry's contribution 50 per cent. This year, provision is made for charging the cost of fighting forest fires to the individuals responsible for the fires.

That may have the effect of making individuals more careful—and they should be made more careful. But it will not save the forests unless the forest service is given the means of checking up and is provided with adequate personnel and proper equipment. That means more money for the forests—a reasonable share of forest capital plowed back into forest resources.

Cameron Attacks Minister of Labor Pearson

USE OF LETTER HIT BY MEMBER

Charges of irresponsibility and possible illegal action are levelled against Hon. George S. Pearson, provincial minister of labor, in a letter received by The Daily Province from Colin Cameron, C.C.F. member for Comox-Atlin district.

The C.C.F. member writes as follows:

"On Wednesday, November 29, I begged leave to adjourn the sitting of the Legislature to consider a matter of urgent public importance. Mr. Speaker Whitaker ruled that the statement I read to the House did not disclose a matter of definite public importance and, on division, the Legislature sustained his ruling.

"It may be that I failed to make the case clear. At all events I consider it a matter of such grave importance that it is my duty to place it before the general public. The facts are as follows:

"On Tuesday, November 28, the minister of labor read extracts from a letter written by an official of a miners' union to the international office of that union. This letter is, in itself, of little or no importance. It incriminates no one and proves nothing, except perhaps the opposite to that which the minister of labor attempted to prove.

"The letter, however, becomes extremely important when we realize that it was seized by order of the court with other documents belonging to this union, as possible exhibits in certain trials.

"This letter was in the custody of the court. Because it did not sustain the argument of the counsel of the department of labor, he did not have it produced as evidence. But it was not released from the custody of the court, and according to the latest word I have received, has not yet been returned to its owner.

"As it was not produced in evidence it was not made public in the court records or in press reports. And yet the minister of labor disclosed the fact that this letter, or a copy of it, was in his possession. It can only have come into his possession by illegal methods.

"When asked on the floor of the Legislature, the honorable minister declared he did not know the source from which the letter came, but that it was from a responsible person.

"The contradictory nature of this statement leaves the honorable minister in a very dubious and equivocal position.

"Either he has resorted to the methods of the Gestapo and has instructed or permitted one of his agents to feloniously abstract a document from the custody of the court, or he has irresponsibly accepted from some irresponsible and dishonest person a document that can only be described as stolen property. Neither of these positions is one which the public should tolerate in a minister of the crown."

NEW THEATRE BILL IS LOST

(Special to The Daily Province.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 1. — The amendment to the Fire Marshal Act, which received its third reading last Monday, and which calls for employment of two projectionists in every theatre with 450 seats and over, will result in closing down a number of theatres in Vancouver and Victoria and perhaps elsewhere, according to Miss A. D. Scriven, secretary of the Independent Theatres Association.

Miss Scriven visited here to interview members of the government in the hope that some bill could be obtained to alleviate the financial strain upon smaller theatres with an average seating capacity of around 750.

These theatres, or the majority at least, according to Miss Scriven, are being forced out of business because of high overhead. Average wages of a projectionist run from \$75 to \$100 a week.

Louis LeBourdais, Cariboo, who fought a lone battle for the small theatre owners last week, endeavored to bring in a bill at the last moment which in his opinion would have solved the situation somewhat for the smaller theatres.

The bill sought to alter the amendment and make it possible for the smaller theatres to place removable partitions in their theatres which would give them 450 seats four days of the week, and their usual seating capacity on Fridays and Saturdays.

This would obviate the removal of seats to conform with the act, be the means of employing an extra projectionist who would otherwise be thrown out of work six days a week if the seats were removed, and bring added revenue to the government in the form of an amusement tax.

The Le Bourdais bill, however, died aborning.

Urge Canadian Rate On Imperial Pension

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—British Columbia Legislature will recommend to the Federal Government that Canadians who serve in this

war with imperial units will receive the same pensions and treatment as those who join Canadian overseas forces.

