

F E B

1933

ANOTHER TRICKY RACE



TRADITION OBSERVED.

When Mr. Speaker and the Premier had escorted the Lieutenant-Governor's party to the entrance and returned, prayers were offered by the Bishop of Columbia. Actual business then commenced, with the representatives of the people maintaining their ancient right to consider their own business before that of the King's. This, as usual, was accomplished by the introduction of a minor bill, an amendment to the Town Planning Act, brought down by Attorney-general Pooley, before the speech from the throne was considered. This tradition having been observed, the House resolved to give consideration to the throne speech on the next day and on succeeding days if preference to all other business. The remaining work of the day was brief. Ministers filed departmental reports. The usual list of commitments was struck. Everyone but the King's Printer was forbidden to print a record of the proceedings. Then the House adjourned until Friday, when all ceremony will be thrust aside and debate will start on the grave issues of this session.

Throne Speech Tells of Plans To Aid Jobless

Cheap Land to Be Provided and Increased Markets; Relief to Continue.

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—The government's policy in meeting the problem of unemployment was dealt with in the speech from the throne delivered by Lieutenant-Governor Johnson at the opening of the British Columbia Legislature this afternoon.

His honor drew attention to the fact that prices and sales terms on crown lands reverted for taxes had been revised to make it easy for them to be occupied by settlers. Until such times as conditions improve the Dominion-wide regulations for unemployment relief would continue as far as B. C.'s needs were concerned.

The province was endeavoring to create more employment by expanding the markets for its products. The speech mentioned British Columbia's long-standing claim for better terms had been placed before the Dominion Government.

Forecast of legislation referred to the Public Schools Act, Vital Statistics Act, Mineral Act and Placer Mining Act. Absence of reference to other anticipated legislation does not, however, mean that it may not be brought down.

"My government, while recognizing the seriousness of the situation and realizing the tremendous tasks that face it, has refused to be stampeded," said the keynote paragraph of the speech.

The Lieutenant-Governor, after opening his speech with a welcome to the members of the Legislature, referred to the success of the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa, and to the interprovincial conference held in Ottawa last month. Reference was made to the loss suffered by the Legislature in the death of Michael Manson.

The province was congratulated on the fact that while deep sea shipments of lumber from the North Pacific dropped still further in 1932, those from British Columbia increased by 10 per cent., and the trade within the Empire increased by 69 per cent. over the preceding year, due largely to the trade extension work of the government.

The intense renewal of interest in prospecting for gold was also a matter for congratulation.

The Lieutenant-Governor said it was encouraging to the producer to note that agriculture in British Columbia in 1932 took first place over all other basic industries in value of commodities produced. The programme for 1933 indicated that this industry would still retain the lead.

H. D. Twigg, Victoria, will open the speechmaking by moving the address in reply to the speech. Capt. J. Fitzsimmons, Kaslo-Slocan, will second it.

Old Traditions Mark Opening of Legislature

Guns Roar Salute as His Honor Drives To House.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON
VICTORIA, Feb. 23. — Guns boomed across James Bay this afternoon. Swords glistened, spurs jangled, Scottish feather bonnets waved in the breeze, sleek cavalry horses clumped up the driveway to the Legislative Buildings. The Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia opened with the same brave show which has been maintained as Victoria's dearest tradition since it first became a capital.

All the quaint customs of British parliaments were strictly fulfilled, hiding for one day only the very grave problems of government which await the Legislature's consideration on the morrow. Viewing the ceremonies, the gold braid, the guard of honor, the speech from the throne, the crowded gathering of notables, no stranger would have imagined that this Legislature was meeting for the last time and facing a political future of complete uncertainty.

GUNS ROAR SALUTE.

A few minutes before 3 o'clock, Lieutenant-Governor Fordham Johnson left Government House and drove down the hill to the Legislative Buildings, surrounded by a provincial police escort on motorcycles. As his car reached the end of the causeway, travelling slowly through the thousands of spectators who could not find room inside the buildings, gunners on the lawn commenced to fire



LIEUT.-GOV. FORDHAM JOHNSON

Highlanders of 16th Scottish Form Guard Of Honor.

BRILLIANT ASSEMBLY.

Having inspected the guard, His Honor and his special guard of leading military and naval officers climbed the long flight of stone stairs to the dome room and from there marched through the brass gates into the legislative chamber. It was crowded to its utmost capacity, both on the floor and in every gallery with men and women notable in every department of provincial life and with the personal friends of members. Hundreds who had sought admission cards had been disappointed. The members themselves were crowded into cramped quarters about the Speaker's dais.

At the bar of the House His Honor was met by Mr. Speaker Davis in his three-cornered hat and flowing back robe and by Premier Toimie. They followed him to the dais and stood respectfully below him as he sat down in the Speaker's carved oak chair. A. M. D. Fairbairn, the Lieutenant-Governor's secretary, handed him the speech from the throne, printed on a large piece of white parchment, with a red ribbon and seal dangling from it. There was a long hush while His Honor read the speech. Then, bowing right and left, he walked down the chamber, through the double line of his guard, and the last session of the seventeenth legislature was under way.

a salute of fifteen guns across the harbor.

In front of the impressive main entrance to the buildings His Honor found a long guard of honor drawn up—kilted Highlanders of the 16th Scottish, in their feather bonnets and scarlet tunics, and blue jackets from the Esquimalt naval station. As the Lieutenant-Governor alighted from his car in his Windsor uniform and cocked hat, the guard presented arms and a military band played "God Save the King."

A Fifth Session

THE Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia meets today in its fifth session. Only once before, in the history of the province, has a Legislature had a fifth session. Several had three sessions, one had two and most had four. The third Legislature, like the seventeenth, stretched out to five sessions, and its closing days were stormy in the extreme.

The third Legislature was elected in May, 1878. The province had entered Confederation seven years before on the understanding that a transcontinental railway should be commenced within two years. The railway had not been commenced, and the province was full of resentment. Hon. George A. Walkem was prime minister and one of his first actions was to introduce a resolution calling for secession unless the railway was begun by May, 1879. The resolution passed after a heated debate.

The second great question of the day was the Esquimalt graving dock. This work, estimated to cost \$500,000, had been begun some years before, on promise of subsidies from the Imperial and Dominion governments that would meet the whole expense. The province was expected to lay out only a few thousands for cement. By the time the fifth session of the Legislature came round in 1882 it was evident that the cost to the province would be a quarter of a million or more. This was a staggering burden for the young community to shoulder, and the report of a committee appointed to investigate charged the government with mismanagement and lack of business ability and with spending money without legislative authority. The report was very nearly adopted, only the Speaker's casting vote saving the government.

The session dragged on for three weeks after the vote. There were twelve men on each side, with Mr. Speaker Williams holding the balance, and the government had to exercise the greatest caution and skill to avoid an adverse snap division. There is said to have been one convivial member on the government side at the time who could not be depended upon. There wasn't any whip to keep him to time, but it was known that his presence might be vital. In the emergency, the provincial police were instructed never to lose sight of this highly-important member and to produce him on demand.

By such means the government managed to hang on until prorogation and to defeat the opposition's plan for redistribution. After prorogation, Mr. Walkem was made a judge of the Supreme Court and Mr. Robert Beaven succeeded him. When the election took place, Mr. Beaven was left with only seven supporters in a House of twenty-five. But he held on to office for six months and daringly faced the House when it met in January, 1888. Of course he was overwhelmed.

Premier Tolmie's project of union government is jam yesterday, jam tomorrow, but never jam today.

The government at Victoria has defied the political lightnings by extending the life of the Legislature into the fifth year.

With Blank Shells

WE do not know exactly what the people of British Columbia will make of the ceremonies at the formal opening of the Legislature yesterday. Under all the circumstances of these drab and dismal times, should we welcome and smile for a moment at that afternoon's playing at parliaments, or should we turn aside with impatient frown? The fifth session of the Seventeenth Legislature has begun with glitter and gold lace, and a salute of guns, and horses and men and guards of honor. And a speech from the throne has been put into the mouth of His Honor, with as little touch with the stern realities which face our representatives at Victoria as if it were the prologue to some merry mask and extravaganza. Well, it is just not possible to take it seriously, and we had better not try. We had better smile if we can; we had better say: "Oh, boys will be boys!"

The justification that will be made, of course, is that the government in its ceremonial arrangements was only observing a tradition and following the example of more distinguished and important parliaments. It was the same, we suppose, with the speech from the throne. There was a time when such pronouncements meant something; when they were intended to disclose the mind of the government upon important questions of public policy; when they foreshadowed the intentions of the government about laws and the public accounts. Yesterday the speech from the throne followed the modern example of saying nothing at all, and saying it in exasperating terms of ponderous fatuity. But at least there was one touch of lightness in that negligible document, and we imagine that His Honor must have had hard work of it to suppress a smile when he came to it. To say, as the speech said, under all the circumstances we have known during the life of this regime, that the Tolmie government had "refused to be stampeded," was surely, and all the more because it was probably unintentional, a masterpiece of verbal irony.

Well, the guns and the blank shells have been hauled back to the drill hall, and the dress uniforms have been laid away in mothballs, and the Legislature faces its real job. The Legislature faces the job of balancing the public accounts of British Columbia. There is nothing much else that matters or needs to be done this session, and the more by token that everything else depends upon that necessity at last. No doubt it is an admirable quality in men and governments that they should possess their souls and refuse to be stampeded. But when talking about refusing to be stampeded is only a helpless way of saying that a government is not going to move at all, then we can be pretty sure that the saying can be taken as the last will and testament of that government. The government at Victoria may continue its refusal to be stampeded, but the government has either got to move decisively this session or it will have the sad memory of this session as its last.

The civil servant, whoever he was, who wrote that speech from the throne for His Honor to deliver yesterday should have a distinguished career open to him in musical comedy.

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Victoria Turns Out for Big Show "Across the Bay"

Seventeenth Legislature Opens Bravely, As Always.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—The Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia opened its fifth and last session on Thursday precisely as it opened the preceding four—with the same old air of pleasant unreality, like a fairy story of dashing knights and fair ladies; with the same old hush of expectation which half a hundred years of disappointment can not dim; with the same old feeling of good-fellowship and co-operation between both parties as if there were no yesterday and no tomorrow.

LOG OF THE CAPITAL.

Yes, there was a touch of mortality about this last session which added a kind of melancholy and morbid interest. Here we were looking down on a dazzling spectacle of scarlet uniforms and beautiful women and, huddled into one end of the chamber to make way for the public, was the seventeenth Legislature, which would never huddle or open again. It was our last sight of the seventeenth Legislature in its opening splendor, and the seventeenth Legislature, with a far-away look in its eye, seemed to be thinking of the days that are no more—the days when it came here full of hope, its face radiant with happy illusions. Faces were a little older at this last session, a little graver for in nearly five years these men have been through more than the public realizes, have endured much and learned much, and they come here now on the eve of election, grim and rather humble.

As usual, all Victoria turned out for the show. The electors scoff at legislators, they are skeptical of politics and cynical concerning politicians of all sorts, but let any distinguished citizen be left out of the invitation list for the opening, let any Victorian be deprived of his right to watch the Governor arrive in gold braid and cocked hat, and you will see in what affection this ancient folk custom is held here. After the opening day nobody will look at the Legislature except a few old codgers who have nothing left to do, and some ancient ladies who will bring their knitting. The rest of the population will stay home and complain about the rotten state of politics. But on the first day, it is a kind of vast community party which nobody would think of missing.

THE OLD EMBLEMS.

As it waits for the Governor to arrive, the House wears its party manners and its party clothes. Every Conservative, as usual, displays a bunch of primroses, immemorial emblem of Conservatism, in his button-hole, primroses from the Esquimalt garden of Attorney-General Pooley, who has nursed them through this hard winter, who has gone out in his pyjamas and dressing-gown at midnight to cover them tenderly with flour sacks, to protect them from the cold snap of January so that in February no Conservative bosom may be mistaken for a base Liberal one.

Mr. Pattullo and his followers across the aisle, wearing those red roses which signify their recent progress towards the left of politics, look as if they expected the drain on Mr. Pooley's primrose beds to be much lighter in future years. What flower, they ask, will the Conservatives wear when they return here, purged of all party sin, sweet and unsullied Unionists? Probably, says young Captain Macintosh, they will come next year with white lilies of purity. The lilies, says the unregenerate young Liberal, Mr. Kergin, will repose on his honorable friends' prostrate breasts.

Besides the individual nose-gays, a large bowl of white roses stands on Mr. Pooley's desk and a similar bowl of red roses on Mr. Pattullo's. And the funny part of it is that no one can find out who sent them. Undoubtedly, say the back-benchers, some fair admirer is responsible, since it seems unlikely that any elector would spend his money on politicians at a time like this. Anyway, these mysterious bouquets for the two handsomest members of the House intrigue their friends with pleasant, neighborly speculations and increase the glibness of the occasion.

MR. PATTULLO IS EXPECTANT.

Mr. Pattullo is particularly jolly, a little greyer than when he first went into opposition, but much happier, with the air of a man who expects soon to leave it. Nor would you suspect, as you look at the sleek row of cabinet ministers in those neat cut-away coats and grey ties which the Premier ordered at the first session, that few of these gentlemen will be cabinet ministers eight weeks hence, that all of them will hand in their resignations as soon as the House prorogues, and most of them, if they come back at all, will be in the back

Bruhn Would Force Tenders For All Highway Work

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—Convinced that the policy of calling for tenders for all public works and of opening these publicly is a right one and should be followed without exception, Hon. E. W. Bruhn is asking the Provincial Government to introduce legislation at this session by way of amendment to the Highway Act, which would make this course obligatory on any government that was in office.

Since he has been at the head of the provincial department of public works, Mr. Bruhn has rigidly followed the practice of opening all tenders in public, comparing the competitive bids received against the estimate of the department's own officials for the specific works in hand. The tenders in all cases have been awarded to the lowest bidder able to carry out the contract.

Day Limit for Landing Salmon to Be Protested in B. C. Legislature

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—Protest against the Federal Government's new fishery policy, compelling all salmon on this coast to be landed within twenty-four hours of being caught, will be filed in the Legislature by Jack Loutet, Conservative of North Vancouver. He will ask the House to open the whole question and demand that the Federal Government modify these regulations which, he contends, will seriously damage the fishing industry, since fish can not always be landed in the required time.

Mr. Loutet has filed notice of a resolution to this effect, the first proposal to be advanced by a private member, and it will be discussed early next week. As the fishing industry appears strongly against the new policy, Mr. Loutet is confident that the House will support him in approving representations to Ottawa.

FIVE-MILLION DEFICIT IN 1931-32

Figures for Period Ending One Year Ago Revealed By Jones.

SMALLER LOSS IN LAST YEAR

Relief for Year Prior to Last March Totalled \$1,830,502.

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—British Columbia's current deficit for the last fiscal year, ending March 31, 1932, is placed at approximately \$5,000,000 by Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance, in public accounts filed with the Legislature today.

While the balance sheet charges the province with a total deficit of \$7,051,560, this includes nearly \$2,000,000 for unemployment costs, which all provinces are now charging to capital, but which, in the last fiscal year, were charged to current revenue. As against a drop in revenue during the year of \$5,926,039, Mr. Jones effected departmental economies of \$1,342,000.

DEFICIT SMALLER FOR LAST YEAR.

This is the story of the last fiscal year. In the current fiscal year, which will end on March 31 next, the province's current position has vastly improved. When the comptroller-general's report for the first nine months of this year is filed, it will show only a small deficit on current account, following a sweeping economies in all departments.

The usual summary of the public accounts issued today said:

"Public accounts filed in the Legislature today by Honorable J. W. Jones, minister of finance, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1932, show an ordinary deficit of approximately \$5,000,000. For the fiscal year, ordinary current expenditures total \$25,373,325, and ordinary current revenue \$21,373,325, a deficit on current account of \$4,000,000. Capital account expenditures, which include such matters as sinking funds, redemption of debentures, interest on P.G.E. bonds, and payment on British Columbia House mortgage, and special warrants for unemployment relief, brought the total expenditure for the year up to \$29,212,317, all of which is charged in Mr. Jones' accounts to current revenue. Current and capital revenue totals \$23,162,557.

RELIEF FOR YEAR COST \$1,830,502.

In the total expenditures included is a sum of \$1,830,502 for unemployment relief purposes. Had it been possible, under existing legislation, during the last fiscal year, to do so, this amount would have been capitalized, as is being done this year by every province, for unemployment purposes. If such an arrangement had been brought into effect before April 1 last, the government's total deficit would have been \$5,221,078.

"The accounts show that the government's revenue during the fiscal year fell below estimates by \$5,926,039, but at the same time Mr. Jones was able to effect drastic savings in almost all departments of the government to a total of \$1,342,000, after providing for additional expenditures under supplementary estimates, making a total saving below estimates of \$1,068,894. Even charging unemployment costs to current revenue, Mr. Jones' total deficit is shown at \$7,051,560."

But There's a Touch of Maturity, Melancholy About It.

benches. All that is eight weeks off, and this is today, the opening day, the day of our little glory. And so the guns boom and the windows rattle and martial music wells up from the lawns, where the uninvited citizens watch the show from afar. In the distant dome room you can hear the clank of swords on tiled floors, the jangle of spurs, the swish of men moving in stiff uniforms, which have been laid away in mothballs since the last time the House opened. Slowly and with measured tread they march up the centre aisle, very gorgeous, very stern, as if something profound and awful were afoot, as if King Charles were coming to arrest the Five Members.

Alas, it is nothing so exciting. It is only the speech from the throne, but the crowd of visitors, the distinguished citizens, the wives who have come to display their new spring dresses, the flapper daughters in dinky little hats, they listen in a deathly silence as if the speech might announce the end of the world, or the sale of the P. G. E., which would be equally surprising. The speech has no such intelligence to convey, nor any other. As usual with our speeches from the throne since earliest times, it conveys nothing whatever. As usual, and perhaps more than usual, it is a mighty masterpiece of omission, over which statesmen have labored all night to eliminate the last vestige of information, and perceived with joy by the light of morning that their efforts have been a glorious success.

THE COUNTRY IS SAFE.

There is no reference to the sale of the P. G. E., to redistribution, to a reduction of the cabinet, to a union government. All the facts of life the government has hidden from the tender ears of the public with a fine delicacy. But how gratifying to learn in this year of depression, in the midst of this financial crisis, when civilization trembles on the brink and there is an election just around the corner—how gratifying to learn from the speech that our future is secure, our country safe because we have vast deposits of alluvial gravels. And how charming to hear that in this year of stress that the government "has refused to be stampeded." Never before, one supposes, has that honest western word entered a speech from the throne in a British Parliament anywhere, and it is easy to guess who put it there, for it smacks of Saanich and the old Tolmie farm, and those days, now gone, in the happier pre-Kamloopian era.

Well, the government listens to the speech with the quiet satisfaction of parenthood, knowing that it has achieved the ultimate in throne speeches by taking as many words as possible to say nothing, by creating a speech which, like the upper stretches of the old Tolmie farm, is barren and a little windy. As for Mr. Pattullo, realizing that it says nothing, he looks like a man who disbelieves everything it says, and he can reflect that his government, while it said no more, usually said it with greater economy.

It is over at last, the Governor leaves, the guard clanks out, our little moment of glory is over. The House prays that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established for all generations. The Speaker announces that he has obtained a copy of the throne speech "to prevent mistakes," a harrowing possibility. The Premier and Mr. Pattullo joined in tribute to the memory of brave old Mike Manson, who came to this Assembly in its early days, but will come no more. And so it is all over, the captains and the kings depart, the janitors start to sweep the floors, the Seventeenth Legislature is open again.

The Playboys at Play

THE British Columbia Legislature got off to a characteristic start on Friday. It began playing politics from the word "Go." Both sides played with all the old-time zest and quite in accordance with past performances. Neither, it is evident, has any intention of foregoing the game and facing realities.

One would think that the announcement of a \$7,000,000 deficit and the necessity of borrowing money to make this good, in the present state of the market and the province's credit, would have sobered the playboys. But not a bit. Even Mr. Jones, who should know the meaning of that deficit and the succeeding one which he is now building up, sought to extract what political comfort he could get from the situation by explaining that if it hadn't been for unemployment—which he didn't budget for—the deficit would have been only \$5,000,000. And Mr. Pattullo, fearing lest Mr. Jones extract one single drop of political pap, did his best, by invoking rules of order, to prevent his getting it.

And on the very same opening day Mr. Pattullo had to waste, the time of the House by forcing a vote on a purely political issue—whether Mr. Walkem should be a member of the committee on public accounts. It probably does not matter five cents to the province whether Mr. Walkem is a member of the committee or not. If he is a member, he will do as good work as any. If he is not on it, someone will take his place. But it seemed desirable to the leader of the opposition that a test of political strength should be forced at the very outset—given on a trivial question. And, good politicians that they are, the members on the government side rose in their might and repelled Mr. Pattullo's attack. And British Columbia, with her \$7,000,000 deficit on her shoulders, is paying for that sort of nonsense. Seeing that this is a pre-election session, and that it has started out so auspiciously, she may expect to have to pay for it and to be a spectator of it for six or eight weeks.

As the late John Oliver used to say, sometimes of his ministers, the members of the Legislature are "incorrigible." The house is ablaze and they pay no attention. As fighters of fire they are about as valuable as the gulls that screech over James Bay.