A resolution to this effect, proposed by Captain Macgregor Macintosh (Conservative, The Islands) and seconded by E. V. Finland (Conservative, Esquimalt) was passed unanimously.

National Anthem Closes Session

FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

Members Sing While Awaiting Arrival of Viceroy In the House

By TORCHY ANDERSON
(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—The third session of the nineteenth Legislature of British Columbia ended shortly after 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon.

Usually the session is ended by a shower of bills and order papers when His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor leaves the chamber. The same thing happened on Thursday afternoon—but with an added feature.

Members, at the suggestion of Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, stood firm and sang, lustily and with a good deal of feeling, "God Save The King."

Perhaps in view of some of the discussion at this session members could not have ended on a more unified note. I am not setting down here a record of who sang and who remained silent. But I do set down this fact: there was a hearty chorus of unanimity and I think that chorus represents the feeling of the people of British Columbia.

Singing the National Anthem may mean nothing in itself but there was a ring in that worn old hymn on Thursday afternoon that was more of an answer to Herr Hitler than a million words of hair-splitting arguments about the defense of Democracy.

This final chapter of another session of the B. C. Legislature is not going to be a recital of the acts they passed, the nasty things they said about each other (they didn't mean them anyway) or the resolutions they passed.

I would rather take you to the final scene on Thursday afternoon in that chamber which must be a headache to any interior decorator. In its utterly ghastly interior, with its barber-shop marble and highly developed plaster casts, a lot of ordinary British Columbians gathered to write finis to their job of work.

RINGS BELL WITH RELUCTANCE

There are forty-eight members who sit in this chamber. Taking them individually they are about as good folk as you could find in a day's motor drive. They are a thoroughly honest, human group of persons. They have their ambitions, convictions and aspirations. They also have their weaknesses.

But you, Mr. Voter, don't be too censorious. They are the people whom you voted to sit in this House. And if they don't suit you perhaps you will think back to the polling day when you were too busy to cast a vote.

Well, I want you to see these people as they were on Thursday afternoon. During the morning they had finished their last, acrimonious bickerings. Legislation was through, motions were disposed of. They gathered after lunch to await the arrival of His Honor.

They began to sing songs. They called on Capt. Macintosh to lead them in "Pack Up Your Troubles" but the gallant captain broke into his hit number, "The Song of The Isles." It was with some reluctance that Mister Speaker rang the bell to announce that order which is preliminary to the arrival of His Honor.

And then His Honor came and we went through the usual formalities and the legislators received formal assent to their doings.

Then we threw papers and generally misbehaved and concluded a session.

And the "cares of the day folded their tents like the Arabs and silently faded away."

Afterwards we met socially, statesmen, press men, and janitor. And we compared the nasty things we had said about each other.

And everybody was able to laugh. Perhaps that is democracy.

TALKED LITTLE—ACHIEVED MUCH

The session was short, possibly the shortest of any regular session of the B. C. Legislature.

The Conservative party may reap some credit for that brevity for having restrained themselves during the debate on the speech from the throne.

What happened subsequently inclined some of them to regret the truce with the government.

But perhaps they reaped the best political harvest by their silence.

For they scored on several points. They forced the government to back-water on vital sections of the amendments to the Forest Act,

they won the right of appeal on the Water Act and they put through a demand for equality of recognition for Canadians who serve in Imperial forces.

They might have done a great deal more talking and achieved less.

Of the C. C. F. opposition only this can be said: the result of their policy must be read in the next election returns.

They, like everybody else, seem satisfied that they have done their duty.

And everybody, well satisfied they have done their duty, goes home to see what the little woman thinks about it.

And so another minute of history is recorded.

MINING UNION RAPS PEARSON

Representatives of the miners' union involved in the strike at Pioneer Mines today take vigorous issue with Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, over statements made by him before the Legislature this week.

In their statement they deny that the strikers were operating under orders received from points outside Canada!

The statement follows: "In a speech delivered Wednesday to the Legislature, as reported in The Daily Province, Hon. G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, made a number of flagrant mis-statements of fact which the union deplores, and which they desire to answer:

"(1) Mr. Pearson said that he is convinced that the strike is not 'local' but was 'started outside of B.C. and had not arisen because of dissatisfaction with wages or working conditions. In support of his view, the minister quotes portions from a letter allegedly written by an 'agent' of the C.I.O. in Pioneer.

REFUSED INTERVIEW.

"The facts are that on September 13 the union executive (which in June had been recognized by the labor department as the bargaining agency for the men) attempted to interview the management. They desired a 'check-off' for union members, and recognition for their committee with a view to opening discussions on wages. The management refused an interview with the committee.

"On September 14 Mr. W. A. Paterson, secretary of the union, wired the requests to the company's head office in Vancouver, and pointed out that 'action' would be necessary if there was no reply by September 23. He also, the same day, wrote to the International president, Reid Robinson, in Denver, reporting the situation.

MEN ACTED ALONE.

"The letter was not, as Mr. Pearson states, written 'before trouble was anticipated,' but afterwards. It does not indicate that Pioneer was to be the 'first move in a general labor disturbance throughout B. C.' Paterson's letter merely reports the situation, asks for sanction of the local executive's action, and points out that if Pioneer is successful, impetus for organization in other mines will occur.

"As a matter of fact the strike started October 8 and 'sanction' for it came on October 13 from Denver, proving conclusively that the men at Pioneer were acting solely by themselves and were under no 'outside influence.'

"Further, the strike vote was 125-17, with eight men away on holiday, showing a high proportion of the union members (150) as favoring the strike, and an absolute majority of all employees (233) also in favor.

"(2) The minister says that no matter what efforts were made to settle the matter, such efforts were doomed because 'it was intended that there should be a strike.'

CONCILIATION REFUSED.

"Again, the union strenuously denies what the minister says, and points out that on September 28 it applied for conciliation, which was refused by the minister because he did not know whether a majority was involved, and this in spite of the fact that the same committee was recognized in June as representing a majority.

"Instead, a personal representative of the minister was sent in to 'investigate.' This official was not a conciliation commissioner, as stated by Mr. Pearson, but a mere investigator for whose appointment the act makes no provision.

"Nevertheless, from October 3 to 8 the union made sincere efforts to settle the dispute, even going so far on October 5 as to drop its demand for union recognition.

"Its efforts, however, and those of the investigator, met with an adamant and uncompromising attitude on the part of the management, and as a last resort, and fully believing themselves to be within the spirit and letter of the law, the men struck.

"(3) Mr. Pearson says, 'at Pioneer the men had sent in an application for a conciliation officer.'

"If that is true, as the men have always maintained it is, the entire basis for the recent prosecutions by Mr. Pearson for striking unlawfully is destroyed. For those prosecutions were based upon the contention that the men struck 'prior to an application having been made for the appointment of a conciliation commissioner.'

"The union therefore deplores the monstrous mis-statements of fact made by the minister of labor, as reported in The Daily Province, and desires to know why the minister refuses to place responsibility for the strike where it properly belongs—on the shoulders of the management of Pioneer Mines.

"It also asks for a public retraction by the minister of the above mis-statements."

D E C

1939

Friday, December 1, 1939.

Saturday,

The Provincial Session Ends

The British Columbia Legislature adjourned yesterday after one of the most uneventful sessions in the history of the province.

The afternoon newspaper which is generally favorable to the policies and acts of the government of Premier Pattullo, in summing up the work accomplished during the sessions, says: "Perhaps the most patriotic thing our legislators could have done was to do as little as possible for the present."

This is hardly a fair summary of their efforts. There is always a great deal of routine work to get through and if time was wasted "doing nothing" it was certainly not due to Mr. Pattullo and his colleagues.

Few days were devoted to the discussion of provincial affairs which is the only field within the competence of the provincial legislature to discuss. The greater part of the time was devoted to irrelevant speeches regarding theoretical economics and other matters wholly outside their jurisdiction.