Country and City

THE urban dweller often wonders why his vote, at election time, has so much less value than the vote of the man in the rural constituency. In the last federal election, for instance, nearly 32,000 people went to the polls in Burrard and elected one man. The same day, about 33,000 people in Comox-Alberni, Kootenay East and Cariboo elected three members. In representation bills in Canada, whether Dominion or provincial, the country constituency is always favored. It is assumed that a city member can represent thirty thousand people as easily as a country member can represent ten or fifteen thousand. He can meet his constituents so much more easily than his country colleague can, and the city dwellers, living close to one another and being organized in various ways, in municipal, commercial and trade associations, can more easily make their wishes known than the more scattered country dwellers.

The Goderich Signal, which has been delving into representation questions, suggests another reason. It believes the

country voter is entitled to have a greater value given his vote because he uses the vote more than the city man. The London Advertiser, considering this argument, points out that while 89 per cent. of the North Bruce voters and 85 per cent. of those in South Huron went to the polls in the 1930 election, one of the Toronto ridings polled only 48 per cent. of its registered vote and another only 42 per cent.

It is interesting to note that in British Columbia, as in Ontario, the country districts are well ahead of the cities in the percentage of possible votes polled. Following are the figures:

Constituency	Voters on list	Votes polled	Pct.
Cariboo	22,197	16,889	76
Comox-Alberni	10,761	8,963	84
Fraser Valley	15,802	13,385	85
Kootenay East	10,834	9,212	85
Kootenay West	17,911	14,150	79
Nanaimo	28,593	20,598	72
New Westminster ..	32,647	23,970	74
Skeena	11,770	9,733	83
Vancouver, Burrard ..	45,220	31,878	70
Vancouver Centre ..	33,483	22,244	66
Vancouver North ..	16,737	12,661	76
Vancouver South ..	47,226	31,728	67
Victoria	22,151	14,740	66
Yale	18,004	13,480	75

Sale of P.G.E. Subject Of Query In House

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—L. A. Hanna, Liberal member for Alberni, placed a question on the order paper for Tuesday next, asking the minister of railways:

"Have any offers for purchase, option to purchase or any other proposal been received by the government in respect of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway since August 20, 1928? If yes, by whom were such offers made, and what were the terms and conditions suggested in each case?"

WALKEM WILL LEAVE TOLMIE

Vancouver Member Applies for Seat on Opposite Side of House.

INDEPENDENT

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—His breach with the government complete, G. A. Walkem, elected as a Conservative in Vancouver, will cross the floor of the House next week, it was understood at the Legislative Buildings today. Mr. Walkem will be given a seat on the opposition side of the House, probably in the back row.

On Friday the government majority formally read Mr. Walkem out of the party by voting to exclude him from the public accounts committee, but Mr. Walkem already had announced his intention of withdrawing.

Apparently Mr. Walkem will be entirely independent of any group in the House. He has applied for a seat adjoining the opposition, but no particular desk has yet been selected for him.

A tilt occurred in the House yesterday when members of the public accounts committee were named. Mr. Pattullo moved an amendment calling for the addition of George A. Walkem, Conservative member for Vancouver. Mr. Pooley protested that the procedure was incorrect, but the Liberal leader was upheld by the Speaker. J. W. Cornett, Conservative whip, remarked that Mr. Walkem had declined to sit on any committee last year; but Mr. Pattullo said that the Vancouver member suggested to him that he would be willing to act on this committee.

A recorded division followed, and the vote was on straight party lines, 29 to 9 against the amendment.

LEGISLATURE NAMES NEW COMMITTEES

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—Select standing committees of the Legislature were selected yesterday as follows, the first-named member being chairman:

Agriculture—Lister, Berry, Carson, Mitchell, Heggie, Dick, R. Mackenzie, Fitzsimmons, Uphill, Wrinch, MacPherson and Gillis.

Fisheries—Kirk, Macnaughton, MacIntosh, Carson, Wrinch and Hanna.

Forestry—Macnaughton, Heggie, Spencer, Fitzsimmons, Kergin, Gray and King.

Mining—Borden, Schofield, Fitzsimmons, R. Mackenzie, Macnaughton, Uphill, Kergin and Gillis.

Municipal Matters—Hayward, Alward, Heggie, Rutledge, Loutet, Mitchell, Walkem, Gray, Hanna and Gillis.

Printing—Beatty, Schofield, Hayward, King and Uphill.

Private Bills—Twigg, Loutet, Kirk, Cornett, MacIntosh, Borden, Manson, Hanna and Kergin.

Public Accounts—Berry, Twigg, Kirk, Beatty, Carson, MacIntosh, Lister, Kingston, Alward, Cornett, Sutherland, Pearson, Hanson, Hanna, Kergin and MacPherson.

Burnaby Park Bill Introduced In House

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—A bill to amend the Central Park Act, providing for an amendment to the lease held by the District of Burnaby so that a further seventy-seven acres of adjoining land may be included in the park area, was introduced by Attorney-general Pooley in the House yesterday.

Eight Bills Will Be Introduced By Pooley

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—Intimation of eight bills that will come before the Legislature was given yesterday. All will be introduced by Attorney-General Pooley. They will include bills to amend the following acts: Testator's Family Maintenance, Children of Unmarried Parents, Cemetery Companies, Bills of Sale, Conditional Sales, Fire Marshal, Parents' Maintenance, and Lunacy.

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Twigg and Fitzsimmons Open Debate in Legislature

House Starts on High Plane—and Rather Empty. Old Instincts Strong—Politics Not Entirely Shunned.

LOG OF THE HOUSE.
By BRUCE HUTCHISON

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—The debate on the speech from the throne, wherein there is nothing whatever for debate or for any useful purpose either, started in the House Friday on a plane too high and too moral to be anything but insufferably dull. The House, on its first working day, with the gold braid and uniforms and distinguished visitors all removed, had evidently resolved to continue that same atmosphere for pious unreality which marked its opening. Alas, it couldn't sustain such an atmosphere even for two days. The flesh was weak. Long before dinner time the calm surface of non-partisanship had been badly punctured, showing clearly the eternal fires of politics that rage beneath.



the eternal fires of politics that rage beneath.

Perhaps it was as well. We couldn't stand many days such as Friday started out to be—Friday which is the political day of days, the day in the week when parties always try to do their worst, to explode their bombs, to impress the unsuspecting public during the leisure of the week-end. Friday started out, indeed, like a funeral procession on a rainy afternoon. As for the debate on the speech from the throne, which we were supposed to be launching, we merely went through the motions, listlessly and without any hope of arriving anywhere, except at the grave-side.

Mr. Twigg of Victoria launched the debate with a very faint ripple. He moved, the immemorial motion thanking the Lieutenant-Governor for his speech from the throne, which contained nothing to be thankful for and, for that matter, nothing to be annoyed about either—nothing at all. As mover of this motion Mr. Twigg was supposed to speak the government's opinion, or rather to set the tone, to create the atmosphere and indicate the government's general state of mind.

A STATE OF MIND.

Evidently the government's state of mind, if Mr. Twigg gauged it, is rather flat and, if not without hope, at least without any high expectations. Perhaps it is hard on the government to blame it entirely for Mr. Twigg's state of mind; and, on the other hand, it is no doubt an injustice to Mr. Twigg to imagine that his real state of mind is as negative as that which, being a loyal supporter, he seemed bound to assume.

This was too bad, for Mr. Twigg, beyond all question, is one of the ablest members of the Legislature, a skilled parliamentarian, an able debater, a sound legislator and an accomplished speaker with an Old World suavity and grace. From him we always expect something good and usually get it.

But as government interpreter he had little scope, or used little, for these recognized talents. He took a lofty stand, refusing even to mention the words "politics" or "party," in token of the government's repudiation of both, scheduled for the spring. Yet in refusing to mention such things, he came dangerously near mentioning nothing whatever, or nothing that anyone could get hold of.

Probably that is a little unjust, though, since he pleaded strongly for a new conception of British Columbia's future economically. He pictured British Columbia as a complete unit in itself, an area cut off from Canada by mountains, from the United States by tariffs, looking out on the sea which brought its people here and which must be the medium of their future.

Let British Columbia, said Mr. Twigg, look out over the Pacific and find among the teeming multitudes of the Pacific bowl the markets for its great resources. Let it have courage to strive for its own future in its own way, forgetting quick remedies and legislative panaceas. Instead of criticizing governments, let business men grasp these opportunities themselves and then, perhaps, these hard times would be a blessing in disguise, teaching us that we can't get rich quick, that a great future can only be built on sound foundations.

ON OUR OWN FEET.

The Legislature in Mr. Twigg's view couldn't do much about the present crisis. Only the people could solve it by their own endeavors. As for the government, it should concentrate on the development of foreign markets rather than wasting its money on such things as reclamation schemes. Meanwhile nothing could be gained by petty squabbling. We must bear our load with fortitude, and perhaps a heavier one, but with strong resolve and our natural wealth, we would win through. As the speech from the throne was never mentioned, apparently it wasn't going to be much help to us in winning. And as the government was barely mentioned either, no one could accuse Mr. Twigg of any party bias.

Capt. Fitzsimmons of Kaslo-Slocan seconded Mr. Twigg's motion in the same spirit. This was not new for the captain, as it was for Mr. Twigg and other Conservatives, whose renunciation of party politics is somewhat recent, and as yet rather timid and experimental. Capt. Fitzsimmons has urged the House for years to stop squabbling and the House has always applauded heartily and squabbled harder than ever. Again the captain renewed his plea and in his blunt, sailorlike style told the House that the country was sick of its partisan debates, its sham battles between parties.

As a sailorman, he said he had learned in his deepsea days (before he started to pilot stern-wheelers on the Arrow Lakes), that after a storm the captain's first job was to make an observation and see where he had drifted. Today, during this brief lull in the economic storm, the captain suggested that orators of the more frothy sort should pause and enquire how far the "stormy waters of useless argument" had driven them from the truth and the actual condition of the country. Having given the House his simple message, this simple and charming old pioneer from the interior observed his own advice and sat down. If a lot of other gentlemen followed his example the session, while not spectacular, would soon be finished, and it would be very agreeable.

THE DRAGON IS UNLOOSED.

Mr. Pattullo adjourned the debate to speak Monday and the government benches wondered whether he would follow the Conservatives' example and avoid politics, or break the unearthly peace which has prevailed so far. But we didn't have to wait for Monday to see the dragon of politics rear its head. The case of Mr. Walkem, which no one in the gallery understood, unloosed the monster and revealed for a passing moment the struggles that are going on with it here behind the scenes, behind many a smiling face.

The case of Mr. Walkem was peculiar, perhaps unique. For behold, Mr. Pattullo jumped up to demand that Mr. Walkem, a Conservative, be added to the public accounts committee. Mr. Walkem, it seems, had asked Mr. Pattullo to render him this favor, Mr. Walkem being absent. Such a thing as a Conservative applying to the opposition leader instead of the Premier had never been heard of. It was rank heresy. It was repudiation of the party. It was unforgivable. As such it was accepted by the government and the Conservative members. Bluntly they refused to put Mr. Walkem on the committee, and Mr. Hinchliffe whispered to Mr. Pattullo that already he was playing politics. The politics, Mr. Pattullo retorted, were being played by the Conservatives. Politics are being played anyway, that was certain. Mr. Pattullo forced a division on this extraordinary issue of Mr. Walkem, and the Conservative members voted solidly to exclude Mr. Walkem from the public accounts committee. If that wasn't reading a member out of the party, what was it? Conservative members said it was, and they were glad, because the independence of Mr. Walkem has long been a deep aggravation to the government.

But there was more behind this amazing spectacle of Liberals all voting to put a Conservative on a committee and Conservatives all voting to keep him off. There was behind it the hardening fist of the Prime Minister. For three years now his friends have been trying to persuade him to deal ruthlessly with recalcitrants in his own party. Always he has refused, preferring the way of negotiation, the technique of the open hand. To Mr. Walkem was applied the technique of the closed fist, with a grim look on the collective face of the government as it stood behind its chief. Liberals might say that this wasn't non-partisan government, but Conservative members only hoped that the new technique hadn't been started too late.

Tolmie Plans Firm Stand With Rebels
Will Have Loyalty Or Ask Doubters To Leave Caucus.

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—While W. J. Bower, K.C., was preparing to come back into politics with a party of his own, Premier Tolmie was getting ready to deal firmly with all rebels in his camp. From now on, his closest friends declared, the Premier will assert his leadership, insist on loyalty and cut himself off from those in his councils who are only lukewarm towards his policy of union government.

Friday's surprising incident when the Conservative majority formally voted to exclude G. A. Walkem from the public accounts committee because of his hostility to the government, was only the first step in the new programme, according to the best-informed politicians. Any other members who are not in accord with the Premier will be made to realize that the government wants in its caucus only men who believe in its policies and are willing to fight for them.

MUST MAKE CHOICE.

"The government's feeling now is that all who are not with it are against it," said a leading Conservative politician who knows the Premier's views intimately. "We have an ample majority and are only weakened by attempting to keep in line men who are not really sympathetic. From now on you will find that members will have to make a clear-cut choice—either to support the government or declare their independence openly. This is the only honorable course open to them. But, as a matter of fact, we expect little defection. Perhaps two or three members will leave the caucus which will be no occasion for regret. Their presence has been no strength to us, only weakness, and we would rather have their open opposition than lukewarm support."

The public rebuke to Mr. Walkem by a formal division of the House will be followed next week by further plain speaking. After T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, has spoken on the speech from the throne, Conservative members are planning to make their position clear.

POSITION OF MEMBERS.

The position of the average Conservative member seems to be this: For the present session he will stand loyally behind the government in its legislative programme, acting as a Conservative. He will seek to get the business of the House completed as rapidly as possible and postpone all party troubles until afterwards. Public business finished, he will then insist on a complete understanding with the Premier and his ministers as to their future plans, before he goes home.

Three chief questions must be decided: whether the Premier can really form a union government, whether this matter should be submitted to a party convention or not, and when the election is to be held. The caucus will not dissolve until it knows what is going to happen in these matters; meanwhile it wants to get on with the legislative job.

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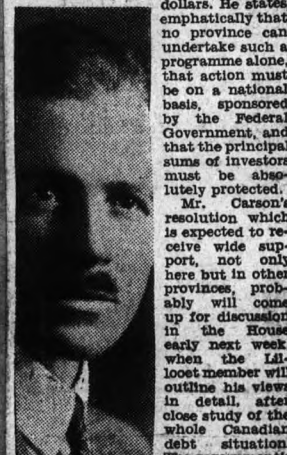
Lower Interest Rates Sought by Lillooet Member

Legislature Will Be Asked To Endorse Appeal to Government.

Carson Declares High Rates Prevent Use of Capital In Business.

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—Nation-wide writing down of interest rates in Canada on all governmental borrowings, federal, provincial and municipal, is proposed in a movement launched here today by E. C. Carson, member of the Legislature for Lillooet.

Mr. Carson is filing in the House a comprehensive resolution, which asks the Federal Government to devise immediately a scheme of interest reduction to relieve this country of an intolerable load of debt charges payable in appreciated dollars. He states emphatically that no province can undertake such a programme alone, that action must be on a national basis, sponsored by the Federal Government, and that the principal sums of investors must be absolutely protected.



Mr. E. C. Carson attitude towards the resolution has not been revealed, but it was learned that Mr. Carson had moved in the matter independently. His resolution is not advanced in any sense as a government proposal and members will be free to vote on it without regard to party lines.

Mr. Carson's resolution which outlines reasons for a reduction in interest charges, is self explanatory. It runs as follows:

"Whereas the burden of public debt charges in Canada, federal, provincial and municipal, has become greater than the present ability of the taxpayers to carry.

"And whereas, through the great appreciation in the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar, the taxpayers are called upon to pay security holders substantially more in actual wealth than they contracted to pay.

"And whereas these charges already have forced a number of Canadian municipalities to default on interest payments and threaten seriously to impair the financial structure of governmental finance in Canada to the great loss, not only of the citizens at large, but also of the bondholders.

HITS BUSINESS.

"And whereas the high rates of interest on government securities are preventing the investment of funds in business enterprise.

"And whereas confidence among investors, the lack of which is increasing the financial difficulties of governments, and preventing the use of capital in business enterprise, can

best be restored by placing the governmental finances of the country on a sound basis, where outstanding obligations are within the ability of the country to pay.

BASED ON ABILITY TO PAY.

"And whereas the provincial sums invested in governmental securities of all kinds must be protected and can best be protected by interest rates within the ability of the country to pay.

"And whereas this problem is national-wide and can only be solved satisfactorily through Federal action on a national basis.

"And whereas the Government of British Columbia will not attempt alone, under any circumstances, to modify its contractual obligations.

"Therefore be it resolved that this House is of opinion that the Government of the Dominion of Canada should immediately devise a plan for the scaling down of interest rates on governmental borrowings, federal, provincial and municipal, having regard to the present purchasing power of the dollar and the ability of the country to pay, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Government of the Dominion of Canada."

PATTULLO DENIES PLAYING POLITICS

Liberal Leader Attacks Province for Recent Criticisms.

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Fausing suddenly in his speech to the Legislature Monday, T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, launched a bitter attack on The Daily Province for its alleged ridicule of public men and for policies which he said encouraged the more dangerous elements of the community.

He accused this newspaper of making statements about him based on imaginary hypotheses and on deliberate falsehood. The Province, he said, had built up a great prestige by publishing a good newspaper, but now was seeking to capitalize this reputation to "bludgeon anyone in public life to impress its imperious will on those who do not subscribe to what it says, and they are subject to satire and ridicule."

Many good men would not leave private life to serve the country, fearing abuse and ridicule such as The Province constantly used, he declared, so that the paper was defeating its own aims. By undermining public confidence in men opposed to its views, The Province was supplying good arguments to those who "would subvert orderly government in British Columbia, and if those forces ever got control, the first people who would feel the effects would be the newspapers—they would be out on the street."

This attack apparently was inspired by an editorial in The Province which accused the House of playing politics at its meeting last Friday when it voted on the exclusion of G. A. Walkem from the public accounts committee.

Moratorium On Principal and Interest Near

Both B.C. Parties Unanimous in Protection For Home Owners.

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—Extension of the present B. C. moratorium on mortgage principal and interest is generally expected at the Legislative Buildings. Members on both sides of the House are demanding that the moratorium legislation, in effect here during the Great War, be reintroduced. Under it the courts were able to allow property owners to abandon interest as well as principal payments. Each case was settled on its merits and owners were required to pay as much as they reasonably could according to their resources.

The existing moratorium, applying only to principal, is regarded by most private members as inadequate and, according to information received by the government, mortgage holders are foreclosing on many homes. The Conservative caucus will adopt a policy shortly and T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, already is on record as favorable to a wide moratorium scheme.

WHAT WILL TOLMIE DO ON UNION?

Premier Expected to Make His Position Clear Today.

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Will Premier Tolmie, under terrific pressure from Conservative friends, abandon his union-government scheme and decide to carry on with a reduced Conservative cabinet?

This was the question buzzing at the Legislative Buildings today as the Premier prepared to speak in the Legislature this afternoon. That the move to scrap the union plan is making headway was indicated clearly by the Colonist, the government's organ here, this morning. It said the Premier might alter his plans since W. J. Bowser, K.C., and a substantial wing of the Conservative party have broken from the government and are forming a new coalition party of their own.

The Premier himself was silent today, in advance of his speech. Some of his colleagues said he would go ahead with union as pledged, but on the other hand, admitted that the difficulty of forming a non-party ministry was very great. Who the Premier can take into his cabinet no one knows. Many private Conservative members believe that invitations to Liberals, having been rejected, the Premier will merely reform the present cabinet on reduced lines and go to the country with it in the summer. That there will be a Conservative party convention is very doubtful.

PROCEEDING SLOWLY DEAL FOR P.G.E. SALE

Most Members Do Not Anticipate Legislation at Present Session.

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—While members of the Legislature are formally asking the government how it is progressing with negotiations to sell the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, the general understanding at the Legislative Buildings is that the deal with British interests, represented here, is proceeding very slowly. There is some hope of its success, but like all previous deals, it is regarded as extremely difficult of consummation. It is understood the government has set its face firmly against any guarantee of stock, or bond issues, by any purchasers. Negotiations are being pressed forward as rapidly as possible so that the deal, if it succeeds, may be brought into the House during the present session, but most members frankly do not expect it.

OWNERS DISCUSS CHARTER CHANGES

Favor Some Civic Amendments—Oppose Others.

Directors of Associated Property Owners of Vancouver have reviewed proposed amendments to the city charter to be sought by city authorities at the present session of the Provincial Legislature.

Resolutions of approval and endorsement were passed in respect of the following amendments sought:

To assess and tax crown-granted lands occupied and used otherwise than in an official capacity.

To empower the board of assessment appeals to hear appeals from the court of revision without requiring the grounds of appeal to be submitted.

To create a new form of police commission, comprising the mayor, a County Court judge and a police magistrate (who is paid by the city but whose appointment and emoluments are in the hands of the Provincial Government).

On the other hand, the association's directors found themselves unable to endorse other proposed charter amendments as follows, and passed resolutions opposing them:

To extend, by enactment, the limitation of a judge's powers in deciding upon appeals against assessments, whereby he is prevented from deciding each case upon its individual merits. (Under legislation now in force, this limitation would be automatically removed on January 1, 1934. The city seeks an extension of the limitation until January 1, 1936.)

To allow former owners of tax sale properties a longer time in which to redeem them. The Associated Property Owners offer, as an alternative solution, the consolidation of tax arrears providing for payment over a term of years.

The creation and operation of a municipally-owned bus transportation service. Notwithstanding the favorable plebiscite majority, the association goes on record, in view of the city's critical financial position, as considering such a venture a dangerous financial experiment and in other respects open to strong objections. The O. N. R. and the city's airport are cited as examples of the fate of publicly-owned and operated transportation schemes.

Legislation enabling the city to own and operate, as well as to lease, refreshment stands at beaches and parks. It is pointed out that this would put the city in direct competition with owners and operators of refreshment stands at, say, English Bay, who have paid real estate and business taxes, or both, for many years past.

The Associated Property Owners' endorsement of objections, as above, have been covered by C. A. Crompton Brown, secretary-manager, to the Provincial Legislature and the City Council.

Chiropractors and Drugless Healers to Have Separate Bills

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—The old fight over chiropractic and drugless healing in British Columbia has been launched anew here, with the announcement that drugless healers will introduce into the Legislature a bill covering all forms of drugless healing, including chiropractic, and that chiropractors will sponsor again a separate bill covering their practice only.

Efforts to consolidate the chiropractors and drugless healers under one bill have collapsed and apparently the House must consider two separate measures. The B. C. Chiropractic Association has informed members of the House that it has never given anyone authority to link it with drugless healers under a joint bill. It has no quarrel with drugless healers but desires to have legislation of its own, setting up a college of chiropractic, which would govern all chiropractic practice.

The drugless healers' bill would authorize the practice of all recognized forms of drugless healing, with a separate board of examiners for each.

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Provide Work For Everybody, Pattullo Plan

Urges Provincial Economic Council to Co-ordinate Industry

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—After demanding an immediate election, scoffing at the union government programme, and lodging a detailed indictment of twenty charges against the present government, T. D. Pattullo, Liberal party leader, laid down in the Legislature Monday some of the policies which he would inaugurate if he were returned to power.

Chief among them were: A provincial economic council to co-ordinate industry and to adjust production to consumption.

A comprehensive scheme of public works at "reasonable wages" to replace doles, relieve unemployment and restore the purchasing power of the people, the cost to be financed on the "national credit."

A widespread policy of land settlement for unemployed on a subsistence basis.

T. D. PATTULLO. After listening for an hour and a half to Mr. Pattullo's carefully-prepared arraignment of the government and his ridicule of the attempt to form a union ministry, the House rejected his want-of-confidence motion on a straight party vote of 33 to 11. Even G. A. Walkem, who has withdrawn from the government caucus, and William Dick, a strong critic of the ministry, voted against Mr. Pattullo's amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Thomas Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, voted with the opposition. In the amendment the House was asked to inform the Lieutenant-Governor that it did not believe the present government had administered the affairs of the province wisely and did not enjoy public approval.

At the outset of his forecast of Liberal policy, Mr. Pattullo rejected emphatically the common belief that drastic economy alone would solve the economic problem. Who, he demanded, was going to care for men thrown out of work by such policies? "We are moving in the worst kind of vicious circle and will not get anywhere by these means," he said.

PROVIDE WORK FOR EVERYBODY.

"I am opposed to the present dole method. I believe we should carry on public works throughout Canada, and I would put everybody who can work to work, and pay them reasonable wages. By so doing we would immediately increase purchasing power generally. You have got to put purchasing power back into the hands of the great mass of the people."

When Hon. W. C. Shelly asked Mr. Pattullo what he considered "reasonable wages" for unemployed, Mr. Pattullo retorted that this was a detail for later determination. "When we get over these we'll handle it," he said.

"Where would you get the money?" Mr. Shelly asked. "I would use the national credit," Mr. Pattullo replied.

"You can't use it, we tried," Hon. E. W. Bruhn interjected.

"When we get into office we'll show you how," Mr. Pattullo insisted. "We'll deal with that question. The National Government loaned \$1,500,000 to the C. P. R. without interest to keep men at work. Why can't they loan it to the provinces without interest? If that won't work, we may try something else—who knows? We are going to meet this situation. You can't continue as at present. I say that there are many people in this country who think their position secure, but it is not. If a man has a hundred-dollar bond he will usually tolerate injustices of moneyed interests. He will tolerate a man having a million dollars, without properly contributing, in order to save his hundred dollars."

"I offer this advice to those who think they are secure—that they do something to see that means are found to assure the great mass of the people of subsistence, of the opportunity to keep themselves and their families in reasonable comfort. If they don't do that, they will never be in a position of security."

Mr. Pattullo, regretting that the government had not moved earlier, offered to support any reasonable government land settlement policy for unemployed. He also favored the block-aid plan used with success in United States cities, and said the government should sponsor it here.

B. C. SHOULD START ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

A national economic council, to be composed of scientists, economists, politicians and representatives of labor was urged by Mr. Pattullo, but he insisted that British Columbia should set up its own economic council immediately. This council would collect invaluable economic information, on which to base its policy, would co-ordinate industry, cut down seasonal unemployment by regulation of work, and co-relate production to consumption and distribution.

He pledged himself to appoint such a council even if the Dominion did not appoint the larger body, for within its jurisdiction British Columbia must do its best. No single remedy would serve, and many different remedies were required.

Contrary to the picturesque speech from the throne, he said, Premier Tolmie had been "stampeded," and into a union government programme. He demanded that the Premier say what mysterious remedies and measures could be adopted by a union government which could not be inaugurated by the present government with a three-to-one majority. If they were good measures, the opposition would support them.

As against the record of this ministry he presented in some detail the record of the Liberal government; outlined its difficulties and said it had left the country's affairs in a sound condition. When the government benches laughed, he flashed back with: "Well, if the affairs were not sound why did the present government, immediately on taking office, add millions to the public expenditures?"

"Imagine suggesting union government," he added sarcastically, "at a time when every possible effort is being made to disrupt the forces of Liberal thought, when everything is being done to undermine me by underground methods! But the Liberal party gave me a free hand, a mandate to use my own judgment as see fit. I say we are a coherent and cohesive force, based on sound principles and policies and are ready to step in tomorrow and give this province orderly and progressive government."

TWENTY CHARGES AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Pattullo's indictment of the government covered every department in a series of twenty distinct allegations:

1. It had set up the largest and most inefficient cabinet in the history of the province.
2. It had ordered an audit designed to discredit the former ministry instead of presenting the facts.

3. It had wasted large sums on useless commissions.

4. It had sold bonds secretly, without public tender, creating lack of confidence.

5. It had adopted a policy of "wanton extravagance" though warned that it was leading the province into a financial morass.

6. It had sold short-term bond issues in the United States against his advice and these, maturing now, were costing millions in exchange.

7. It had submitted "fraudulent estimates" to the House, with resulting deficits, which had placed B. C. bonds among the lowest in Canada.

8. It had increased taxation continually to pay for its wanton extravagance and had reduced municipal grants.

9. It had refused to recognize the existence of unemployment at its first session.

10. Having recognized the problem, it had dealt with it wastefully.

BREAKING MORALE BY USE OF DOLE.

11. The relief policy was calculated to break the people's morale by doles and by herding men in camps to be fed like cattle.

12. It had engaged in "rampant partisanship."

13. It had undermined the morale of the civil service by unwarranted dismissals and baseless charges.

14. It had appointed an extravagant three-man liquor board and been obliged to reduce it to one man.

15. It had superannuated F. A. Pauline as agent-general in London on a large pension to make way for F. P. Burden, a minister whose incompetence was on a par with the government's.

16. It had disrupted the educational system, without providing means of carrying on school services.

17. It had pursued a policy of secrecy and withheld information.

18. It had gerrymandered two Liberal seats out of existence and, having lost Columbia, abolished it by law and left Mackenzie unrepresented at the present session.

19. It had placed the disposal of crown property in the hands of partisan affiliates and injured the University in the sale of endowment lands.

20. It had opposed humanitarian legislation while favoring special interests and exclusive franchises. The Liberal party took full responsibility for all its social services.

"From now on," a Victoria despatch says, Premier Tolmie is to assert his leadership. Unhappily, "from now on" may not be very long.

When a deficit is not a deficit, according to Hon. Finance Minister Jones: When the money you spent that you hadn't got went for unemployment.

The difference between what the Tolmie government has done and what Mr. Pattullo promises to do if we give him a chance is the usual difference between nothing and next to nothing.

Carson's War On Interest Endorsed

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Municipalities of British Columbia are preparing to get behind the proposal of E. C. Carson, M.L.A. of Lillooet, that the Federal Government devise a nationwide scheme to reduce interest rates on governmental borrowings. Vancouver City Council at the Union of B. C. Municipalities in convention here this week, will urge that body to endorse interest reduction plan.

Log of the House

The House listens to Mr. Pattullo, With Prophetic Attention, Trying Hard to Disguise Those Fears and Regrets Which Beset a Man at The Last Hour, and Refusing to Hasten That Hour Even to Please Mr. Pattullo.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—The House listened to Mr. Pattullo Monday. It listened with a new interest and a keener expectation which even the elaborate disregard, the labored carelessness and the organized smirks of the government benches could not quite hide. One eye on the election and the other on Mr. Bowers's new party, the House majority listened a little wistfully to Mr. Pattullo, wondering whether he would still be safely on the left of Mr. Speaker next year, when a lot of us will be left at home.

Just what it thought of Mr. Pattullo's ideas the House did not indicate, but that hardly mattered, since they will go to a higher tribunal shortly. They were not sufficiently powerful to break the solid Conservative bloc, not even to extract Mr. Walkem and Mr. Dick, who are really extracted, and whose love for the government is notorious, but probably Mr. Pattullo hardly expected it. He wanted-of-confidence motion was intended no doubt merely to be the usual gesture, to record as supporting the government—which Mr. Pattullo, astutely thought sufficient to seal its doom.

Apart from Mr. Pattullo's ideas, the whole House, most of which is unfriendly, had to admit that his manner of delivering them, of marshalling them, of making them listen with sudden flashes of repartee and wit, improving all the time. From a halting, hesitant and self-conscious speaker, Mr. Pattullo has developed into a seasoned debater who could hold his own in any Parliament and who derives a joy out of his own speaking which he can not conceal. We saw enjoyed Mr. Pattullo's excellent speech more than Mr. Pattullo. He radiated, indeed, a pink and boyish delight as he put the government in its place which was a pleasure to behold, and a complete confidence in his party's ability which cheered us all immensely.

MR. WALKEM IS WELCOMED.

Mr. Pattullo had hardly commenced the speech from the throne, Mr. Twigg's "funereal dirge" and Capt. Fitzsimmons' "simplicity and naïveté" before loud applause from the Liberal benches signaled the arrival of Mr. Walkem for the first time. But there was no applause from the government benches—only that self-conscious look of parents trying to pretend that they haven't seen little Johnny shooting peas at their guests. Mr. Pattullo did not pause, however, and Mr. Walkem sat down in his usual chair among the Conservatives to whom he has hidden himself, not among the opposition members who would be glad to welcome him.

As usual, Mr. Pattullo delivered himself of many a lusty epigram and fancy phrase which had been crying aloud for utterance this long while and prepared, one suspected, with as much aid from the dictionary as from Mr. Pattullo's own bursting storehouse of vocabulary. "Unrepentant and unregenerate government—government barque wallowing in the trough of hesitancy—fraudulent estimates—orgy of spending—financial policy of treach and seam—" All these and many another sharp dig in the governmental ribs kept us cheerful all afternoon. But, while frankly partisan, while saying utterly on the Liberal party and repudiating the possibility of any other arrangement, Mr. Pattullo was not bitter, as such things are gaudy here. Not as bitter as he often has been, and quite impersonal.



ATTACKS RECENT

ATTACKS RECENT

Feasting and the Legislature, Mr. Pattullo, Liberal party leader, after attack on its alleged men and for encouraged elements of the

paper of making him based on and on delib- Province, he eat prestige by newspaper, but capitalize this in anyone in its imperious not subscribe they are subject

ould not leave the country, ridicule such as ly used, he deper was defeat- y undermining men opposed to e was supply- o those who y government and if those pol, the first el the effects wewspapers—they "street."

TOLMIE UNION?

ed to Make Clear

Will Premier pressure from abandon his theme and de- a reduced Coun-

ion buzzing at s today as the eak in the Leg- on. That the union plan is dicated clearly government's or- g. It said the his plans since d a substantial tment party have nment and are n party of their

y was silent to- speech. Some i he would go pledged, but on litted that the non-party min- Who the Pre- cabinet not one e Conservative invitations to a rejected, the reform the pres- ed lines and go it in the sum- be a Conserva- a very doubtful.

F E B

1933

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY, Victoria, B.C., Feb. 23.—Scarlet and gold; bayonets flashing in sunlight; reverberating crash of fifteen-gun salute; curious crowds and blare of martial music—that, I think, is a fair description of the opening of the last and most momentous session of seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia from outside.

Within the buildings, a great crowd waits expectantly for the opening ceremonies. Members are assembled, frock-coated and with flowers in their buttonholes, while invited guests crowd the floor of the House and galleries.

To the cry of "Make way, make way!" His Honor, Lieutenant Governor Fordham Johnson, enters accompanied by Premier Tolmie and Speaker Davis.

The speech from the throne was barren in more ways than one. His Honor touched on one important point which had been forecast as a possibility for new legislation, namely, the throwing open of reverted lands for pre-emption by settlers.

The rest of the speech, in the main, was a reiteration of the numerous points already well digested by the public. His Honor made reference to the Imperial and Interprovincial Conferences at Ottawa; the increase of British Columbia's deep sea shipments of lumber last year; the renewed mining activity in the province; the excellent manner in which agriculture had stood up among British Columbia's industries during the depression; and, of course, unemployment relief.

"My government, while recognizing the seriousness of the situation, and realizing the tremendous tasks that face it, has refused to be stampeded," His Honor said.

There seems little excuse for such a statement, considering that no one has yet suggested that they might be stampeded.

That about sums up the entire speech. Somehow it leaves one with a dissatisfied feeling, a sense of being balked.

I think everyone expected something far more portentous from the throne this year, taking into consideration the many problems and difficulties facing the people of the province.

In the main it gives an impression of a man making excuses for his small brother and sympathizing with him because of the troubles in which he finds himself and which were brought about by his own peccadilloes.

The remainder of the opening session was merely routine, save for the tribute to the late Michael Manson, by Premier Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo.

Tomorrow the address in reply to the speech from the throne will be delivered — another matter of routine and courtesy with little or no possibility of fireworks developing.

But you never can tell.

HOUSE OPENS

Picturesque Scene Marks Opening

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—The opening of the House was featured by a great throng, which crowded the streets before the Legislative Buildings, and packed the galleries inside this afternoon.

His approach, heralded by a fifteen-gun salute and a band, the Governor, Hon. J. W. Fordham Johnson, arrived before the buildings promptly at three, inspected the guards of honor provided by the 16th Scottish and Navy, and proceeded to the House, accompanied by a retinue of ranking officers.

Following the speech from the throne, and prayers by Bishop Schofield, Dr. Tolmie paid a glowing tribute to the late Michael Manson, in moving a vote of regret at his passing. The motion was seconded by T. D. Pattullo.

The filing of departmental reports, and appointment of a committee for the election of standing committees, completed the business of the day.

The committee of selection named were Col. F. Lister, J. W. Cornett, Dr. H. C. Wrinch, J. H. Beatty and F. M. McPherson.

Not Stampeded

"My government, while realizing the seriousness of the situation and realizing the tremendous tasks that face it, has refused to be stampeded."

This sentence is taken from the speech that the British Columbia government put in the mouth of His Honor, yesterday.

It is fairly safe to say that a document, otherwise indistinguishable from the non-committal pronouncements delivered in the same place and on similar occasions during the last few years, will become historic by reason of this remarkable statement.

The late Arnold Bennett's young linen-draper, in "The Old Wives' Tale," one day stood before his shop window, which he had just newly dressed.

Having a knack for embellishing price cards, he had put under the figures relating to various articles, such words as "cheap," "elegant," "latest" and "recommended."

Over one of these epithets, however, which at that period was comparatively new in retail trade circles, he fairly gloated. It was "choice".

No better word, possibly, than "choice" could be used to describe the flower of rhetoric culled from the Speech and reproduced above.

One cannot but admire its appositeness. With an economy of language—pity that until very lately there has been so little economy in other directions—it exactly describes the attitude of the government.

Assuredly, "My government . . . has refused to be stampeded." It has not only refused to be stampeded, but, so far as it has moved at all, it has been in response to the most urgent propulsion from without to which any British Columbia government was ever subjected.

It has not been stampeded. Calmly and resolutely, it has done nothing in particular, and, like the House of Lords, in W. S. Gilbert's famous ditty, "it has done it very well."

TRADE BODIES SHOULD WORK, NOT CRITICIZE

Twigg Says Responsibility Does Not Rest on Governments

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—"Commercial institutions of British Columbia, instead of criticizing governments for the present situation, should do something themselves, and not expect the government to do it for them," declared H. D. Twigg, in moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

"There are opportunities of which they can take advantage if they desire, they should grasp those opportunities. It is not the fault of either Federal or Provincial Governments that commerce and exchange is so utterly broken."

The Victoria member stressed the position of B. C. geographically. "Cut off from the East by mountain ranges, with illimitable wastes in the north, and tariff walls to the south, over which we could not climb," he pointed out, "our only outlet for market purposes lies therefore to the west, to countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean, where our natural resources can find ready markets."

UNEMPLOYMENT

Speaking of unemployment, Mr. Twigg stated the present situation must be met with fortitude, and declared the teachers in the schools had great responsibility in keeping children from getting a twisted outlook on life, due to troublous conditions in their homes.

He spoke of the long standing fight of the Provincial Government to obtain better terms from the Federal Government, and mentioned as a matter of congratulation the fact that the province had got back lands held in trust, but that fight must still continue for better terms.

OUTSIDE MARKETS

Returning to the subject of outside markets as he drew to a close, Mr. Twigg said:

"We have spent millions upon millions on social services, buildings, roads and education. If we could have spent one-thousandth of that in trying to find markets for our products, British Columbia would be better off today."

"Hope for the future," he concluded, "lies in the people themselves, who must stand together, and see this thing through. Bad times are here," he said, "and we must bear them. Lying down and giving up hope would be foolish."

CAPT. FITZSIMMONS

Capt. Fitzsimmons, in seconding the motion, reiterated his stand that men in relief camps should do a certain amount of work in return for relief, saying they themselves wanted to do so. He commended Hon. R. W. Bruhn for work done in this respect, and stated that the Union of B. C. Municipalities in various meetings had not yet offered any suggestions which would take care of the situation better than at present.

He also stressed the need at the present time for sinking of political and other differences in uniting to face difficulties besetting the government, and decried wasting of time in flowery speeches in the past.

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY, Victoria, Feb. 24.—Barren speeches appear to be the order of the day at the present session. H. D. Twigg, member for Victoria, in moving the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was distinctly disappointing in that he said little or nothing that everybody did not know already. He was pleasantly eloquent and if anything strengthened his reputation for being an excellent public speaker, but beyond that—nothing.

He told us we had to find export markets for our natural resource products, because we were hemmed in by mountains in the east, icy wastelands in the north and tariff walls in the south. He therefore deduced our only outlet was to the west to countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean. This, we have been told before, and his remarks on unemployment to the effect it was an appalling situation which we must face with fortitude, might almost be said to have long grey whiskers.

J. Fitzsimmons, seconder of the motion, very generously admitted Mr. Twigg had covered the situation "fairly well." His remarks were principally confined to a touching appeal to members of the legislature to sink their political differences and stick together in this time of crisis. I may be wrong, but it seemed to me he made a slight mistake in speaking at some length and with considerable floweryness on the bad form of wasting the legislature's time by members who made long and flowery speeches.

Hon. J. W. Jones, of course, covered himself with glory by succeeding, in spite of all Mr. Patullo could do to stop him, in giving a short speech of explanation on the public accounts report.

His anxiety to show that difference between an ordinary deficit of \$5,000,000 and a total deficit of \$7,000,000 was caused by payments on account of unemployment relief, was almost as great as that of Mr. Patullo to stop him. In the end, however, he succeeded, even though his final remarks were somewhat indistinct owing to the fact that both he and the leader of the opposition were talking at the same time.

Prize plum of the day, however, was Mr. Patullo's foxy test of strength of the government's forces. Determined at any cost to settle the question of loyalty of certain members of the Conservative party, he attempted to move to include the name of G. A. Walkem, Conservative from Vancouver, in the list of names submitted by the premier for the committee on public accounts. His motion was strenuously opposed and when he called for a recorded division, the situation became even more perplexing to those who were not in the know, when the Conservatives voted solidly against including one of their own party on the committee.

While it proved to Mr. Patullo that other Vancouver members were backing the government, it did not quite explain to the public galleries why the government should be so strongly opposed to one of their own members sitting on a committee.

The mere fact that Mr. Walkem was not present, might have served as a guide to those inclined to add two and two to see if they made four. The real fact of the matter was that Premier Tolmie received notice this morning from Mr. Walkem that he intended to sit at this session as an independent member, which was tantamount to telling the government he didn't agree with their policies and didn't intend to have anything more to do with them. Or as some vulgar people would put it, he told them to "Go jump in the lake."

BUSINESS DONE

Standing and select committees were named by the premier. Private bills for the City of Victoria and the Municipality of Esquimalt seeking powers to borrow were introduced by R. Hayward.

Hon. H. S. Lougheed introduced two bills. The first was to amend the Central Park Act so that 77 acres of adjoining land of the lease held by Burnaby might be included in the park area; and second, to empower the minister of lands to select areas of land in dyking districts subject to sale and place them in the hands of real estate agents for sale on commission.

SETS DEFICIT

Hon. Jones Explains Public Accounts Report

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—Challenged repeatedly by the leader of the opposition on a point of order, Hon. W. Jones persisted and eventually succeeded in presenting an explanation of the deficit in the public accounts report laid before the assembly today. The total deficit, he said, was \$7,051,360, while the ordinary deficit was approximately \$5,000,000. A total of \$1,830,502 spent in unemployment relief, he said, was generally kept separate but due to existing legislation it was impossible to do this here.