A new venture which promises to open up another form of revenue was the appropriation of a sum of \$50,000 for experimental drilling for oil in the interior. If this sum is wisely used the rumors that there is a large and rich oil field in this province will either be confirmed or dissipated.

With this patent waste of money, and with ever increasing votes for political ventures which could not conceivably come within the range of straining every effort for the winning of the war, it is not surprising to learn that expenditures have increased, touching a new all-time high this year.

The conservation of every dollar in anticipation that the struggle in which the British Empire is engaged will not only be long but extremely costly, would appear to the layman to be a higher form of patriotism than "doing as little as possible" or of embarking on new experiments.

The dullness of the debates was enlivened by the attitude of the C.C.F. towards the war. The speeches of several members are part of the record and it will be for the electorate to determine through the ballot box whether the sentiments expressed were those of the majority of the party. The adverse criticism they encountered after delivery is clear indication that the great majority of the citizens of the province do not endorse these views.

Sixty-Seven Bills Get Royal Assent As Brief Legislative Session Ends

Largest Supply Bill In History Totals \$30,000,000

Victoria, Dec. 1.—(BUP)—British Columbia's 30-day legislative session—shortest in history—was prorogued, and a \$30,000,000 supply bill—largest in history—was approved, at 3:20 Thursday afternoon by His Honor Eric Werge Hamber, Lieutenant-Governor, who gave royal assent to 67 bills.

Escorted by Lieutenant-Commander C. E. Donaldson, R.C.N., and Major M. R. Turner, the Lieutenant-Governor and the premier entered the Legislature at 3:15 p.m. The bills were immediately presented for assent.

Addressing the assembly, Mr. Hamber said: "In relieving you of your labors I desire to express the hope that the numerous measures which received your consideration will make for improvement in the various spheres to which they relate, and for the general welfare of our people."

"It is to be hoped that the appropriation made for prospecting for oil in the Peace River may lead to the final discovery of oil in quantity and thus add another great resource to our economic life."

Alluding to the war in Europe, His Honor said: "Although the war is but three months old, there is ample evidence of privation and frightfulness yet to be encountered before the war is over."

"And it behoves all of us to be prepared to do everything within our power to assist in bringing the war to a successful conclusion."

"Thank you for your generous supply bill granted for public service."

"I pray that the blessing of divine providence may rest upon your labors and accompany you to your respective homes."

Rising from his seat in the government benches, Hon. George M. Weir, provincial secretary, declared the 1939 session of the provincial Legislature over. Suddenly the members tore up bills and order papers and threw them into the air so that they floated and showered the benches.

As the Lieutenant-Governor left the chamber the members sang "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag," led by Capt. C. S. Leary, Liberal party whip.

Members After

Victoria, administration members of the legislature returned to their homes after the session. The members of the legislature were only in the capitol for a few days after the session. The members of the legislature were only in the capitol for a few days after the session.

Besides the members of the legislature, the members of the legislature were only in the capitol for a few days after the session. The members of the legislature were only in the capitol for a few days after the session.

Hon. Geo. MacDonnell, secretary, accompanied the members of the legislature. The members of the legislature were only in the capitol for a few days after the session. The members of the legislature were only in the capitol for a few days after the session.

Saturday, December 2, 1939.

Members Leave After Session

Victoria, Dec. 2.—(BUP)— Administration of the province's business returned to normal on Friday after cabinet ministers and members of the legislature boarded trains and boats to return to their constituencies.

Besides Premier Pattullo, there were only two ministers left in the capitol. The cabinet disbanded after its usual Friday meeting, but is expected back here on Tuesday.

Hon. George M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, left for Vancouver, accompanied by Hon. W. J. Asselstine, Minister of Mines. Hon. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, will leave here Sunday to attend the Kamloops fat stock sale and show.

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Friday, December 1, 1939.