Mr. Jones pointed out that while revenues fell below estimates by \$5,928,039, he had been able to effect savings by drastic cutting in all departments of \$1,343,000, making a total saving below estimates of little over one million, after providing for additional expenditures under supplementary estimates.

GOVERNMENT EASILY WINS FIRST DIVISION

G. A. Walkem's Name Is Not Added to Public Accounts Body

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—Argument over inclusion of G. A. Walkem in the committee of public accounts today led to the first recorded division of the House of any question and provided a unique spectacle of Conservatives voting solidly against a Liberal motion to place one of their own members on the committee.

Mr. Patullo proposed an amendment to the resolution, including the name of Mr. Walkem, and when an argument arose as to the right to do so, demanded a recorded division. The motion was defeated by a vote of 29 to 9.

According to political observers it also gave Mr. Kirk and other Vancouver members present an opportunity to vote against the government since they had expressed their intentions of remaining independent this session. None of the government members, however, voted for the motion.

The government's selection for chairmanship of various committees was also indicated when the following were named to committee memberships: Agriculture, Col. F. Lister; fisheries, T. H. Kirk; forestry, Dr. G. McNaughton; mining, Dr. Borden; municipal matters, Reginald Hayward; printing, J. H. Beatty; private bills, H. D. Twigg, and railways, Col. Nelson Spencer.

G. A. Walkem, Conservative member for Vancouver, today served notice to the Premier and Speaker Davis he has definitely broken with the Tolmie government, and will sit at the present session as an independent member. Mr. Walkem was not present at the session today, but stated in the notice that he would be here Monday.

So far he is the only one of the Conservative members who expressed dissatisfaction with the Tolmie policies who has gone through with his expressed intentions of abandoning the ship.

Other Conservative members who were said to have expressed similar views and intentions have apparently thought better of it. Their actions today would indicate they are still behind the Tolmie regime.

Mr. Dick, however, is away ill.

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY, Victoria, Feb. 25.—According to the list of questions to be submitted to cabinet ministers during the course of next week by various members of the opposition, a lively time is promised for all.

Frankly, I should hate to be in the shoes of the questioned when the questioners begin their deadly work.

The minister of finance will be called upon to reveal some very unpleasant facts, such as the total current liabilities of the province, exclusive of treasury bills, as at January 31, 1933; total cash on hand, in banks or in treasury at the same date; how much they owe the Dominion Government, and who else has the government borrowed money from, and how much.

He is also to be asked, it seems, how much the government overdraft is at the bank.

Strange, isn't it, that a member of the House can get up and ask what the government overdraft is, and expect a reply.

Yet if he were to ask his lawyer, his doctor or his baker what their overdraft was, he would probably be told to mind his own business in harsh and impolite terms.

Some of the questions, as always, are mere time-wasting inanities.

For example, who cares if an automobile ferry was operated by or on behalf of the government on Kootenay Lake during 1932?

In like manner, is it a matter of vital importance at this time whether the government rents or owns the Liquor Board premises in Kamloops, or how many employees there are in the game branch?

There is one interesting item in the list. It is recorded that Mr. Hanna will ask the Premier as the minister of railways, if there have been any offers for purchase, option to operate or any other proposals in respect to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway since August 20, 1928, and if there has been by whom were they made and what were the terms and conditions suggested.

If the minister of railways can be relied upon to give a straightforward answer to this question, we may hear at last, what we have been suspecting for some time, namely, that negotiations are under way with officials of the Bank of England.

In spite of everything, the Premier and all others concerned have steadfastly refused to give any information out on that particular subject.

I have heard, from what I consider to be a well-informed source, that the two gentlemen who accompanied Mr. Burden from England were respectively a director and a councillor of the Bank of England.

I was further told that when they first arrived here they were fairly enthusiastic about the deal, that at a somewhat later date they became a little cold, but that since the gold activity in the Barkerville area has increased traffic on the P. G. E., they have again become very anxious to make the deal.

What we are all wondering now is whether the Premier will tell the honorable members of the assembly that any such deal is pending, or will he, with his habitual lack of foresight, ponderously deny any knowledge of it?

Adding In

"Commercial British Columbia closing government situation, thing themselves the government them."

"There are which they can they desire, those opportunities fault of either al Government and exchange broken."

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Adding Insult to Injury

"Commercial institutions of British Columbia, instead of criticizing governments for the present situation, should do something themselves, and not expect the government to do it for them.

"There are opportunities of which they can take advantage if they desire, they should grasp those opportunities. It is not the fault of either Federal or Provincial Governments that commerce and exchange are so utterly broken."

The words are Mr. Twigg's. As, however, Mr. Twigg uttered them when moving the Address in Reply, they are really the words of the government, voiced through him.

It would be difficult to compress into fewer lines language better calculated to irritate the business community of British Columbia.

Shortly after the conclusion of the last session of the House, it will be recalled, the government invited a number of leading citizens to examine the fiscal and economic position of the province.

The committee, all able men, worked long and hard at a task for the execution of which they could have no other reward than a good conscience.

In due course they presented their report and their recommendations. Unfortunately, some few of those recommendations became at once the subject of heated controversy, with the result that a large part of a very valuable document was more or less overlooked.

Overlooked it assuredly was by the government, for virtually nothing has been done to institute the reforms the Kidd committee showed to be so urgently necessary.

For Mr. Twigg now to tell the heads of the financial, commercial and industrial concerns, represented by the committee, that they should do something for themselves, instead of criticizing the government, is to add insult to injury.

Had the administration, during the last three years, made one-tenth the effort to meet the situation created by the depression that has been made by non-governmental agencies in this province, it possibly would not have to confess today to a deficit of \$7,000,000 in a single year.

Pattullo Offers Jobless Solution

Mr. Pattullo's Points . . .

1. National and provincial economic councils wanted.
2. Payment of wages on public works to restore purchasing power of people.
3. Use of national credit to finance undertakings suggested for public works.
4. Land settlement urged.
5. Money spent on relief camps, leaving inadequate provision for men when camps were ready.
6. Budget balanced on fraudulent estimates.
7. Educational system has been disrupted.

Opposition Leader Flays Government Relief Policy

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—The vote of no confidence moved by opposition leader T. D. Pattullo was today defeated by a recorded vote of 33 to 11.

The only surprise furnished by the vote was that G. A. Walkem, Conservative, who recently announced he would sit as an independent, voted with the government.

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—Institution of public works on the basis of reasonable wage payments; placing people on land; a block-aid plan in large centres, and appointments of national and provincial economic councils with representation from scientific, economic, political and labor ranks were the chief suggestions made by T. D. Pattullo, leader of the Opposition, as cure for ills now besetting the province in an hour and one-half speech on the floor of the house today.

His suggested remedies followed a scathing denunciation of the government on the grounds of wanton extravagance; secret sale of bond issues; fraudulent estimates; continued imposition of taxation; inhuman and unhealthy relief conditions; wrongful dismissal from civil service; disruption of educational system, and partzanship.

AGAINST DOLE

"I am opposed to the dole," said Mr. Pattullo, "present conditions were brought about largely through the lack of purchasing power. In order to restore this, I would suggest as a temporary measure carrying out of useful public works on a basis of payment of reasonable wage. This in itself would result in diminishing the number of unemployed."

Challenged as to what was a reasonable wage the opposition leader said that was a matter to be decided when the time came, while queries from government benches as to where the money to pay them was coming from, he replied national credit would be used.

LAND SETTLEMENT

He declared himself in favor of placing as many as possible on the land, since a man was able to grow his own food supplies in a very much better position than standing in the bread line, or being herded into camps. He stated definitely if the minister of lands' policy referred to by the Lieutenant-Governor was feasible, it would have his support.

SHORTER HOURS

The shorter working day and week also found sympathy with the Liberal leader, who believed this should be accomplished without reduction of wages below a reasonable standard of living.

He said he firmly believed the establishment of economic councils must and would come, both provincially and nationally, and through their efforts closer relationship between production and consumption could be brought about.

"These organizations could be of immense benefit in assisting private enterprise in the securing and holding of markets, and thus wheels of progress would be set in motion," he said.

Mr. Pattullo's denunciation of the government policies was scathing. He claimed that as result of their extravagance fraudulent estimates had been submitted to the house to make it appear the budget was balanced, and declared that they, while protesting frugality, indulged in profligacy.

WASTAGE OF MONEY

"Notwithstanding that members of the present administration charged us with negligence in respect to unemployment," said Mr. Pattullo, "this government refused, at its very first session, to recognize that such problem existed, and made no provision therefor.

"When they were finally compelled to recognize it, they had already spent so much money wastefully there was none to meet the situation. Huge sums were spent on the erection of camps throughout the province, only to find there was no money available to run them."

EDUCATIONAL

He charged the government with disrupting the educational system without providing for proper provision adequately to carry it on. He suggested that the problem might better have been worked out on a financial basis instead of the "autocratic manner" in which it had been done.

"We have roads crying for attention and repair," he said, "materials with which to work on them, and 7000 men in camps to do the work, yet this government has not the ingenuity to bring them together, and have the work done."

IN CRITICAL MOOD

Despite frequent interruptions and heckling, Mr. Pattullo took the government through the entire gamut of their alleged sins, and lashed them unmercifully, with demands to know why they had to appeal to the country as a union government and not as a Conservative government.

He suggested to the Premier that he tell the house what mysterious measures he had in mind which could be carried out by non-party government, which could not be carried out by the present office holders, with their more than two-thirds majority.

House To Debate Scaling Down of Interest Rates

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—A resolution urging the scaling down of interest rates on federal, provincial and municipal borrowings will be presented to the Legislature either tomorrow or the next day by E. G. Carson, Conservative, of Lillooet.

A resolution of somewhat similar nature was presented to the House last year by Tom Uphill, Labor member, but was defeated. There is considerable speculation here as to the fate of the present resolution also to the fact that it is being presented by a government member.

SUPPORT THREE AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL CHARTER

But Property Owners' Organization Rejects Four

Approval of three major charter amendments which the city council is seeking from the provincial Legislature at its present session, and disapproval of four others, is expressed in a resolution passed by the Associated Property Owners of Vancouver, a copy of which was received by the city council on Monday afternoon. A copy of the resolution has also been forwarded to Victoria.

The amendments approved are:

1. To assess and tax crown-granted lands occupied and used otherwise than in an official capacity.
2. To empower the board of assessment appeals to hear appeals from the court of revision without requiring the grounds of appeal to be submitted.
3. To create a new form of police commission, comprising the mayor, a county court judge and a police magistrate.

Opposition is voiced to the proposal to extend the limitation of a judge's powers of deciding appeals against assessments, by which he is prevented from deciding each case on its individual merits. Under legislation now in force, this limitation would be automatically removed on Jan. 1, 1934, but the city seeks an extension of the limitation to Jan. 1, 1936.

In opposing the amendment which would allow owners of tax-sale properties a longer time to redeem them, the association offers, as an alternative, the consolidation of tax-arrears providing for payment over a period of years.

The C. N. E. and the city airport are cited as instances of the fate of publicly-owned transportation schemes, and in view of their fate the association cannot see its way to approve the charter amendment seeking power to create and operate a municipally owned bus service.

Legislation which would enable the city to own and operate, as well as lease, refreshment stands at public parks and beaches, is also opposed.

ACCOUNTS
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CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPICKER

PRESS GALLERY, Victoria, Feb. 27.—A minor flutter was caused here today by the announcement that Ernest Carson, Conservative member for Lillooet, would present a resolution to the House urging Ottawa to consider the scaling down of interest rates on governmental borrowings.

There is nothing new in the substance of the resolution, since Mr. Uphill brought in a very similar resolution last year, and Liberals, at least in British Columbia, have definitely declared in favor of it.

But for a member of the Conservative party, who have so strenuously opposed any such measures, to present such a suggestion to the House as that they should go on record as favoring it and urging Ottawa to take action on the matter, is nothing short of heresy. At least, that is what old dyed in wools think.

One thing is certain, that this particular resolution is going to command considerable attention when it is presented to the Legislative Assembly. There are many even now who doubt whether it will be defeated as was Mr. Uphill's last year, because, they aver, right or wrong, a wholesale conversion of government debentures with resultant lower interest rates, is bound to come before very long, and public feeling in favor of it has grown steadily in the past twelve months.

As expected, Mr. Pattullo, leader of His Majesty's most loyal Opposition, provided the entertainment of the afternoon. He left no one present in any doubt as to what he thought of the government. Their crimes over four-year period he sketched with a masterful hand, leaving no stone unturned in his characteristically thorough manner.

He accused them of practically everything but baby-snatching and pocket-picking, and on several occasions members of the cabinet could be observed writhing under the lash of his tongue.

His two-hour oration, however, was not all destructive. He put forward some suggestions, many of which had obvious merit, though the government, of course, would never admit they had. On one occasion, in fact, one suggestion of Mr. Pattullo's was greeted with hoots of derision from the government benches.

It occurred when he intimated that one way of helping to restore purchasing power would be to institute useful public works employing men now in relief camps and paying them reasonable wages.

Asked what he considered a reasonable wage, he said that was something that could be settled when the proper time came.

Demands as to where he would secure money to pay these wages at first met with no response, but when he continued to disregard them, they became so persistent, he was forced to admit he would utilize the national credit.

He was told emphatically that the present government had already tried that without success, and that he could not expect to succeed where they failed.

Mr. Pattullo, however, did not seem to agree with them, and while I sincerely hope that he, and not they, are right, I doubt it. If the Conservative government can get no help in this direction from Ottawa, with their own party in power there, how can a Liberal government expect any better treatment? Unless Mr. Pattullo has something up his sleeve, perhaps he has—

Tomorrow the debate will continue, and the Premier will have the floor. From the busy way in which he was taking notes today, it promises to be a hectic session.

THE BUSINESS DONE:

Very little. The amendment to the Town Planning Act bill was given a second reading, and the government bill amending the Vital Statistics Act brought down for first reading by Hon. R. H. Maitland. Aside from that and the defeat of the non-confidence vote, there was only talk, the majority of which has been heard before.

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPICKER

PRESS GALLERY, Victoria, Feb. 28.—Casual conversation with certain high officials has led me to make a very interesting discovery.

It appears that every year when the House opens, tiles in corridors in the immediate vicinity of the Assembly Chamber are forced out of their positions in the floor, necessitating their removal and re-setting.

I learned from my informants that this is caused by expansion due to heat, and it is their considered opinion that sudden addition to volume of hot air in buildings when Legislature sits is undoubtedly the reason for displacement of these tiles.

If such is the case, those same tiles must have suffered agonies this afternoon for with all due respect to the premier, his reply to the leader of the opposition was disappointing.

He offered no explanation whatsoever as to what could be done by Union government that could not be done by present Conservative majority; he forgot redistribution and disregarded cabinet reorganization.

He murmured gently that negotiations were under way with British interests for sale of P. G. E. but left the subject quickly, apparently for fear of revealing too much.

The doctor then proceeded to present as to achievements of his government in five years, a series of departmental reports, even the staunchest of the government supporters sank low in their seats and dozed during the entire course of the Premier's speech.

One or two remained loyally alert but in the main they were content to write letters to their friends and keep page boys busy running from one desk to another.

Soon after the clock struck four, however, there was a sudden stir of re-awakened interest, the evening papers arrived on the scene.

Page boys distributed them wholesale and in a few minutes government members and opposition alike were almost all buried in the exciting news of Hitler's ban on Communists.

Business done—First readings; Amendments to Testators' Family Maintenance Act; Children of Unmarried Parents Act; Cemetery Companies Act; Bills of Sale Act; Conditional Sales Act; Fire Marshal Act; Parents' Maintenance Act and Lunacy Act.

Second Readings: Amendments to Dying Assessments Adjustments Act; Central Park Act and Vital Statistics Act.

Tolmie Replies To Pattullo's Speech

Address Notable For Omissions: Deficit Explained To House

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—No mention of union government, redistribution, or cabinet reorganization; a defence of governmental policies denounced yesterday by Mr. Pattullo; and reading of departmental reports as a presentation of the government's record of achievement for four and a half years in office, were the chief features of Premier Tolmie's speech on the floor of the House today.

Unlike the fiery eloquence of the opposition leader, the premier's dissertation appeared uninspired, and provoked no heckling from the Liberal benches, which received it in stony silence.

P. G. E. SALE

On one point only did Dr. Tolmie show his hand, when he declared that negotiations for the sale of the P. G. E. were definitely under way with British interests, whose emissaries were now in Victoria.

He reiterated his former statements that the sale of this road, and development of the country through which it ran would relieve the present situation to a great extent, by serving almost at once as a means of employment to several thousand men.

DEFICIT FIGURES

Replying to Mr. Pattullo's accusations of the deficit, the premier stated that the total deficit of \$7,000,000 contained \$1,800,000 for relief, and \$2,098,682 for sinking funds, making the deficit, less these items, \$3,122,375.

He further stated the B. C. deficit was not the worst in Canada, and practically every other government in the world was facing the same situation.

Replying to Mr. Pattullo's charges of extravagance and expenditure general suggested his own retirement. The premier stated he understood Mr. Pauline was then in his 70th year.

The expense of three-man liquor board he defended on grounds that the administration of the liquor business at the time the Conservatives came into power "smelt," and that the three-man board at an additional expense of \$18,000 was the means of saving \$316,000 in a single year.

BETTER TERMS

The premier referred at length to the old question of better terms, giving detailed review of B. C.'s demands for equitable treatment in way of subsidies immediately following confederation, in 1903 and 1913.

In the last named year a commission had been appointed by the Federal government to make a report on the question, but intervention of war in the following year caused the matter to be side-tracked.

RELIEF WORK

Dr. Tolmie declared the Conservative government was in favor of putting men on relief to work, and every effort had been made to further the plan as suggested by Mr. Pattullo, but money, he said, was not forthcoming, either here or at Ottawa.

The premier then outlined achievements of the government in market extension works, increase of trade with Britain, and pointed to 50 per cent increase in lumber exports to empire countries.

In agriculture he pointed to dairy improvements; control by B. C. sheepmen of market formerly held by outside producers; horticultural progress, and pest control.

NEW LEGISLATION

He then passed to the attorney general's department, mentioning the return of the railway belt, and Peace River block; settlement of Indian questions, and Doukhobor troubles; abolition of grand jury system; efficiency of Provincial police and game administration; security frauds prevention act; automobile insurance legislation and compulsory registration of bills of sale, and liens on automobiles.

The remainder of the speech was on similar lines, pointing to the advance made by the establishment of superannuation for teachers; system of bursaries; establishment of high school correspondence course and elimination of foreign text books from schools; registration of unemployed; protection of boys and girls from overlong hours of employment in stores; amendments to land act beneficial to pre-emptor; free miners' licences; mining classes; progress in Boys' Industrial School, Tranquille Sanatorium and Essondale; construction, reconstruction and improvement of main trunk highways in the province; bridges and reduced maintenance costs for roads.

of \$16,000,000 on road works immediately after their election in 1928, Dr. Tolmie stated the roads at that time were badly in need of work, and that the Liberal government had planned expenditure of a like amount for the same purpose, had they been re-elected.

MR. BURDEN'S APPOINTMENT

Charges of partisanship in replacing of the agent general in London, he disposed of by reading from a letter received from F. A. Pauline in 1930, in which the then agent

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B. C. LEGISLATURE OPENS TO CROWDED GALLERIES

MINING, SCHOOL ACT CHANGES FORESHADOWED

NEW LAND POLICY

By C. NORMAN SENIOR

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—Assurances that "my government has refused to be stampeded" by the economic depression, and that it "has not lost faith in the courage and fortitude of my people" were given to the Legislature today in the speech from the throne this afternoon by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor J. W. Fordham Johnson.

The assembly hall was crowded with frock-coated officialdom and fashionably-dressed ladies long before the 15 guns heralded the arrival of His Majesty's representative at the portals of the building. Judges, educationists, civic officials and prominent society people occupied seats on the floor and the galleries were full to overflowing.

A uniformed guard of naval and military officers lined the promenade through which the governor passed from the golden gates to the throne.

The speech from the throne contained little information of government plans for the session.

Amendments to the Mineral and Placer Mining Acts to deal with the current gold mining excitement were announced.

Amendments to the Public Schools Act and the Vital Statistics Act were also announced, the former referring to Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe's proposed new scheme of allotting government grants towards teachers' salaries.

The speech also announced that the price and terms of sale of ordinary crown lands and lands reverted for taxes have been revised to make it easier for settlers to acquire land as a means of self-support.

References to activities of the past year included the Empire Economic Conference and the Inter-Provincial Conference.

MANSON CONDOLENCES

Following His Honor's retirement, the Legislature went ahead with the formal routine business of an opening session.

Attorney-General Pooley introduced a bill to amend the Town Planning Act, and Premier Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, moved a resolution of condolence to the family of the late Michael Manson, member for MacKenzie, who died last July.

Various ministers filed the annual reports for their departments.

ADJOURN UNTIL FRIDAY

The House adjourned until Friday afternoon, when H. D. Twiggs and Capt. J. Fitzsimmons will move the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

A number of members were absent from the opening, including William Dick, G. A. Walken, A. M. Manson and Dr. W. H. Sutherland.

Text Of Speech From Throne

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—The speech from the Throne at today's opening of the British Columbia Legislature by Lieut. Governor J. W. Fordham Johnson reads:

"I welcome you to the fifth session of the seventeenth parliament of British Columbia.

The year 1932 has been an eventful one in the history of Canada and this province.

The outstanding event of the year has been the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa, where a new policy of intense significance to the future of the world trade was adopted.