Third Session of B.C. Legislature Concludes Labors

Hon. E. W. Hamber Prorogues House in Thirty-First Day, Assenting to Sixty-Five Acts and Receiving Supply—Roses for Hon. T. D. Pattullo on His Wedding Anniversary

THE third session of the Nineteenth Legislature of the province was prorogued by Colonel the Honorable Eric W. Hamber at 3:30 p.m. yesterday after thirty-one days of keen debate which ended with a note of good will all round. The Lieutenant-Governor read a brief Speech from the Throne after assenting to sixty-five acts, and returned thanks for the granting of supply in the sum of \$30,500,530. Prorogation followed.

Relieved of the strain of a month's labors, with three weeks of the period in double time, members of the House sang ballads, engaged in traditional battle of discarded sessional papers, and closed with the National Anthem.

While waiting for His Honor to arrive, the House sang the "Road to the Islands," the lilting ballad of a Hebridean veteran returning from the wars, the singing led by Capt. M. F. Macintosh in a fine baritone voice.

One of the last actions of the session was the presentation of a magnificent basket of November roses to Premier Pattullo by members of the House, on the fortieth anniversary of his wedding day. Benches to the left and right of Mr. Speaker joined in felicitations to Premier and Mrs. Pattullo on the occasion.

SPEECH FROM THRONE

In the Speech from the Throne, His Honor said:

"In relieving you of your labors, I desire to express the hope that the numerous measures which have received your consideration will make for improvement in the various spheres to which they relate, and for the general welfare of our people.

"It is to be hoped that the appropriation made to prospect for oil in the Peace River country may lead to final discovery of oil in quantity, and thus add another great resource to our economic life.

"Although the war is but three months old, there is ample evidence of the privation and frightfulness yet to be encountered before the war is over, and it behooves all of us to be prepared to do everything within our power to assist in bringing the war to a successful conclusion.

"I thank you for the generous supply granted for the public service.

"I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may rest upon your labors and accompany you to your respective homes."

The closing ceremonies were quiet, due to war times. His Honor was accompanied by A. M. D. Fairbairn, his private secretary; and two aides, Lieut.-Col. Maurice Turner and Lieut.-Cmdr. C. E. Donaldson.

HOLD LAST SITTING

In a three-hour morning sitting prior to prorogation, the House accepted two of fifteen resolutions remaining on the order paper; defeating the balance after debate. Both dealt with wartime problems.

Capt. M. F. Macintosh and E. V. Finland secured passage of a motion, reading as follows:

"Whereas the Government has informed the Dominion Government

that it is prepared and anxious to co-operate to the fullest extent with Dominion authority in the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion; and whereas a number of young British Columbians have at their own expense gone to Great Britain and enlisted in the naval, military and air services of the Empire and are taking part in this war and fighting as Canadians; therefore be it resolved that this House recommend to the Federal Government that such men, though serving with the immediate forces of Great Britain, be accorded the same pensions and treatment as may be accorded to the Canadian Active Service Forces."

Veterans of the last war, the mover and seconder of the resolution spoke briefly to its aims, stressing the need for equality of pension treatment following the present conflict, wherein hundreds of Canadians are passing into the Royal Air Force and other Imperial units direct.

DEBATES AT END

The House also went on record drawing the attention of the Dominion Government to the need for long-range plans looking to the re-establishment of men now with the colors when they return to this country from active service overseas. Capt. C. R. Bull, H. G. Perry, and a number of members contributed to the debate, which turned on unemployment.

In the closing moments of the morning sitting, Harold Winch made an appeal for closer study of what is being learned in Great Britain and elsewhere from recent discoveries in the extraction from high-octane gasoline and residual products from coal. Mr. Winch was assured by Government benches that these developments were under study through the fuel research board of Canada, and otherwise. The House recessed at 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., with its business over.

In the acts of the session, Doukhobor relief, utilities legislation, and redrawn water and forest laws were the chief measures; outside of the Supply Bill and a loan bill for \$3,000,000. The bulk of the remaining legislation was by way of amendment to existing statutes. So ended the session which had begun on October 31.

Against Capital Punishment—Citing abolition of the death penalty for cowardice on active service, E. E. Winch (C.C.F.-Burnaby) urged abolition of capital punishment for homicide, in the British Columbia Legislature, yesterday. Mr. Winch said that out of forty-five cases of murder recorded in British Columbia in the last five years, five men, after conviction had been hanged, the majority given penal servitude, and a few committed to mental institutions. The House declined to interfere with administration of justice in the Federal field, while complimenting Mr. Winch on the presentation of his appeal.

D E C

1939

Paper Showers As House Ends

With traditional ceremony, followed by brief hilarity, the third session of British Columbia's 19th Parliament was prorogued yesterday afternoon by Hon. Eric W. Hamber, 15th Lieut.-Governor of the province.

It was the shortest regular session in history, lasting only four weeks and two days. Usually the session runs six weeks.

His Honor, who was accompanied by his naval and military aides, Lieut.-Commander C. E. Donaldson, R.C.N.V.R., and Major Maurice Turner, and his private secretary, A. M. D. Fairbairn, sat on the throne while Clerk of the House Langley read out the 67 new acts of Parliaments to which His Honor assented.

Mr. Speaker Whittaker, in ancient parlance, that has come down the ages, said, "We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in session assembled, approach Your Honor at the close of our labors with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to His Majesty's person and government and humbly beg to present to Your Honor's acceptance Bill No. 75, entitled 'An Act for Granting Certain Sums of Money for the Public Service'."

ACCEPTS BENEVOLENCE

To which the Clerk of the House said, "In His Majesty's name, His Honor doth thank His Majesty's loyal subjects, accept their benevolence and assent to this bill."

His Honor read his brief speech, mentioning the war and reminding the House worse days may be in store for everyone. Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, then read the words of prorogation, after which His Honor and party left.

Then the members let loose and hurled into the air the order papers, bills and resolutions over which they had poured and debated many hours, until the floor and desks were white.

Premier Pattullo was honored by his colleagues in the cabinet with a great pot of amber and rust-colored rosebuds, 40 in number, as it was the 40th wedding anniversary of the Premier and Mrs. Pattullo, both of whom were showered with good wishes and felicitations from all sides of the House.

The three lady members wore flowers in honor of the occasion, Mrs. Smith gardenias, Mrs. Steeves a red carnation at her waist and Mrs. Jamieson red and white carnations on her left shoulder.

As soon as His Honor left the Chamber, Capt. Macgregor Macintosh went to the foot of the Speaker's dais and led in God Save the King.

Today the members were on their way home to the far corners of British Columbia.



AT THE END OF A MONTH'S WORK

— Yesterday afternoon the members of the B.C. Legislature wound up one of the shortest and least interesting sessions in its history with the regular schoolboy's paper show. The 48 members were on the job 23 working days and they each received \$2,000. The C.C.F. members did most of the talking but most of the back-benchers managed to crowd in at least one speech. The top picture shows the floor of the Legislative Chamber after the members had emptied their desks of bills and waste paper. The lower picture shows Lieut.-Governor Eric W. Hamber seated in the Speaker's chair about to read the speech of prorogation. His aides were Lieut.-Commander C. E. Donaldson, left, and Colonel Maurice Turner, right.



Capt. C. S. Leary of Kaslo-Slocan, Liberal whip in the Legislature, was honored by fellow Liberals yesterday, following prorogation when he was presented with a set of silver spoons by Premier Pattullo. Howard Forester, Vancouver, deputy whip, was presented with a silver tray.

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'Pioneer' Miners Further State Position in Strike

The following statement from Pioneer mine workers was received by The Vancouver Sun today:

"In a speech delivered Wednesday to the Legislature, as reported in another newspaper, Hon. G. S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, made a number of flagrant mis-statements of fact which the union deplores, and which they desire to answer:

"1. Mr. Pearson said that he is convinced that the strike is not 'local' but was 'started outside of B.C.' and had not arisen because of dissatisfaction with wages or working conditions. In support of his view, the Minister quotes portions from a letter allegedly written by an 'agent' of the CIO in Pioneer.