As a result of the agreements entered into, Canada has been given preference on her primary products, which should result in great benefits to her.

During the year, this Province was honored by a visit from Their Excellencies The Right Honorable the Earl of Bessborough, Governor General of Canada, and his gracious consort, the Countess of Bessborough.

"FINANCIAL CONTACT"

As forecast last year, the first British Columbia Government inspectional tour, organized by the Agent-General of this province in London and financed by those participating in the tour, resulted in a representative party leaving Liverpool toward the end of May, 1932, for a tour of the Dominion, a special itinerary being arranged for British Columbia, which, in addition to providing attractions from a tourist standpoint, furnished the necessary financial and commercial contacts which must precede increased trade.

My government was represented at the interprovincial conference held in Ottawa last month, when consideration was given to the following matters:

1. Present unemployment and relief conditions.
2. Unemployment and social insurance.
3. Old-age pensions.
4. Duplication of Dominion and provincial taxation.
5. Company law.
6. Jurisdiction over insurance companies.
7. Avoidance of overlapping where both Dominion and provincial authorities are exercising jurisdiction.
8. The regulation of truck and motor-bus services competing with inter-provincial and national rail transportation facilities.
9. Uniform statistical information.

DEATH OF MANSON

Since last we met, this Legislature has suffered a loss in the death of Mr. Michael Manson, one of the oldest and most honored members of the Legislature.

His passing has been deeply felt by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

The timber industries of the Pacific Coast, like all others, were affected by economic conditions and curtailment of markets.

It is encouraging, however, to note that, while total deep-sea shipments from the North Pacific dropped still further in 1932, those from British Columbia increased by 10 per cent and the trade within the Empire increased 69 per cent over 1931, due very largely to the trade extension work conducted jointly by my government and the timber interests, and but for which a considerable further curtailment in operations and employment would have followed.

MINING IMPROVES

Adverse economic conditions have emphasized the possibilities for useful and profitable employment in the development of our mineral resources.

Whilst it is true that the low level of base metal world prices has retarded that branch of the industry, the Province, it is becoming ever more apparent, possesses important and as yet undeveloped gold resources, both in lode formation and in its alluvial gravels.

It is gratifying to note that this is being recognized by those with capital to invest at home and abroad, as well as by the enterprising manhood of the country who are equipping themselves for prospecting this year.

MINING ACT CHANGES

Amendments to the "Mineral Act" and the "Placer Mining Act" calculated to bring those statutes more in line with present conditions, but in nowise to change the vital underlying principles of our mining laws, will be submitted.

Agriculture, in common with other industries, has suffered from deflated prices and lack of markets.

With the preferences afforded agricultural products at the Imperial Economic Conference, the agriculturist should be the first to regain his normal place.

AGRICULTURE FIRST

If our agricultural industry is to secure the maximum benefits which the market of Great Britain affords, our exportable supplies must be continuous, in sufficient volume, and of a quality and price to interest our overseas customers.

It is encouraging to the producer to note that agriculture in British Columbia in 1932 took first place over all other basic industries in value of commodities produced.

The program for 1933 indicates that this industry will maintain the lead during the present year.

REVERTED LANDS

The price and terms of sale of ordinary crown lands, and lands reverted for taxes, have been revised and modified with a view to providing easier means for bona-fide settlers to acquire lands as a medium for self-support.

My Government has placed before the Government of the Dominion of Canada the long-standing claim of this province for better terms.

British Columbia has for many years sought and has now renewed its petition for investigation of its claims for adequate consideration arising from the peculiar historical, economic and physical conditions affecting British Columbia at the time of Confederation and since continuing.

A commission was agreed to and partly appointed in 1912 to investigate these claims, but the war breaking out shortly after prevented any action.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

Until such time as there is a material improvement in the world economic situation, it is intended that Dominion-wide regulations for administration of unemployment relief will continue to be enforced, having regard to our special needs in British Columbia.

This will be done, as far as possible, in such manner as to conserve the interests of the taxpayers and without embarrassment to the self-respect of the recipient.

The problems and difficulties arising from the economic conditions prevalent throughout the world today demand wise, carefully considered, but effective action on the part of all governments.

TO DEVELOP MARKETS

They constitute a call for the co-operation of everyone, ruler and people alike, for the exertion of all the best and noblest in our boasted civilization, in a determined effort to put the world's affairs on a sound basis.

My government, while recognizing the seriousness of the situation, and realizing the tremendous tasks that face it, has refused to be stampeded.

It has put into effect every economy that it felt could be carried out without unduly serious consequences.

At the same time, it has not lost faith in the courage and fortitude

of my people, nor in the wonderful resources of the province, endeavoring to keep British Columbia in such a condition as to be able to take full advantage of the development and growth that will be made possible when prosperous times return.

It is with this end in view that my government has been making every effort to develop our markets, for it is largely in the development of our markets that employment will be created for our people."

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Legislation will be submitted for your consideration dealing with the Public Schools Act, Vital Statistics Act, Mineral Act, and Placer Mining Act.

Reports of the various departments of my government will be laid before you in due course.

The public accounts the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

I leave you in confidence that your duties will be faithfully performed, and may the blessings of a Divine Providence inspire and guide your deliberations."

GOV'T 'MUM' ON MANY VITAL PROBLEMS NO LIGHT ON FINANCES

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VICTORIA, Feb. 23.—Everything but finances seems to be under discussion by the members of the Legislature whose pre-election session is being ushered in today with the customary, if somewhat irrelevant, booming of guns and fanfare of trumpets.

Finances belong to Hon. J. W. Jones, "Jimmie," the members call him, and they are content to let him do the worrying about how a government that has been spending \$30,000,000 a year can cut its expenditures down to the proposed \$22,000,000, which is still considerably greater than existing sources of revenue are likely to yield.

Things that the members are talking about are:

1. Whether Premier Tolmie can get any outside or any other kind of support for his proposed Union Government. Most of them think he can't, and, in any event, the Conservative caucus has decided to go through the session under party colors.
2. How many Conservative members are going to desert the sinking ship for the potential Bowser lifeboat. Only two or three are suspected at the present moment.
3. What there is to all this P.G.E. sale talk. A handsome suite at the Empress Hotel is occupied by a couple of suave English negotiators who are reputed to have offered \$6,000,000 for the railway and 20,000,000 acres of lands with all oil, mineral, timber and other rights. They have been entertaining lavishly, but that is about all that outsiders know of them.
4. How long the session will last and whether it will be a hot one. The assumption is that it will run till Easter, but the normal expectation that a pre-election session will be given over to red-hot party controversy does not seem to hold good this year.

UNEMPLOYMENT POLICY

Opposition members say they can see no object in "flogging a dead horse," but they intend to watch closely to see that the Government does not get away with anything.

It is probable, however, that the sessional debates will serve to clarify the fundamental difference in viewpoint of the two parties towards the economic and unemployment crisis.

The Government's policy is a wishy-washy policy of economizing and praying that the storm will blow over.

The Liberals, as T. D. Pattullo's public addresses in recent weeks have shown, believe that constructive measures to the very limit of the province's constitutional powers must be taken to restore the people's purchasing power and revive industry.

MUNICIPALITIES HARD HIT

The Government is thinking in terms of the Government's internal financial problems.

The Liberals in terms of the problems of the people themselves.

This basic difference of attitudes will probably be elucidated sharply as the various sessional issues arise.

Of the controversial issues immediately in sight, the plight of the collapsing municipalities will probably provoke the warmest discussion.

The members have a close personal feeling for the difficulties of their own municipalities.

NO PROMISED AID

The Government promised last year, at the suggestion of A. Wells Gray, Liberal whip, that they would call a conference of municipalities to arrange a division of revenues, but the year has passed and the promise has not been kept.

Arbitrary Government action at the expense of the municipal taxpayers will be hotly resented by both Conservative and Liberal members fresh from contact with their constituents. The education controversy is a part of this issue.

HORSE RACING SEASON

Among the minor issues of which some preliminary gossip has been heard among the members is a move to increase the horse racing season in the Vancouver and Victoria tracks.

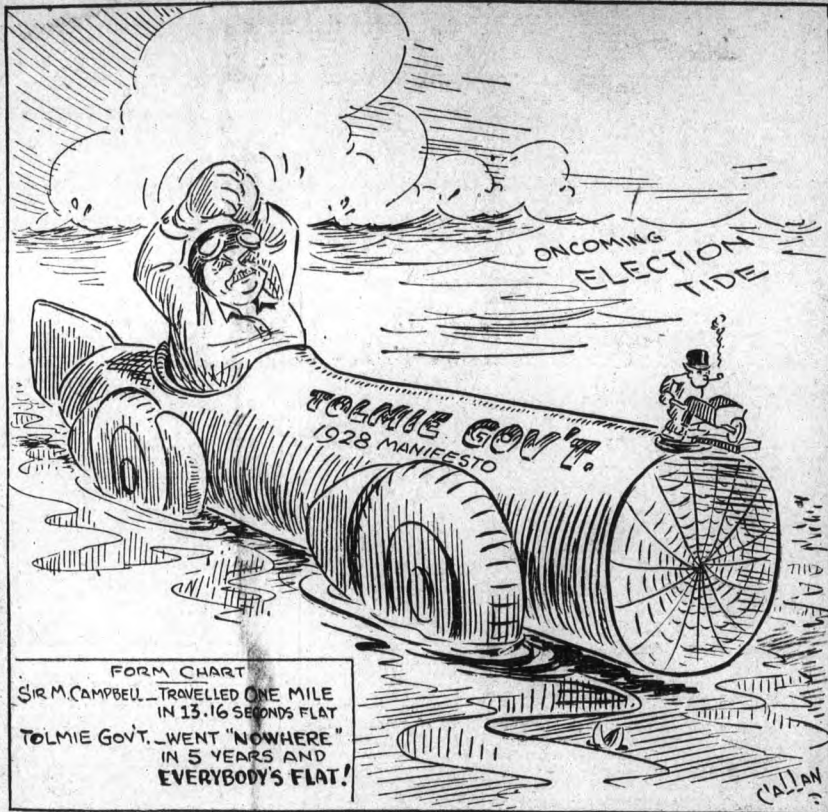
Exhibition associations are back of the drive and legislation is said to be under consideration.

It affects Crown revenues so must have the Government approval.

ALL TENDERS IN PUBLIC

Convinced that the policy of calling for tenders for all public works and of opening these publicly is right and should be followed without exception, Hon. R. W. Bruhn is asking the Provincial Government to introduce legislation at this session as an amendment to the Highway Act which would make this course obligatory on any Government in office.

SPEAKING OF SMASHING RECORDS



B. C. DEFICIT \$7,000,000

JONES TABLES BALANCE SHEET GOVT HOPED FOR SURPLUS

By C. NORMAN SENIOR

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—Public accounts tabled in the Legislature today by Hon. J. W. Jones show that during the fiscal year which ended on March 31, 1932, the Tolmie Government ran up a deficit of slightly more than seven million dollars.

Revenue collected during the year was \$22,000,000.

Expenditures were \$29,000,000.

This leaves a deficit of \$7,000,000.

The expenditures were classified as follows:

Current expenditures \$24,186,000.

Unemployment relief, \$1,186,000.

Capital expenditure out of revenue, \$3,640,000.

This last item includes the sums put aside in sinking fund for debt retirement.

The Unemployment Relief item is the amount not provided for in the Loan Act.

Compared with the budget for the year in question the public accounts show that revenue was six million dollars less than estimated in advance, while the expenditures exceeded by a million dollars the amount authorized in the budget.

"HOPED FOR SURPLUS"

The estimates tabled with the budget speech in March, 1931, called for expenditures of \$28,080,000 and revenues of \$28,088,000, which constituted a hoped for surplus of \$8000.

The over-expenditure in face of rapidly falling revenue translated the budgeted surplus of \$8000 into an actual deficit of \$7,000,000.

An explanatory statement issued by the finance department says that the accounts show an "ordinary deficit" of approximately \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year.

Ordinary current expenditures total \$25,373,325 an ordinary current revenue \$21,982,582, a deficit on current account of \$3,390,742," says the statement.

"Capital account expenditures," which include such matters as sinking funds, redemption of debentures, interest on P.G.E. bonds, and payment of British Columbia House mortgage and special warrants for the unemployment relief brought the total expenditure for the year up to \$29,214,217—all of which is charged in Mr. Jones' accounts to current revenue.

\$1,800,000 FOR RELIEF

Current and capital revenue total \$32,162,657 in the total expenditures included is a sum of \$1,800,502 for unemployment relief purposes.

"Had it been possible under existing legislation during the last fiscal year to do so, Mr. Jones shows, this amount would have been capitalized, as is being done this year by every province for unemployment purposes. If such an arrangement had been brought into effect before April first last, the Government's total deficit would have been \$5,221,078.

The accounts show that the Government's revenue during the fiscal year fell below estimates, \$5,928,039, but at the same time Mr. Jones was able to effect savings in almost all departments of the Government to a total of \$1,242,000. After providing for additional expenditures under supplementary estimates making a total saving below estimates of \$1,068,694.

POSITION IMPROVED

At the same time the Government's position in the present fiscal year, due to drastic economies in every direction, is vastly improved over that of the last fiscal year. It is expected that when the Comptroller General's report for nine months of the current year is filed in the House shortly, it is said that it will show only a small deficit on current account.

NEW FISH Rule Not O.K.'d BY B.C.

LEGISLATURE TO DISCUSS PLAN OF OTTAWA

'Province Ignored'

Special to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—The salmon canning controversy raised in Ottawa a few days ago is to have an airing in the British Columbia legislature.

Jack Loutet, Conservative member for North Vancouver, has filed a notice of motion "strongly protesting" against the Dominion order-in-council which was attacked by A. W. Neill and Tom Reid in the House of Commons.

Mr. Loutet's motion urges the Provincial Government to refuse its consent to the new regulations.

PROVINCE MUST APPROVE

According to the preamble of Mr. Loutet's motion, the Meat and Canned Foods Act under which the Dominion passed its order-in-council requires that alterations in the regulations must be approved by the Provincial Government to become effective.

Indication that the resolution has Government backing is contained in the statement in the Loutet motion that "This Government has not been consulted in regard to or officially advised of the passage of this amendment."

Mr. Loutet's motion claims that the Dominion order-in-council, while ostensibly aimed at ensuring the packing of sound salmon, has the effect of restricting the fisherman's market, thus affecting the price he may obtain, and that it appears to have been passed without a proper understanding of the situation.

TERMS OF ORDER

The new regulations attacked provide that Grade "A" certificates shall not be issued for fish delivered at the cannery more than 24 hours after they were caught, unless they were gutted and iced immediately after being caught.

The issue appears to constitute a new chapter in the feud that has existed for some years between the Provincial and Dominion Fisheries Department.

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GOV'T REJECTS GEO. WALKEM

LIBERALS Fight For TORY

UNIQUE SCENE IN THE HOUSE

MR. JONES FOOLS THE SPEAKER

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—Premier Tolmie announced today that G. A. Walkem has formally announced his withdrawal from support of the government.

Mr. Speaker Davie states that Mr. Walkem has applied for a seat immediately adjacent to the Opposition members, so that he will not be included in the government forces in the seating plan.

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VICTORIA, Feb. 25.—The Tolmie Government does not want George A. Walkem, Vancouver Conservative member, on the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature.

They made this perfectly plain Friday afternoon by lining up their supporters to vote solidly against a motion adding Mr. Walkem's name to the committee.

Why they don't want him was not indicated. J. W. Cornett, Conservative whip, suggested:

"Mr. Walkem did not wish to serve on any committee last year. He is not here yet and we should not act without his consent."

"That is all right," said T. D. Pattullo, Opposition leader, who had moved Mr. Walkem's name. "The honorable member told me he wanted to be on the committee and I agreed to propose him."

So the Legislature on its first business sitting saw the novel spectacle of the Liberal members voting to put a Conservative member on the committee and the Conservative voting to keep him off. The division was 29 to 9.

The whole of the Walkem incident was not on the surface. The usual parliamentary practice in striking committees is for the government to decide how many members there shall be on a committee and to notify the opposition that they may propose a certain proportion, always considerably less than 50 per cent. This year it was decided to let a committee of members of both sides go through the motions of selecting the committees.

TOLMIE REMOVES NAME

The special committee met Friday before the House.

The government members said that the public accounts committee was to consist of 15, of whom they had already named their own 18 and that the opposition could name five. But when Mr. Walkem's name ready to appear on the Conservative list they dropped Frank MacPherson of Cranbrook, thereby reducing the number of Liberals to four and added Mr. Walkem as an opposition member.

But when Premier Tolmie presented the list to the House in the afternoon Mr. Walkem's name had been removed and Mr. MacPherson's substituted.

Old-time members say this is the first time in history that they had ever known a government to refuse to allow the opposition to select its own members on a sarding committee. Mr. Walkem, having withdrawn from the Government caucus, is of course, now an opposition member.

The only other incident of the afternoon was an effort by Hon. J. W. Jones, finance minister, to make a statement when presenting the year-old public accounts. He sought to explain that the deficit of \$7,000,000 was really only \$5,000,000, because \$1,830,000 of it was accounted for by unemployment relief expenditures in excess of the \$2,200,000 for which provision had been made in the loan act.

BEATS THE SPEAKER

Mr. Pattullo took a point of order and Mr. Speaker Davie upheld him that the minister could not make a speech. Mr. Jones, however, managed while officially bowing to the Speaker's ruling, to complete what he had set out to say.

The speeches of H. D. Twigg and Capt. James Fitzsimmons mover and second of the address were as conspicuous as the speech from the throne itself for what they did not contain.

Their theme was that nobody had yet found a solution for the economic depression and that everybody must pull together if British Columbia was to get out of the morass.

MUNICIPALITIES TO DEMAND NEW DEAL

LEFT IN DIRE FINANCIAL STRAITS BY GOVERNMENT'S MONOPOLY OF TAX REVENUE

City Treasurer A. J. Pilkington, financial adviser to the City of Vancouver, left for Victoria Sunday night to assist in the drafting of resolutions for presentation to the Union of B. C. Municipalities convention there Wednesday and Thursday.

Other members of the resolutions committee traveled by the same boat.

Most important topics for consideration include unemployment relief, protests against announced reductions in grants to municipalities, and various devices to prevent the reversion of lands at tax sales from the province to the municipalities.

In addition to Mr. Pilkington, Vancouver's delegates are Ald. Geo. C. Miller, finance committee chairman, who plans to leave tonight, and Ald. Walter Depford, who intends to go Tuesday night.

By C. NORMAN SENIOR

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—Municipal problems will dominate Victoria and the Legislative corridors for the present week.

Leaders of the Union of B. C. Municipalities assembled here today from all parts of the province to begin preparation of their drive on the Government.

For two days the resolutions committee will sit in conference striving to put into words the province-wide protest against the government's continued nibbling away at municipal revenues.

Wednesday and Thursday the whole Union will sit in convention at the city hall deliberating on the recommendations of the committee.

It is planned that the Union executive shall lay the result of its deliberations before the municipal committee of the Legislature and the cabinet on Friday.

The two outstanding issues, closely inter-related, are:

1. Finances.
2. Unemployment.

The municipalities are in effect compartments of the Provincial Government.

Where municipalities have not been set up the province administers the same functions as are allotted within municipal borders to the local councils and school boards.

POWERS NOT ADEQUATE

The municipalities are created by the Legislature. The Legislature imposes upon local councils certain responsibilities and confers upon them certain powers with which to discharge those responsibilities.

For more than a decade the municipalities have found that their powers were not adequate for the discharge of their legal responsibilities.

In 1921 Hon. John Hart as Minister of Finance recognized this situation and, as that was the year in which Liquor Control came into being, met the situation with a percentage grant of liquor profits.

GRANTS CUT DOWN

This was considered just because in the pre-prohibition days license fees had been a substantial item of municipal revenue.

The system of subventions enabled the municipalities to carry on for a number of years, but in 1929, when the Tolmie Government came in, the share of liquor profits was cut down.

In succeeding years the subventions have been periodically diminished and new responsibilities have been thrown on the municipalities.

Last session a heavy load of social service costs was shifted from the provincial to the municipal treasuries.

This year there is a definite proposal to curtail the grants in aid of education.

PROMISE NOT KEPT

A year ago upon the suggestion of Mayor A. Wells Gray of New Westminster, secretary of the Union and a Liberal member of the Legislature, the Government definitely promised a round-table conference with the municipalities for the purpose of realigning the distribution of taxation powers on a basis more equitable to the municipalities.

That promise has not been kept. On the contrary, without any consultation, the Minister of Education has definitely committed himself to a further raid on the municipalities by his reduced education grants.

The past years has seen several municipalities collapse under the strain and go into the hands of receivers or commissioners.

ON VERGE OF COLLAPSE

Others are on the verge of such a collapse and even in the metropolitan city of Vancouver the civic budget is so unbalanced as to have created grave alarm.

RELIEF ADDS TO PROBLEM

The incidence of unemployment relief costs on municipal finances has made a bad situation worse.

Care of the indigent has always been a municipal problem, but no such economic collapse as that of the past three years was anticipated when this provision was made.

Municipal men say that the issue which must be settled between the Union and the Legislature this week is whether local self-government is to be able to survive in British Columbia. If it is, then they claim the province must either give the councils more taxation powers or relieve them of the obligation to maintain education services or to provide for the unemployed.

LOWER INTEREST

RESOLUTION ASKS FEDERAL GOV'T ACTION

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—A resolution calling upon the Dominion Government to devise a plan for the scaling down of interest rates on Federal, Provincial and Municipal borrowings was presented to the Legislature today by E. C. Carson, member for Lillooet.