"The facts are that on September 13 the union executive (which in June had been recognized by the Labor Department as the bargaining agency for the men) attempted to interview the management. They desired a 'check-off' for Union members, and recognition for their committee with a view to opening discussion on wages. The management refused an interview with the committee.

REPORTED SITUATION

"On September 14 W. A. Patterson, secretary of the union, wired the requests to the company's head office in Vancouver and pointed out that 'action' would be necessary if there was no reply by the 23rd. He also, the same day, wrote to the international president, Reid Robinson, in Denver, reporting the situation.

"The letter, was not, as Mr. Pearson states, written 'before trouble was anticipated,' but afterwards. It does not indicate that Pioneer was to be the 'first move in a general labor disturbance throughout B. C.' Patterson's letter merely reports the situation, asks for sanction of the local executive's action and points out that if Pioneer is successful, impetus for organization in other mines will occur.

"As a matter of fact the strike started October 8 and 'sanction' for it came on October 13 from Denver, proving conclusively that the men at Pioneer were acting solely by themselves and were under no 'outside influence.'

"Further, the strike vote was 125-17, with eight men away on holiday, showing a high proportion of the union members (150) as favoring the strike, and an absolute majority of all employees (223) also in favor.

SENT REPRESENTATIVES

"2. The Minister says that no matter what efforts were made to settle the matter, such efforts were doomed because 'it was intended that there should be a strike.'

"Again, the union strenuously denies what the Minister says, and points out that on September 28 it applied for conciliation, which was refused by the Minister because he did not know whether a majority was involved—and this in spite of the fact that the same committee was recognized in June as representing a majority. Instead, a personal representative of the Minister was sent in to 'investigate.' This official was NOT a conciliation commissioner, as stated by Mr. Pearson, but a mere investigator for whose appointment the Act makes no provision. Nevertheless, from October 3 to 8 the union made sincere efforts to settle the dispute, even going so far on October 5 as to drop its demand for union recognition.

"Its efforts, however, and those of the investigator, met with an adamant and uncompromising attitude on the part of the management, and as a last resort, and fully believing themselves to be within the spirit and letter of the law, the men struck.

CONCILIATION OFFICER

"3. Mr. Pearson says 'At Pioneer the men have sent in an application for a conciliation officer.'

"If that is true, as the men have always maintained it is, the entire basis for the recent prosecutions by Mr. Pearson for striking unlawfully is destroyed. For those prosecutions were based upon the contention that the men struck 'prior to an application having been made for the appointment of a conciliation commissioner.'

"The Union therefore deplores the monstrous mis-statements of fact made by the Minister of Labor, and desires to know why the Minister refuses to place responsibility for the strike where it properly belongs—on the shoulders of the management of Pioneer Mines. It also asks for a public retraction by the Minister of the above mis-statements."

House Ends Short Session

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—The third session of British Columbia's 19th Legislature prorogued Thursday after a five-week session, one of the shortest on record.

Lieutenant-Governor E. W. Hamber performed the closing ceremonies.

SPEECH FROM THRONE

Following is the text of his Speech from the Throne:

"Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly: "In relieving you of your labors, I desire to express the hope that the numerous measures which have received your consideration will make for improvement in the various spheres to which they relate, and for the general welfare of our people.

"It is to be hoped that the appropriation made to prospect for oil in the Peace River country will lead to final discovery of oil in quantity and thus add another great resource to our economic life.

"Although the war is but three months old, there is ample evidence of the privation and frightfulness yet to be encountered before the war is over, and it behoves all of us to be prepared to do everything within our power to assist in bringing the war to a successful conclusion.

"I thank you for the generous supply granted for the public service.

"I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may rest upon your labors and accompany you to your respective homes."

PAPER FIGHT

As the lieutenant-governor left the chamber, members staged a paper fight. This stopped suddenly when Captain Macgregor Macintosh began singing "God Save the King." The entire assemblage arose and joined.

Premier Pattullo found a bouquet of flowers on his desk when he entered the house. The flowers were presented by other members in honor of the Premier's wedding anniversary.