The preamble asserts that only Federal action can be satisfactory and asserts that "The Government of British Columbia will not attempt alone under any circumstances to modify its contractual obligation."

Considerable interest attaches to the probable fate of the resolution. T. D. Pattullo, Opposition leader, recently advocated reduction of interest rates and Hon. J. W. Jones, finance minister, said the province would not initiate action but would wait on Dominion development.

It has not appeared whether Mr. Pattullo would advocate separate action by the province, but the debate on Mr. Carson's resolution will probably bring out his ideas on that point.

Tax Penalties to Be Lightened

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—Revision of penalties and interest charges on municipal land taxes this year to give relief to taxpayers is a practical certainty, according to indications of opinion on the matter.

In addition to a flood of applications from British Columbia municipalities along this line, the Premier has circularized municipal councils to gain information on the subject with a view to placing it before the municipal committee of the Legislature.

PATTULLO OPENS ATTACK ON LIBERALS WOULD SPEED SESSION

SUGGESTION IGNORED IN VICTORIA ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION TO CLING TO PARTY LINES

By C. NORMAN SENIOR
VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—The Legislature begins its first working week this afternoon with a speech by T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader.

While the general public is undoubtedly looking more to next summer's election than to the present session of the House for anything in the way of statesmanlike handling of the economic crisis, the Legislature has its job to do and there is no escape from it.

Mr. Pattullo has formally offered to facilitate the despatch of business so that the election may be held at the earliest possible moment, but the offer has been ignored in so far as any practical negotiations are concerned.

CLING TO PARTY LINES

The Government showed Friday in its attitude to the Walkem episode that the ordinary party line are to be rigidly observed.

The Opposition Leader's task today is therefore by no means a pleasant one.

The record of the administration during the 10 months' recess must be reviewed in relation to the problems that are ahead.

SUGGESTIONS UNWARRANTED

Fast experience has shown that constructive or any other kind of suggestions from the Opposition are not wanted and it is unlikely that very much of that sort of thing will be attempted this session.

The only place left for reviewing policy is the hustings, where the public themselves will have a chance to give their verdict.

Meantime the political situation is complicated by the advent of the Bowser forces in the field.

THE BOWSER DRIVE

The old Conservative leader, who has refused to co-operate with Premier Tolmie, has gathered his old "Bowser machine" around him and with the support of a number of members of the older generation is launching his new party this week.

A meeting is to be held in Victoria on March 2 at which Mr. Bowser is to speak.

It is understood that this meeting is to take the somewhat humorous form of request to Mr. Bowser to return to public life to "save the Province."

VANCOUVER MEETINGS

Since he has already notified a group of a dozen of leading Vancouver business men that he intends to re-enter the lists and form a party there will be nothing shy about his acceptance.

The first public meeting at which Mr. Bowser is to address himself to the public at large will be held in Vancouver on March 10 in the Vancouver Theatre.

The backbone of Mr. Bowser's movement is the old "Bowser machine" which has maintained a black list for years of those who threw down the "old chief" in 1924.

They have been vowing vengeance ever since.

TWO TOBY PARTIES

The crisis has enabled them to present themselves in a somewhat novel light, but the fundamental fact of the situation is the split in the Conservative Party.

The Liberals are watching the situation with lively enjoyment.

With two Tory parties in the field they figure their already excellent chances in the next election are raised to a practical certainty.

Meantime they are attending to their knitting in the Legislature.

Hopeless as is the task of achieving any constructive results with the Tolmie administration the members were elected to do their duty in the House and nothing can absolve them of that responsibility. Mr. Pattullo's speech today is expected to outline the Liberal position.

CHIRO'S BILL

HEALERS SEEK LEGISLATIVE STATUS

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—Another effort will be made at this session to pass legislation giving chiropractors and drugless physicians a status independent of the medical profession.

The struggle for recognition has been waged for several years by the combined organizations endeavoring to govern examinations through a board of their own.

This year, however, Chiropractors will have a Bill of their own and Drugless Physicians will endeavor to have legislation passed giving them recognition.

Members of the Legislature are being circularized by the B. C. Chiropractor Association, giving notice that that body does not wish to be associated with any Bill introduced by the Drugless Physicians, and will present a Bill of its own.

Last year two votes were taken in one day on similar Bills and in each case were defeated by one.

TOLMIE GOV'T

B.C. D

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REVENUE
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VICTORIA, amination of tabled in the Hon. J. W. shows that the total expenditure \$35,483,824.

Full details spent are accounts. These from refinancing issues.

In addition current expenditure spent \$8,268,6 account, viz.,

This is time record. the Tolmie follows:
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Loan Acts

Total

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B.C. DEBT INCREASED BY 13 MILLIONS

ALL-TIME RECORD IN DEFICITS

REVENUE 22 MILLIONS, EXPENDITURES 35 MILLIONS—HOW JONES BUDGET ESTIMATES MISSED MARK

By C. NORMAN SENIOR

VICTORIA, Feb. 27.—Detailed examination of the public accounts, tabled in the Legislature Friday, by Hon. J. W. Jones, finance minister, shows that the total government actual expenditure for the year was \$35,483,824.

Full details of how every dollar was spent are shown in the public accounts. These expenditures are aside from refinancing operations of bond issues.

In addition to the \$29,214,217 of current expenditures, the government spent \$6,269,607 chargeable to capital account, viz., to various loan acts.

This is not, however, an all-time record. In the previous year the Tolmie Government spent as follows:

Current \$29,099,964
Loan Acts \$10,058,580

Total \$39,158,544

The deficit of \$7,051,560 on current account is, however, British Columbia's all time record. The previous year's deficit of \$4,819,261 was the biggest achievement in red ink entries to which any provincial government had hitherto attained, but Mr. Jones has far over-leaped that impressive total.

The net result of the year's operations in the first year of Jones financing, was to increase the debt of the province by \$13,321,167. That is the amount by which the revenue of \$22,162,657 falls short of the combined current and capital expenditures of more than 35 millions.

WHERE IT CAME FROM

The accounts present an interesting study of how the government obtained its authority to spend \$35,483,824 in a year for which the official budget was only \$28,080,000.

Current expenditures were increased by supplementary estimates and statutory provisions by more than \$1,000,000, so that the 1931 budget itself was never really balanced. Of the \$6,268,000 expended under authority of loan acts, only \$4,400,000 came out of the 1931 loan acts. The rest was scraped up out of unexpended balances from old loan acts.

Thus, \$625,000 was advanced to the P. G. E. to cover its deficit. This money was raised under Premier J. D. Maclean's 1928 P.G.E. loan act, which was brought in for the purpose of completing the line from Quesnel to Prince George.

The Tolmie Government found that by a little stretching of the wording of the act could be construed to allow the use of this money for any replacements or renewals of right-of-ways, bridges, or equipment and has been doing so year after year, thereby concealing the amount of the annual P. G. E. deficits.

14 SPECIAL WARRANTS

A big item in the over-expenditure was the special warrants. Altogether 14 special warrants were obtained from the Lieutenant-Governor during the year for a total of \$2,278,070, of which, however, only \$1,629,944 was spent during the fiscal year. Unemployment relief took \$1,566,811 of this.

A curious feature of the accounts is that unemployment relief expenditures are charged up to three different headings. Over \$400,000 is charged to the Provincial Secretary's department. Another \$485,000 is charged to the Public Works Department, and the remainder is charged to capital account.

Following is a complete list of the special warrants for the year 1931-32.

SPECIAL WARRANTS

Purpose—	Authorized	Spent
Bureau of Markets Information	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,525
To Vancouver, for special constables	17,952	17,952
Auto accident claims (Labor Dept.)	9,386	9,386
Grant to B. C. Lumber & Shingle Manufacturers' Association	17,000	17,000
P. G. E. Land Survey	12	12
One month's salary to R. Ross Napier, in lieu of notice	300	300
Unemployment direct relief, provincial share (Provincial Secretary)	250,000	200,920
Unemployment direct relief, provincial share (Provincial Secretary)	350,000	249,993
Heating engineer	2,920	2,858
Grant to Auto Club of B.C.	2,000	2,000
Grant to Southern Interior Light & Power Co. ..	11,000	11,000
Provincial share municipal works, unemployment relief (P. W. D.)	500,000	407,345
Provincial share unemployment relief (P. W. D.) ..	112,500	88,908
Unemployment relief municipal works, municipal share advanced by province (capital account) ..	1,000,000	619,645
	\$2,278,070	\$1,629,944

FOUR MILLIONS FOR RELIEF

The total amount spent on unemployment relief during the fiscal year ending last March was \$4,146,335, of which \$619,645 constituted technically an advance to the municipalities to cover shares of the cost chargeable to municipal coffers. The expenditure for the government's own legal share of the cost was \$3,526,689, of which \$1,134,210 was the provincial government's share of municipal relief and \$2,392,479 the government's own outside relief.

An interesting commentary on the government's expenditure policy is that although by March, 1931, when the budget was presented, the world was well into the second year of the depression, the total of ordinary expenditures authorized by the budget, was \$28,080,000. This was added to before the session's end by supplementaries and statutory authorizations.

HOW EXPENDITURES ROSE

Actually, the expenditures were \$29,214,217, of which \$1,567,811 was made up of unemployment relief sums raised by special warrant. The actual expenditure from current account on ordinary governmental purposes, al-

together aside from relief, was, therefore, \$27,646,406.

Total expenditures in the last year of the Liberal regime, according to a tabulation in the volume tabled in the House Friday, by Mr. Jones, were only \$21,859,577.

Total expenditures for each of the fiscal years ending on March 31, the years indicated were as follows:

March 31, 1928	\$21,859,577
March 31, 1929	24,596,393
March 31, 1930	26,219,156
March 31, 1931	29,099,964
March 31, 1932	29,214,217

Even allowing that \$1,569,000 of the last year's expenditures were due to the increased unemployment, the extent by which ordinary expenditures last year exceeded the normal pre-Tolmie rate was close to \$6,000,000.

When Mr. Jones presented his 1931 budget it was ostensibly balanced at \$28,000,000, although later supplementaries upset the balance by about \$1,000,000. The extent, however, to which Mr. Jones miscalculated his revenues to authorize even a \$28,000,000 budget is strikingly revealed in the public accounts. Estimated

calculating probable revenues. The budget is made up at the end of a fiscal year and the preceding year's curve is an indication whether revenues will go up or down in the coming year. But the following tabulation shows how much Mr. Jones was out. Taking a number of the most important sources of revenue the estimate presented in the budget is shown in one column and the actual collection in the other:

	Estimated	Actual
Game Act	\$ 215,000	\$ 179,702
Liquor Act	4,500,000	3,421,841
Companies Branch	125,000	67,471
Motor Vehicle Act—	375,000	270,000
Registration fees	265,000	140,569
Motor licenses	2,155,000	1,818,493
Chauffeurs' licenses	25,000	25,875
Amusement tickets	220,000	171,522
Gasoline tax	1,950,000	1,748,742
Income and personal property tax	6,500,000	5,523,781
Real property tax	1,575,000	1,431,316
Wild land, coal and timber lands	700,000	544,280
Mineral tax	500,000	71,524
Poll tax	150,000	63,735
Succession duties	750,000	410,720
Races tax	185,000	169,097
Fishing and canning licenses	175,000	93,623
Land sales	200,000	131,825
Timber licenses	1,040,000	735,528
Timber royalties	2,025,000	1,146,493

ANOTHER BIG DEFICIT

A year ago Mr. Jones at last took cognizance of the downward curve in revenues and estimated in his budget for revenues of only \$24,843,000. But the public accounts now show that the actual decline for the preceding year had outstripped him.

Last March he estimated revenues greater by \$2,700,000 than the preceding year had yielded. During the current year the depression curve has continued its downward trend, so that it is doubtful if revenues for this year will reach \$20,000,000.

Hence, it is obvious that another big deficit is in the offing for the year which ends on March 31, 1933, but the politically-minded will tell you that Mr. Jones and his colleagues of the Tolmie cabinet are not likely to be in the House to give the official explanation next session.

2 TAXES IN 1 YEAR

NEW INCOME LEVY DECLARED "SMART PRACTICE"

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Smart practice for contriving to collect two income taxes within one fiscal year was charged against Hon. J. W. Jones, Finance Minister, in the Legislature Monday by T. D. Pattullo.

Taxpayers all over the province are making income tax returns today. Payments must accompany these returns.

Last year the returns were made on March 31 and payment was due in June. The fiscal year begins on April 1 and ends on March 31.

Hence Mr. Jones is bolstering his accounts for the current year, according to the opposition leader, by collecting two years' income tax in one year.

Mr. Pattullo declared that this piece of slickness was on a par with the whole financial methods of the present minister.

Town Planning Act Amendment

VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—The amendment to the Town Planning Act introduced by Attorney General Fooley received second reading Monday.

The amendment empowers councils to select a chairman when the mayor or reeve is unable to be present.

Mayors and reeves are ex-official chairmen of town planning commissions and during the illness of Mayor I. D. Taylor of Vancouver last year, it was impossible to call a meeting of the board.

B.C. MUST SOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS'

—T. D. Pattullo

WAITING Policy SCORED

LIBERAL PLAN OF ACTION

HOUSE DIVIDES 33 TO 11

Special to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, Feb. 28.—Liberal opinion refuses to subscribe to the proposition that nothing can be done to relieve the present economic distress.

This was the stand taken by T. D. Pattullo, Opposition leader, Monday afternoon in his first speech of the Legislative session.

He quoted the Speech from the Throne, plaintively leaning on the "courage and fortitude of the people."

"I entirely disagree with this policy of impotent waiting," he declared. "There is much that can be done and must be done—even within provincial jurisdiction."

Mr. Pattullo enumerated some of the measures that could be adopted to restore the purchasing power of the people, co-ordinate the industrial activity of the province, and arrest the decline in morale of the victims of unemployment.

With this background, the Opposition leader placed the Legislature on record on the question as to whether a Government confessing its impotence shall be allowed to continue in office.

He alluded to the expressions of dissatisfaction by Conservative members outside the House and urged them to adopt their own advice, to eschew politics, and vote in the sense of their own utterances.

RESPONSE NIL

Not a man responded. The independence exhibited outside the House coaxed away.

William Dick, G. A. Walkem, J. H. Beatty and all the others from whom an independent course of action had been indicated lined up under the watchful eye of Premier Tolmie and voted their confidence in his administration.

Mr. Pattullo's motion was brief. It merely asserted that the Government had administered affairs unwisely and so as to meet with public disapproval. It was technically a want of confidence motion, the passage of which would have defeated the Government and forced an election.

The Government's full normal following voted it down by 33 to 11.

The galleries were crowded to hear Mr. Pattullo's analysis of the governmental situation and he gave them food for thought.

The two main portions of his speech were a detailed review of the particulars in which the present Government had gone wrong and his outline of measures for reconstructing the economic strength of the country.

TOLMIE SPEAKS TODAY

Premier Tolmie is to reply today, and Mr. Pattullo, recalling that the Premier had announced his intention of forming a Union or Non-Party Government, called upon him to answer these questions:

"What are the measures that the Premier has in mind, which should be carried into effect and which he thinks can only be carried into effect by a Non-Party administration?"

"What are these measures that he can not put into effect with his three-to-one majority in the present House if he has the courage to try?"

"Let him name these measures. If they are worthy measures they will be supported by this side of the House without going into any Union Government. We in opposition know the difficulties of Government and we are here to help."

What Mr. Pattullo protested against was the official doctrine laid down in the Speech from the Throne that British Columbia must rely on the "courage and fortitude of the people" and let the situation work itself out.

NOTHING TO OFFER

"Our population is in dire distress and it behooves this Legislature to be up and doing," he declared.

"This Government has nothing to offer and it lacks either the courage or the decency to go to the country and face the issue."

"What are our three or four thousand boys and girls coming out of school each year going to do? What is going to be done with the 7000 young men scattered in camps throughout the province?"

Mr. Pattullo outlined to the House his own suggestions.

PATTULLO'S SUGGESTIONS

They included:

1—Useful public works at a reasonable wage. "I am flatly opposed to the present dole method of relief," he declared.

2—Placing as many people as possible on the land. "If the scheme to be advanced by the Minister of Lands this session is a feasible policy I shall be glad to support it."

3—Government leadership in the civic drives such as those in Vancouver and Victoria to get citizens to pledge work. "This is better than a permanent tax for a dole; the people get something in return for their money."

4—Shorter working hours and a shorter working week. Large industries in United States were already doing this and one in Canada had begun, he said.

5—Establishment of a National Economic Council to co-ordinate industrial activity and improve distribution. "There should be scientists, industrialists, economists, labor representatives and social politicians on the council," he said. "Whether the Dominion acts or not I would certainly set up such a council in B.C."

6—Refunding of debts at lower rates of interest.

"We must use the collective power of the people through the agency of Government," stated Mr. Pattullo in summing up his whole program. "It is up to Provincial and Dominion Governments to collaborate."

WHERE WILL YOU GET THE MONEY?

"Where will you get the money?" a Minister asked with reference to the public works scheme.

"We must use the national credit," replied Mr. Pattullo.

"The province can't do that," replied the Minister.

"The Dominion lent the C.P.R. a million and a half without interest—"

"To create work," interrupted a Conservative.

"Certainly, to create work," replied the Opposition leader. "Why can't it lend the province money without interest to create work?"

"Try it," scoffed Hon. J. W. Jones. "Certainly, I'll try it and if it doesn't succeed I'll try something else," declared Mr. Pattullo. "We're going to handle this problem when we get in."

Mr. Pattullo issued a word of warning to "those who have."

If they do not acquiesce in a progressive and enlightened program to see that the great mass of the people have a decent and comfortable standard of living they will never themselves experience security in what they have, he asserted.

"No injustice to those who have is intended," he said. "This is the only means by which they can save themselves."

EDUCATION PROBLEM

In the course of his address Mr. Pattullo gave incidental mention to several other questions.

"Some say we have too many educational facilities," he said. "But those who are fighting for less education are fighting a losing battle. It is more, not less, education that we need."

He criticized the Province newspaper for its "ridiculing and bludgeoning" of public men who would not bow to its will. Many good men in private life would not enter public life and face that barrage, he said.

Thus the Province newspaper was defeating the very object it sought to serve and was feeding ammunition to those who preached doctrines subversive of all orderly government.

The only other business of the day was the second reading of a small Bill to enable municipal and city councils to name an alternate to represent the reeve or mayor on a town-planning commission when the chief magistrate was unable to attend. Jack Louet suggested, also, that when a municipality went into the hands of an administrator, the administrator should be given power to sit on town-planning and similar commissions.

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1933

Thursday, February 23, 1933.

LAST SESSION OF PRESENT LEGISLATURE STARTS

Crowds Watch Ceremony Opening Final Meeting Of House Named In 1928

Army: Brigadier J. Sutherland Brown, C.M.G., D.S.O., Officer Commanding Military District No. 11, Col. W. W. Foster, D.S.O., V.D., A.D.C., O.C. 23rd Infantry Brigade, Col. D. B. Martyn, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Col. E. W. Pope, C.M.G., Lieut.-Col. G. E. Ball, V.D., Lieut.-Col. T. B. Monk, V.D., Lieut.-Col. R. G. Parkhurst, M.C., O.C. Vancouver Regiment, Major W. Bapty, A.D.C., Major W. H. Dobbie, D.S.O., Major J. N. Gibson, Major J. Gordon Smith, M.C., Major W. A. R. Hadley, Major J. R. Kingham, Major H. M. Reynolds, Major K. A. McLennan, Major E. C. G. Chambers, Major A. J. Gray, Major R. O. G. Morton, Major G. B. Howard, Major V. G. F. Barton, Major H. R. W. Allan, Major H. L. Rose, Major C. S. Gonnason, Major M. A. Kent, Capt. McNaughton, Capt. S. R. Bowden, Capt. E. E. A. Diespecker, Capt. D. A. McNaughton, Capt. S. R. Bowden, Lieut. H. L. Leverin, Lieut. W. V. T. Allen, Lieut. H. T. Thistle and Lieut. C. G. Evans.

Prospects of Early Election in Spotlight as B.C. Members Gather

Interest Keen In Proceedings To-day

Representative Audience Hears Lieut.-Governor Read Speech From Throne

Opening of a session of the British Columbia Legislature that will play a part in the political history of the province was witnessed by thousands of people in Victoria when Lieut.-Governor Fordham Johnson came from Government House to the Legislative Chamber this afternoon at 3 o'clock to read the speech from the Throne at the final session of the Tolmie Government which was swept into office in July, 1928.

The session is expected to be a memorable one for several reasons. As an election is not anticipated until the summer, the government will have held to office to practically the last day of its term. It will possibly mark a change of leadership of a party in power and possibly the launching of a new union government party.

INTEREST KEEN

The interest shown in the ceremony to-day equalled that shown at any similar occasion. Naval and military officers and men and the band of the 16th Canadian Scottish lent color to the proceedings, the feather bonnets, bright tunics, tartans and kilts of the Scots providing the brightest touch. There was no mounted escort as last year but a dozen mounted provincial police were on duty at the Parliament Buildings.

His Honor was accompanied by Mrs. Fordham Johnson and Mrs. Hobart Molson with Major Seldon Humphreys and Capt. W. Hobart Molson as personal aides and Lieut.-Commander A. C. Wurtele, R.C.N. and Lieut.-Col. A. V. Tremaine as aides. He was preceded to the buildings by a squad of motorcycle police. Naval and military aides and his private secretary, A. M. D. Fairbairn, escorted him.

GUARDS OF HONOR

Two guards of honor saluted him as he walked along the pathway to the entrance of the building. One was composed of men of the Royal Canadian Navy under Lieut.-Commander F. G. Hart, R.C.N., and A. H. Baker, Gunner, R.C.N., second in command, and the other men of the First Battalion, Canadian Scottish under Capt. S. Robertson, Lieut. F. Cabeldu and Lieut. C. E. Wightman.

SALUTE BOOMS OUT

Eighteen pound guns of the 58th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, manned by men under Capt. R. B. Ker and Second Lieut. C. W. Barker, and P. Ridgeway Wilson boomed a fifteen round salute as His Honor reached the buildings.

As His Honor took the salute the 16th Canadian Scottish Band played a few bars of "God Save the King" and he then proceeded to inspect the guard of honor drawn up on the driveway in front of the Parliament Buildings, the naval detachment being inspected first.

CROWDS AT BUILDINGS

Crowds lined the Causeway and streets around the Parliament Buildings to get a view of the proceedings. Inside the legislative chamber every seat that could be placed on the floor was occupied and the galleries were

filled. Members of the church and bar of British Columbia and many leading citizens of Victoria and Vancouver were among the big company.

After he had inspected the guards, His Honor, preceded by his aides and followed by his private secretary, walked up the steps at the entrance to the rotunda and was there greeted by Premier Tolmie and Mr. Speaker Davie. After the usual formality of the Sergeant-at-Arms advising that everything was in readiness he proceeded to the dais to read the King's Speech followed by the Sergeant-at-Arms, carrying the mace, the Premier and the Speaker. Uniformed officers of the army and the navy lined the legislative chamber.

After reading the speech His Honor's party, with his aides and followed by the officers taking part in the proceedings left the chamber and the first day of the B.C. Legislature closed.

OFFICERS ATTENDING

Officers in attendance follow. Navy: Commander V. G. Brodeur, R.C.N., commander in charge of Esquimalt Naval Barracks, Lieut.-Commander W. J. R. Beech, R.C.N., Lieut.-Commander H. B. Tingley, R.C.N., Lieut.-Commander H. W. S. Soulsby, R.C.N., Paymaster Lieut.-Commander H. G. Cowin, R.N., Shipwright Lieut. C. H. Brown, R.C.N. and Lieut. T. H. Evans, R.C.N.

Opened B.C. Legislature To-day



LIEUT.-GOVERNOR J. W. FORDHAM JOHNSON

Tax Relief Scheme Is Approved

Consent Of House Needed To Effect Plan On Arrears

City's Legislative Group Endorses Proposal to Give Five-year Postponement on All Arrears of Property Taxes to End of Last Year

MOVE MADE TO AID TAXPAYERS

Requires Amendment to the Municipal Act at Present Session of Legislature; Union of B.C. Municipalities to Hear of Plan

Plans for a postponement of payments on civic tax arrears up to the end of 1932, amounting to a virtual five-year moratorium on the accounts now outstanding, were advanced another step yesterday when the legislative committee of the City Council approved the scheme.

The plan will require the sanction of the Legislature and since the city will apply to make it operative through an amendment to the Municipal Act, it would become provincially in its scope.

At its convention next week the Union of B.C. Municipalities will be asked to endorse the proposal.

RELIEF FOR TAXPAYERS

As a relief measure for taxpayers, the plan has two main features: it provides an opportunity for an owner to prevent his home going to tax sale; and to escape payment of penalties on his current tax accounts. A third clause lowers the interest rate on arrears from 8 to 6 per cent.

As applied to arrears, prior to the end of 1932, it would be effective for five years, from 1933 to 1937 inclusive. The legislation sought by the city provides that where a taxpayer meets his current tax bill plus interest on his arrears the property will not be liable for tax sale during the five-year period.

MUST PROTECT HOMES

"A study of tax arrears, based on a survey just completed by the city treasury, reveals that a move along these lines is essential to protect the homes of our people," Mayor Leeming said this morning in commenting on the plan. "Three classes of tax paying property have been heavily hit by the economic depression and must be afforded relief, otherwise they will all come back to the city. These types of property are: Vacant land, business buildings, and small homes under the \$1,500 assessment class, all of which show a large increase in the percentage of unpaid taxes."

One of the unfortunate features of the taxation system which imposes a hardship on the person who goes behind with his tax bills is the 8 per cent penalty applied to enforce payment and the interest, also payable at 6 per cent. Thus, while a person may be able to meet one year's taxes from year to year, when he once gets behind he is continually paying the penalty and interest. Under the proposed scheme, his payment would be accepted on the current tax bill, instead of the arrears account, and he would thus escape a new penalty. The interest rate on the outstanding arrears would also be reduced by 2 per cent.

HOW IT WORKS

To illustrate how the plan would work, the following case may be cited, of a man paying a tax bill of \$100 a year.

If he were in arrears for 1932 on his tax account and tendered payment in April, he would pay \$100, plus the penalty of \$8, plus 8 per cent interest for three months, a total of \$110.16. Furthermore, if he was unable to meet his 1933 taxes before the due date, this account would be subject to the 8 per cent penalty, causing him to suffer to the extent of \$18.16.

Under the relief scheme, if he tendered his tax payment on the same date he would pay \$100 as his current taxes, plus 6 per cent interest on the arrears for three months, a total of \$101.82. In addition he would escape any penalty on the current tax bill, an actual saving of \$16.52.

PREVENTS SALE

It would give even greater relief to the man who is two years in arrears and whose property is due to go to tax sale.

On a \$100 property, for which 1931 taxes are not paid, the owner would have to pay \$118.80 in April of this year in order to clear up the two-year-old account. He would still have an outstanding balance of \$108, plus interest, for 1932 and would suffer the penalty on his 1933 account. In addition he would be faced with the problem of saving his property from tax sale in the following year.

Under the relief plan, his payment in April this year would be \$100 for the current account, plus six per cent interest on his arrears, \$9.72, a total payment of \$109.72, and a saving of \$9.08, besides the easing of his burden in keeping the property from sale for taxes. His liability would also be reduced to the extent of two per cent on the interest charge.

The provisions of the scheme make it essential, of course, that an owner must meet his current tax bill, in order to take advantage of the scheme. Where this is not done the moratorium is ineffective.

EFFECT ON COLLECTIONS

As far as the reverse effect of the plan on civic tax collections is concerned, this matter has been given very careful study and the authorities believe it will stimulate tax payments.

Legislative action to put the postponement into effect is necessary because the Municipal Act, section 243, subsection 3, now provides that all payments of taxes must be applied to the oldest accounts. In other words a property owner may not pay current taxes before his arrears are wiped out. The amendment proposed by the city would make this clause non-operative where a taxpayer accepts the conditions of the moratorium plan.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Dominion-wide Relief Policy Will Continue in British Columbia, His Honor Says

Twigg and Fitzsimmons Will Move and Second Reply to Speech

The government's policy in meeting the problem of unemployment was dealt with in the speech from the Throne delivered by Lieutenant-Governor Johnson at the opening of the British Columbia Legislature this afternoon.

His Honor drew attention to the fact that prices and sales terms on crown lands reverted for taxes had been revised to make it easy for them to be occupied by settlers. Until such times as conditions improve the Dominion-wide regulations for unemployment relief would continue as far as British Columbia's needs were concerned. The province was endeavoring to create more employment by expanding the markets for its products.

The speech mentioned British Columbia's long standing claim for better terms had been placed before the Dominion Government.

Forecast of legislation referred to the Public Schools Act, Vital Statistics Act, Mineral Act and Placer Mining Act. Absence of reference to other anticipated legislation does not, however, mean that it may not be brought down.

Mr. D. Twigg, Victoria, will open the speechmaking by moving the address in reply to the Speech. Capt. J. Fitzsimmons, Kalso-Slocan will second it.

The Speech from the Throne is as follows:

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly: "I welcome you to the Fifth Session of the Seventeenth Parliament of British Columbia.

"The year 1932 has been an eventful one in the history of Canada and this province. The outstanding event of the year has been the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa, where a new policy of intense significance to the future of the world trade was adopted. As a result of the agreements entered into, Canada has been given preference on her primary products, which should result in great benefits to her.

"During the year, this province was honored by a visit from His Excellency the Right Honourable the Earl of Bessborough, Governor-General of Canada, and his gracious consort, the Countess of Bessborough.

"As forecast last year, the first British Columbia Government Inspectional tour, organized by the Agent-General of this province in London and financed by those participating in the tour, resulted in a representative party leaving Liverpool toward the end of May, 1932, for a tour of the Dominion, a special itinerary being arranged for British Columbia which, in addition to providing attractions from a tourist standpoint, furnished the necessary financial and commercial contacts which must precede increased trade.

"My government was represented at the Interprovincial Conference held in Ottawa last month, when consideration was given to the following matters: Present unemployment and relief conditions; unemployment and social insurance; old-age pensions; duplication of Dominion and provincial taxation; company law; jurisdiction over insurance companies; avoidance of overlapping where both Dominion and provincial authorities are exercising jurisdiction; the regulation of truck and motor-bus services competing with interprovincial and national rail transportation facilities, and uniform statistical information.

"Since last we met, this Legislature has suffered a loss in the death of Mr. Michael Manson, one of the oldest and most honored members of the Legislature. His passing has been deeply felt by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

"The timber industries of the Pacific Coast, like all others, were affected by economic conditions and curtailment of markets. It is encouraging, however, to note that, while total deep-sea shipments from the North Pacific dropped still further in 1932, those from British Columbia increased by 10 per cent and the trade within the empire increased 69 per cent over 1931, due very largely to the trade-extension work conducted jointly by my government and the timber interests, and but for which a considerable further curtailment in operations and employment would have followed.

GOLD

"Adverse economic conditions have emphasized the possibilities for useful and profitable employment in the development of our mineral resources. While it is true that the low level of base-metal world prices has retarded that branch of the industry, the province, it is becoming ever more apparent, possesses important and as yet undeveloped gold resources, both in lode formation and in its alluvial gravels. It is gratifying to note that this is being recognized by those with capital to invest at home and abroad, as well as by the enterprising manhood of the country who are equipping themselves for prospecting this year.

"Amendments to the 'Mineral Act' and the 'Placer-mining Act' calculated to bring those statutes more in line with present conditions, but in nowise to change the vital underlying principles of our mining laws, will be submitted.

"Agriculture, in common with other industries, has suffered from deflated prices and lack of markets. With the preferences accorded agricultural products at the Imperial Economic Conference, the agriculturist should be the first to regain his normal place. If our agricultural industry is to secure the maximum benefits from the market Great Britain affords, our exportable supplies must be continuous, in sufficient volume, and of a quality and price to interest our overseas customers.

"It is encouraging to the producer to note that agriculture in British Columbia in 1932 took first place over all other basic industries in value of commodities produced. The programme for 1933 indicates that this industry will maintain the lead during the present year.

"The price and terms of sale of ordinary Crown lands, and lands reverted for taxes, have been revised and modified with a view to providing easier means for bona fide settlers to acquire lands as a medium for self-support.

"My government has placed before the government of the Dominion of Canada the long-standing claim of this province for better terms. British Columbia has for many years sought and has now renewed its petition for an investigation of its claims for adequate consideration arising out of the peculiar historical, economic, and physical conditions affecting British Columbia at the time of Confederation and since continuing.

"A commission was agreed to and partly appointed in 1912 to investigate these claims, but the war breaking out shortly after prevented any action.

"Until such time as there is a material improvement in the world economic situation, it is intended that Dominion-wide regulations for the administration of unemployment relief will continue to be enforced having regard to our special needs in British Columbia. This will be done, as far as possible, in such manner as to conserve the interests of the taxpayer and without embarrassment to the self-respect of the recipient.

CO-OPERATION NEEDED

"The problems and difficulties arising from the economic conditions prevalent throughout the world to-day demand wise, carefully considered, but effective action on the part of all governments. They constitute a call for the co-operation of every one, ruler and people alike, for the exertion of all the best and noblest in our boasted civilization, in a determined effort to put the world's affairs on a sound basis.

"My government, realizing the seriousness of the situation, has refused to face it, has refused to put it into effect. It is not possible to do so out unduly serious of the same time, it has in the courage and confidence of the province, ended British Columbia in such a manner as to be able to take up the development and growth of the province, with the return, it is my view that my government making every effort to markets, for it is largely development of our employment will be of people.

"Legislation will be your consideration for Public Schools Act, Vital Statistics Act, and Placer Mining Act, and the various of my government will be in due course.

"The public account fiscal year and the estimated coming year will be under consideration.

"I leave you in confidence that your duties will be faithful and may the blessing of Providence inspire and liberations."

My government, while recognizing the seriousness of the situation, and realizing the tremendous tasks that face it, has refused to be stampeded. It has put into effect every economy that it felt could be carried out without unduly serious consequences. At the same time, it has not lost faith in the courage and fortitude of my people, nor in the wonderful resources of the province, endeavoring to keep British Columbia in such a condition as to be able to take full advantage of the development and growth that will be made possible when prosperous times return. It is with this end in view that my government has been making every effort to develop our markets, for it is largely in the development of our markets that employment will be created for our people.

Legislation will be submitted for your consideration dealing with the Public Schools Act, Vital Statistics Act, Mineral Act, and Placer-mining Act.

Reports of the various departments of my government will be laid before you in due course.

The public accounts of the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

I leave you in confidence that your duties will be faithfully performed, and may the blessings of a Divine Providence inspire and guide your deliberations."

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AFTER THE SESSION WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

One of the few sure things about the session which was opened this afternoon with customary pomp is that it is the last deliberate assembly of the seventeenth Legislature of the province. Whether it will be long or short, lively or tame, nobody now knows. The leader of the government, of course, hopes for a quiet, short gathering. The leader of the opposition has expressed his desire for a brief session and an early election. But whether the desire of either will be gratified or not will depend upon the character of the legislation that will be introduced. Final sessions are invariably long and lively, for both governments and oppositions, in anticipation of ensuing elections, naturally compete with one another in trying favorably to impress the electorate.

There are, however, one or two things about this present session that the public does know, apart from the fact that it is the last gathering of the present Legislature. One of them is that the government will preserve its party identity from beginning to end, as well as its existing personnel. Another is that the Finance Minister will report a hair-raising deficit, and will propose another lot of new taxation. Also, there is good ground for the expectation that, notwithstanding the declarations of independence which some government supporters in the House issue between sessions, and boldly make in private conversation, they will be found, with very few exceptions, in the forecastle of the governmental ship when they are needed. Whether they are aware of the fact or not, nine-tenths of them politically are doomed, and, in any case, they might as well go down with the vessel as jump overboard and either drown or be consumed by sharks separately.

While the session is likely to proceed without any notable defections in the government's strength, beyond that the outlook is nebulous. Premier Tolmie is committed to a party convention for the promotion of a union government, but within the party hostility to that objective is so strong that this consideration would cause a split, and the Premier probably would find himself in a minority with somebody else leading a majority of party regulars. Hence, there is likely to be a determined effort by the party organization to prevent the holding of a convention and to force the Premier to abandon his union programme.

Another factor in the uncertainty which surrounds the government's future is Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., who up to this time has resisted the blandishments, and other forms of pressure, of those who want him to join the Tolmie forces, and is proceeding with the organization of his own party. Apparently Mr. Bowser is determined to go his own way regardless of party conventions and the Premier's programme. As far as he is concerned, there is to be only one prince in Israel, who will be himself. Thus if the Conservative party shall split on union there may be three distinct groups led by Conservatives or former Conservatives. The Liberals so far have remained substantially cohesive under Mr. Pattullo's leadership.

Nor is there likely to be an early election. The government's term will not expire until the end of August, and most of the ministers probably will desire to keep the ship at sea until the very last minute, incidentally hoping that something somewhere or somehow will turn up that will improve economic conditions and give them a chance of re-election. There is nothing exceptional in that attitude, since most governments have been pursuing it for the last three years.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE AND SESSIONAL PROGRAMME

The Speech from the Throne is presumed to be a government's forecast of its sessional programme of legislation, but it really is not, either here or anywhere else where it is used in connection with the opening of a parliament or legislature. Governments, which always compose it, invariably use it nowadays for propaganda purposes in the belief that it is more effective in that respect because it flows from the lips of the sovereign or his deputy than it would be if it were delivered by the first minister or one of his colleagues. Since, therefore, it is really a political speech given under impressive auspices, it often produces a partizan debate which sometimes lasts for several weeks and costs the taxpayers a lot of money. A short, snappy declaration from the Throne that the House is now open for business, coupled with a prayer that the members will intelligently and efficiently perform their duties in

the public interest, would serve the purpose much more usefully, besides getting rid of a hoary device which deceives nobody.

Yesterday's Speech from the Throne was not even a cursory forecast of sessional legislation. It was a desert of words unrelieved for the most part by any oasis of projected legislation. It was a record of the past with which readers of the press are quite familiar, and a fervent implied appeal for appreciation of the government's efforts to provide the province with successful administration in difficult circumstances. It was the kind of speech we might expect from a member of the ministry at the opening of a party bazaar modified by the somewhat restrained conditions in which it was delivered.

That the Premier had a hand in the speech was suggested by the assertion that the government had "refused to be stampeded," but whether it was "corralled" or "branded," or not, it did not say. Neither did it make any oblique reference to Mr. Bowser "horning" into the political situation. The Minister of Mines also must have done his bit, for we are assured that against the background of adverse world economic conditions we ought to be gratified that we have large undeveloped gold resources consisting of lode metals and alluvial gravels, information which has been given out by the press and mining authorities in considerable volume in the last year or more.

But what is the Legislature going to deal with apart from legislation affecting schools, vital statistics, and minerals casually forecast in the Speech? What about redistribution, the P.G.E., taxation, cabinet reconstruction and numerous other matters intimately affecting the public interest which have been frequently forecast in the press as probable subjects of consideration during the session? We have no disposition to criticize the government for not detailing its intentions in respect of these items in the Speech from the Throne—considering what the Speech really is—but if they are going to be part of the legislative programme some vague reference at least should have been made to them.

There is no good reason why the debate on the Speech should consume much of the Legislature's time. A reply must be moved and seconded, of course, although most of the thunder of the government members who will perform this duty was stolen by the composers of the Lieutenant-Governor's deliverance. Mr. Pattullo set an excellent example last year by sharply limiting his side's contribution to the debate to a very short period, and this probably will be his course on the present occasion. Indeed, a formal acknowledgement is all the Speech which was delivered yesterday should receive.

Across The Bay

The Seventeenth Legislature opens bravely—with all the old show and expectation—just as if it weren't the last session—but there is a touch of maturity, a faint whisper of mortality about it—which even primroses and red roses cannot quite hide.

By H.B.W.

NOW OPEN

THE SEVENTEENTH Legislature of British Columbia opened its fifth and last session on Thursday precisely as it opened the preceding four—with the same old air of pleasant unreality, like a fairy story of dashing knights and fair ladies; with the same old hush of expectation which half a hundred years of disappointment cannot dim; with the same old feeling of good fellowship and co-operation between both parties, as if there were no yesterday and no to-morrow.

YET THERE was a touch of mortality about this last session which added a kind of melancholy and morbid interest. Here we were looking down on a dazzling spectacle of scarlet uniforms and beautiful women and, there, huddled into one end of the chamber to make way for the public, was the Seventeenth Legislature which would never huddle or open again. It was our last sight of the Seventeenth Legislature, in its open splendor, and the Seventeenth Legislature, with a far-away look in its eye, seemed to be thinking of the days that are no more—the days when it came here so full of hope, its face radiant with happy illusions. Faces were a little older at this last session, a little graver, for in nearly five years these men have been through more than the public realizes, have endured much and learned much and they come here now on the eve of election pretty grim and rather humble.

As usual, all Victoria turned out for the show. The electors scoff at legislators, they are sceptical of politics and cynical concerning politicians of all sorts, but let any distinguished citizen be left out of the invitation list for the opening, let any Victorian be deprived of his right to watch the Governor arrive in gold braid and cocked hat and you will see in what affection this ancient folk custom is held. After the opening day nobody will look at the Legislature except a few old codgers who have nothing else to do and some ancient ladies who will bring their knitting. The rest of the population will stay home and complain about the rotten state of politics. But on the first day it is a kind of vast community party which nobody would think of missing.

FROM ESQUIMALT

AS IT waits for the Governor to arrive, the House wears its party manners and its party clothes. Every Conservative, as usual, displays a bunch of primroses, immemorial emblem of Conservatism, in his buttonhole, primroses from the Esquimalt garden of Attorney-General Pooley, who has nursed them through this hard winter, who has gone out in his pyjamas and dressing gown at midnight to cover them tenderly with gunny sacks, to protect them from the cold snap of January so that in February no Conservative bosom may be mistaken for a base Liberal one.

Mr. Pattullo and his followers across the aisle, wearing those red roses which signify their recent progress towards the left of politics, look as if they expected the drain on Mr. Pooley's primrose beds to be much lighter in future years. What flower, they ask, will the Conservatives wear when they return here, purged of all party sin, as sweet and unspiced Unionists? Probably, says young Captain Macintosh, they will come next year with white lilies of purity. The lilies, says the unrepentant young Liberal, Mr. Kargin, will repose on his honorable friend's bosom.

Besides the individual nosegays a large bowl of white roses stands on Mr. Pooley's desk and a similar bowl of red roses on Mr. Pattullo's. And the funny part of it is that no one can find out who sent them. Undoubtedly, say the back-benchers, some fair admirer is responsible, since it seems unlikely that any elector would spend his money on politicians at a time like this. Anyway, these mysterious bouquets for the two handsomest members of the House intrigue their friends with pleasant, neighborly speculations and increase the jollity of the occasion.

BRAVE FRONT.

MR. PATTULLO is particularly jolly, a little greyer than when he first went into opposition but much happier, with the air of a man who expects soon to leave it. Nor would you suspect as you look at the sleek row of cabinet ministers in those neat cut-away coats and grey ties which the Premier ordered at the first session, that few of these gentlemen will be cabinet ministers eight weeks hence, that all of them will hand in their resignations as soon as the House progresses, and most of them, if they come back at all, will be in the back benches. All that is eight weeks off and this is to-day, the opening day, the day of our little glory.

And so the guns boom and the windows rattle and martial music wells up from the lawns, where the uninvited citizens watch the show from afar. In the distant dome room you can hear the clank of swords on tiled floors, the jangle of spurs, the swish of men moving in stiff uniforms which have been laid away in moth balls since the last time the House opened. Slowly and with measured tread they march up the centre aisle, very gorgeous in many colors, very martial, very stern, as if something profound and awful were afoot, as if King Charles were coming to arrest the Five Members.

Alas, it is nothing so exciting. It is only the Speech from the Throne, but

the crowd of visitors, the distinguished citizens, the wives who have come to display their new spring dresses, the flapper daughters in dinky little hats, they listen in a deathly silence as if the speech might announce the end of the world, or the sale of the P.G.E., which would be equally surprising. The speech has no such intelligence to convey, nor any other. As usual with our speeches from the throne since earliest times, it conveys nothing whatever. As usual, and perhaps more than usual, it is a mighty masterpiece of omission, over which statesmen have labored all night to eliminate the last vestige of information and perceived with joy by the light of morning that their efforts have been a glorious success.

COUNTRY SAFE.

THERE IS no reference to the sale of the P.G.E., to redistribution, to a reduction of the cabinet, to a union government. All the facts of life the government has hidden from the tender ears of the public with a fine delicacy. But how gratifying to learn in this year of depression, in the midst of this financial crisis, when civilization trembles on the brink and there is an election just around the corner—how gratifying to learn from the speech that our future is secure, our country safe because we have vast deposits of alluvial gravels. And how charming to hear in this year of stress that the government "has refused to be stampeded." Never before, one supposes, has that honest western word entered a Speech from the Throne in a British parliament anywhere, and it is easy to guess who put it there, for it smacks of Saanich and the old Tolmie farm, and those days, now gone, in the happier pre-Kamloopian era.

Well, the government listens to the speech with the quiet satisfaction of parenthood, knowing that it has achieved the ultimate in throne speeches by taking as many words as possible to say nothing, by creating a speech which, like the upper stretches of the old Tolmie farm, is barren and a little windy. As for Mr. Pattullo, realizing that it says nothing, he looks like a man who disbelieved everything it says, and he can reflect that his government, while it said no more, usually said it with greater economy.

It is over at last, the Governor leaves, the guard clanks out, our little moment of glory is over. The House prays that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established for all generations. The Speaker announces that he has obtained a copy of the Throne Speech "to prevent mistakes," a harrowing possibility. The Premier and Mr. Pattullo join in tribute to the memory of brave old Mike Manson, who came to this assembly in its early days but will come no more. And so it is all over, the captains and the kings depart, the janitors start to sweep the floors, the Seventeenth Legislature is open again.

B.C. DEFICIT FIVE MILLION

Charging Unemployment to Current Revenue, Total Is \$7,051,560

Public Accounts For Year Ending March, 1932, Filed in House To-day

A summary of the public accounts filed in the Legislature to-day by Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1932, reported an ordinary deficit of approximately \$5,000,000.

For the fiscal year ordinary current expenditures total \$25,373,325, and ordinary current revenue \$21,982,582, a deficit on current account of \$3,390,742. Capital account expenditures, which include such matters as sinking funds, redemption of debentures, interest on P.G.E. bonds, and payment on British Columbia House mortgage, and special warrants for unemployment relief brought the total expenditure for the year up to \$29,214,217—all of which is charged in Mr. Jones's accounts to current revenue.

Current and capital revenue total \$23,162,657.

In the total expenditures included is a sum of \$1,830,502 for unemployment relief purposes. The summary stated that had it been possible under existing legislation during the last fiscal year to do so this amount would have been capitalized as is being done this year by every province for unemployment purposes. If such an arrangement had been brought into effect before April 1 last, the government's total deficit would have been \$5,221,078.

TOTAL \$7,051,560

The accounts show that the government's revenue during the fiscal year fell below estimates by \$5,926,039, but at the same time Mr. Jones was able to effect drastic savings in almost all departments of the government to a total of \$1,842,000 after providing for additional expenditures under supplementary estimates, making a total saving below estimates of \$1,068,964. Even charging unemployment costs to current revenue Mr. Jones's total deficit is shown at \$7,051,560.

It was claimed the government's position in the present fiscal year, due to drastic economies in every direction, is vastly improved over that of the last fiscal year. It was forecast that when the comptroller-general's report for nine months of the current fiscal year is filed in the House shortly, it will show only a small deficit on current account.

SEVEN HAVE NO ELECTION CARES

Redistribution and Resignations Relieve Some B.C. Members of Political Duties

Seven members at least entered upon their duties in the British Columbia Legislature yesterday with the knowledge that it will be the last time they sit as representatives for the constituencies which returned them to the present House.

Four of them have announced their retirement from politics. Col. George Walkem, Conservative, Vancouver, Dr. H. C. Winch, Liberal, Skeena, and J. H. Schofield, Conservative, Rossland-Trail, have made announcements they will retire from politics. All will close long records. James H. Beatty, elected on the Conservative ticket at the 1923 election on his debut in politics, has also announced he will not seek a return to the House.

Three other seats were affected under the redistribution bill brought in last session. Unless they should be nominated in some other constituency, L. A. Hanna, Liberal, Alberni, Dr. L. E. Borden, Conservative, Nelson, and T. King, Liberal, Golden, will end their connections with the Legislature this session. Mr. King was returned on a by-election only to hear at his first session that redistribution would abolish his seat.

WREATH ON VACANT DESK OF MEMBER

Touching reference to the loss the province of British Columbia has sustained in the death of Michael Manson, Conservative member of the Legislature for Mackenzie, was made as the Legislature opened yesterday. A wreath was placed on the vacant desk of the respected veteran member. The Speech from the Throne made reference to his passing. "Since last we met, this Legislature has suffered a loss in the death of Mr. Michael Manson, one of the oldest and most honored members of the Legislature" it said. "His passing has been deeply felt by all those who have had the privilege of knowing him." Premier Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, paid touching tributes to the memory of the late member.

NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE

Col. Fred Ester has been named chairman of the committee which will name standing committees of the Legislature. Acting with him will be J. W. Cornett, James H. Beatty, Dr. H. C. Winch and F. M. MacPherson.

No new committees have yet been scheduled to deal with special matters like the active unemployment committee of last session where much of the most contentious discussion took place. One or more may, however, be called for by resolution later.

Hon. N. S. Loughheed announced yesterday that 2,500 inquiries have been made to his department by intending settlers who have some capital who wish to take advantage of the government's policy of offering easier terms to those who desire to take up farming.

Fifteen or sixteen reports from different departments of the government which have been made public since the last session were formally tabled in the Legislature yesterday.

Hon. Rev. C. de V. Schofield, Bishop of Columbia, read the prayers at the opening of the session yesterday.

Intimation of eight bills that will come before the Legislature was given to-day. All will be introduced by Attorney-General Pooley. They include bills to amend the following acts: Testator's Family Maintenance, Children of Unmarried Parents, Cemetery Companies, Bills of Sale, Conditional Sales, Fire Marshal, Parents Maintenance and Lunacy.

FIRST M SCORES

Conservative M tests Recent B. Salmo

B.C. Not Cons ficially Advise Lou

Difference of the Dominion G the British Colum on salmon marks is intimated in th to find a place on of the B.C. Le opened yesterday.

The motion stand Jack Loutet, Conser cover, and calls up to protest the Dom order-in-council pass calling for amendm and Canned Foods the B.C. Governme consent to the amend

The amendment certificate to be gi well-packed salmon merchantable condi that no certificate canned salmon than landed fresh at a o within twenty-four caught, excepting f gutted and iced im ing caught.

While the ostens order is to ensure th salmon, Mr. Loutet amble that salmon British Columbia w in ice can be landed class condition. regulations provided tion of canned s soundness and gults the member states.

Mr. Loutet also po Government must amending regulation and Canned Foods ion but the B.C. G been consulted on t cially advised of th amendment.

Liberal L Speaks

T. D. Pattullo, Le position, will deliver from the Liberal sid when he speaks in the Speech from th Monday. The Liber journed the debate Twigg, Conservative Capt. James Fitzsim tive, Kalso-Slocan, B terday. Mr. Pattullo being awaited with d terest by members of the House as, althoug of both Conservative terday contained no the flames of part reception according eral motion indicat apparent calmness w fore the storm. M probably start spe o'clock Monday after

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FIRST MOTION
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Conservative Member Pro-
tests Recent Regulation on
Salmon Pack

B.C. Not Consulted Or Of-
ficially Advised, Complains
Loutet

Difference of opinion between
the Dominion Government and
the British Columbia Government
on salmon marketing regulations
is intimated in the first resolution
to find a place on the order papers
of the B.C. Legislature which
opened yesterday.

The motion stands in the name of
Jack Loutet, Conservative, North Van-
couver, and calls upon the Legislature
to protest the Dominion Government
order-in-council passed on February 3
calling for amendment to the Meat
and Canned Foods Act, and requests
the B.C. Government to refuse its
consent to the amendment.

The amendment calls for a class A
certificate to be given to fresh, firm,
well-packed salmon when in a good
merchantable condition, and sets out
that no certificate shall be issued for
canned salmon that has not been
landed fresh at a cannery for canning
within twenty-four hours after being
caught, excepting fish that has been
guted and iced immediately after being
caught.

While the ostensible object of the
order is to ensure the packing of sound
salmon, Mr. Loutet claims in his pre-
amble that salmon when caught in
British Columbia waters and packed
in ice can be landed in Boston in first
class condition. Previously existing
regulations provided for proper inspection
of canned salmon to ensure
soundness and suitability for market,
the member states.

Mr. Loutet also pointed out the B.C.
Government must approve of any
amending regulations under the Meat
and Canned Foods Act of the Domini-
on, but the B.C. Government had not
been consulted on the subject or of-
ficially advised of the passage of the
amendment.

Liberal Leader
Speaks Monday

T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Op-
position, will deliver the first speech
from the Liberal side of the House
when he speaks in the debate on
the Speech from the Throne on
Monday. The Liberal leader, ad-
joined the debate after H. D.
Twigg, Conservative, Victoria, and
Capt. James Fitzsimmons, Conserva-
tive, Kalso-Slocan, had spoken yes-
terday. Mr. Pattullo's address is
being awaited with considerable in-
terest by members on both sides of
the House as, although the speeches
of both Conservative members yes-
terday contained nothing to fan
the flames of party strife, the
reception according the first Lib-
eral motion indicated yesterday's
apparent calmness was the toll be-
fore the storm. Mr. Pattullo will
probably start speaking at 3.30
o'clock Monday afternoon.

NOTES OF THE
LEGISLATURE

Private bills of the City of Victoria
and the Municipality of Esquimalt
seeking power to borrow money were
introduced in the Legislature yester-
day by R. Hayward, Conservative, Vic-
toria.

A bill to amend the Central Park
Act providing for an amendment to the
lease held by the District of Burnaby
so that a further seventy-seven acres
of adjoining land may be included in
the park area was introduced by Hon
N. S. Loughheed, Minister of Lands,
yesterday.

Power for the Minister of Lands to
select areas of land in dyking districts
subject to sale and place them in the
hands of real estate agents for sale
on commission is provided for in a bill
introduced by Mr. Loughheed.

Except for absentees, Conservative
showed a solid front when the first
division was called in the House yes-
terday on the point of admitting George
Walkem, Conservative member for Van-
couver to the public accounts com-
mittee. They voted solidly against it.

Discussion afterwards indicated Mr.
Walkem was being given a rap on the
knuckles in his absence by his col-
leagues for threatening to strike the
flag of independence. He may sit as
an independent member this session.

William Dick, another Vancouver
Conservative, who may prove a thorn
in the side of his party as a result of
his frank criticism of the \$7,000,000
deficit and \$29,000,000 expenditure,
has not taken his seat yet. Col. Nelson
Spencer, another Vancouver member,
has not yet arrived.

Liberal absentees are A. M. Manson
K.C., and Dr. W. H. Sutherland.

The burning question of the Pacific
Great Eastern Railway, which failed to
find a place in the Speech from the
Throne, forms the subject of a ques-
tion asked by L. A. Hanna, Liberal,
Alberni. On the order papers Mr.
Hanna asks: "Have any offers for pur-
chase, option to purchase, or any other
proposals been received by the govern-
ment in respect of the Pacific Great
Eastern Railway since August 20, 1928?
If yes, by whom were such offers made,
and what were the terms and condi-
tions suggested in each case?"

The cost to the province of main-
taining children of Doukhobor prison-
ers, which it has often been pointed
out is greater than the allowance for
children of the unemployed, has been
brought to the attention of the Legis-
lature by Mr. Hanna.

Select standing committees of the
Legislature were named yesterday as
follows:

Municipal—Reginald Hayward, Dr. R.
W. Alward, George Heggie, William
Dick, R. Mackenzie, Capt. James Fitz-
simmons, Thomas Uphill, Dr. H. C.
Winch, F. M. MacPherson, Dr. J. J.
Gillis, G. Walkem.

Public Accounts—J. W. Berry, H. D.
Twigg, T. H. Kirk, J. H. Beatty, E. C.
Carson, Capt. M. F. Macintosh, Col. F.
Lister, Dr. C. M. Kingston, Dr. R. W.
Alward, J. W. Cornett, Dr. W. H.
Sutherland, G. S. Pearson, A. M. Man-
son, K.C., H. F. Kergin, F. M. MacPherson,
J. H. Schofield, Reginald Hayward,
Thomas King and Thomas Uphill.

Private Bills—H. D. Twigg, J. A. Lou-
tet, T. H. Kirk, J. W. Cornett, Capt.
M. F. Macintosh, Dr. L. E. Borden, A.
M. Manson, K.C., L. A. Hanna and H.
F. Kergin.

Agriculture—Col. Fred Lister, E. C.
Carson, J. R. Michell, George Heggie,
William Dick, R. Mackenzie, Capt. J.
Fitzsimmons, Thomas Uphill, Dr. H. C.
Winch, F. M. MacPherson and Dr. J.
J. Gillis.

Forestry—Dr. G. K. MacNaughton,
George Heggie, Col. Nelson Spencer,
Capt. James Fitzsimmons, J. R. Michell,
H. F. Kergin, A. W. Gray and Thomas
King.

Mining—Dr. L. E. Borden, J. H. Scho-
field, Capt. J. Fitzsimmons, R. Mac-
kenzie, Dr. G. K. MacNaughton, Thomas
Uphill, H. F. Kergin and Dr. J. J. Gillis.

Railways—Col. Nelson Spencer, Dr.
R. W. Alward, J. A. Loutet, R. Mac-
kenzie, Dr. W. H. Sutherland and
Thomas King.

Fisheries—T. H. Kirk, Dr. G. K. Mac-
Naughton, Capt. M. F. Macintosh, E. C.
Carson, Dr. H. C. Winch and L. A.
Hanna.

Printing—James H. Beatty, J. H.
Schofield, Reginald Hayward, Thomas
King and Thomas Uphill.

Printing—James H. Beatty.

Walkem Leads Bolt
From Conservatives

Vancouver Conservative
Plans to Sit as Independent
This Session

Colleagues Reject His Name
as Member of Public Ac-
counts Committee

Disclosure of the first open bolt
from the Conservative ranks, a
division on the first day of busi-
ness and a tilt between Hon. J. W.
Jones, Finance Minister, and T.
D. Pattullo, leader of the opposi-
tion, carried suggestions yesterday
of inevitable storms that will
strike the B.C. Legislature.

The first came when Mr. Pattullo
objected to Mr. Jones making a speech
instead of an explanation on the pub-
lic accounts and the \$7,000,000 deficit.
Mr. Speaker sustained Mr. Pattullo, but
Finance Minister in face of the
Speaker's ruling managed to get over
most of the points he desired.

REJECT OWN MEMBER

News of Mr. Walkem's bolt came
following a division on Mr. Pattullo's
motion to add his name to the public
accounts committee, of which Mr.
Walkem was once chairman. Although
Mr. Pattullo notified the House he did
so at Mr. Walkem's request on a divi-
sion Conservatives voted solidly to re-
ject the name of their colleague. An
explanation of J. W. Cornett, Conserva-
tive whip, that Mr. Walkem refused
to serve on any committee last year
was discounted when it was later dis-
closed Mr. Walkem's name had been
placed on the municipal committee
this year.

The aftermath this morning was the
news that Mr. Walkem has made a
direct bolt from the party. Not only
has he severed his connection with the
Conservative ranks, but he has also
asked that his seat be changed to the
opposite side of the House so that he may
be listed as an independent.

DICK ABSENT

In view of the organization progress
being made by supporters of Mr. Bowser
and the frank criticism of the govern-
ment between sessions by Conserva-
tive members the Walkem bolt is ex-
pected to lead the parade in spite of
the claims of ministers that perfect
harmony exists within the ranks.

It is freely forecast that William
Dick, Vancouver Conservative col-
league of Mr. Walkem, will follow the
example. Mr. Dick has been perhaps
the most outspoken Conservative critic
between sessions. He has not yet put
in an appearance at the House.

James H. Beatty in a speech made
in Victoria some time ago intimated
that he was not fully in sympathy with
his party, but yesterday he both
sought to justify the absence of Mr.
Walkem's name from the list and
voiced with his comrades on the divi-
sion.

When the proposal to place Mr.
Walkem's name on the public ac-
counts committee came before the
House yesterday it was explained that
in committee, Liberals had suggested
the name of F. M. MacPherson, one
of their number, to leave a place for
Mr. Walkem whom Conservatives failed
to nominate.

When the names of the committee
were submitted to the House by Pre-
mier Tolmie, Mr. MacPherson's name
was on the list. Mr. Walkem's was
off. T. D. Pattullo moved Mr. Walkem's
name be added.

Attorney-General Pooley immediately
protested the procedure was incorrect
but Mr. Pattullo was sustained by the
Speaker.

J. H. Beatty sought to justify the
committee's choice and J. W. Cornett,
Conservative whip, said Mr. Walkem
had refused to act on any committees
last year.

Mr. Pattullo told the House that he
made the recommendation because Mr.
Walkem suggested to him that he
would like to be on the public ac-
counts committee. In spite of the ex-
planation, Conservatives lined up
solidly to reject the motion to make
their own colleague, who was once
chairman of the committee, a member
of the committee this year.

NEW MARKETS
NEED OF B.C.

Development of Trade Seen
as Solution of Problems
by H. D. Twigg

Commercial Men Should Not
Wait for Legislature
Says Member

Development of markets at home
and abroad for the products of
British Columbia was pointed to
as the road to prosperity for the
province by H. D. Twigg, Conserva-
tive, Victoria, in opening the
debate on the Speech From Throne
in the Legislature yesterday.

British Columbia must set out a
policy of its own, Mr. Twigg said. If
the province developed itself along
its own lines instead of waiting for
the wave of prosperity to reach it
it might itself start the wave, Mr.
Twigg said.

After commending the empire loyalty
of the Economic Conference, Mr. Twigg
said he was convinced some of the
benefits were showing to-day and British
Columbia would get its share.

NO QUACK REMEDY

There was some anxiety in the minds
of the people to-day, he proceeded, and
a feeling there was no hope for the
future along the lines they had been
accustomed to. There was no solution
in a quack remedy. It was in the
minds of the people themselves. They
must go forward, not along lines laid
down for them but in the spirit of the
old adventurers. It was not sufficient
for British Columbia to cling to the
trade benefits of confederation. Be-
cause of its geographical position British
Columbia's outlet was by the sea.
It must look to the Pacific, not the
Atlantic, for its future and anything
done to open up the field of exploita-
tion there must be welcomed here.
He suggested the commercial men of
the province instead of criticizing and
waiting for the Legislature to act
should show the spirit of adventure
of their forefathers and seize the op-
portunities that existed to-day. He
regretted to note some people would
close the connection with London
which it was essential to maintain.

Millions had been spent on high-
ways, public works and in other direc-
tions which would have brought greater
benefit if spent for market expansion,
Mr. Twigg thought.

Turning to unemployment he said
one of the saddest things about the de-
pression was the case of young people

leaving schools and colleges. It was a
terrible thing to break down hope in
the minds of youth and to put doubts
in their minds as to the future of the
province or thoughts of a disrupted
form of government instead of building
up their hope in the future of the
province and the country to which
they belonged. Thanks were due, he
said, to the people of British Columbia
who had done so much work at re-
duced wages in these times.

MARKETS ABROAD

If the natural resources of British
Columbia were developed and markets
were found, British Columbia need not
fear what happened east of the Rockies.
He saw hope in the future but did not
think anything could be gained by
petty squabbling and useless discussion.
To give up now would be foolish. Pages
had been written and scores of speeches
made without a solution being offered.
The solution rested with the people
themselves standing together with de-
termination and grit.

Mr. Twigg thought it was a matter for congratulation, the government was continuing its plea for better terms from the Dominion Government which many thought had not gone as far as it should do in this respect although the province had recently secured the return of some of the lands held in trust by the Dominion Government as the terms entering confederation.

CAPT. FITZSIMMONS.

Captain James Fitzsimmons, member for Kaslo-Slocan, seconded the reply to the Speech From the Throne, Captain Fitzsimmons said any amendment to the Mineral Act should be beneficial to the miner and prospector who had laid the foundation for the mining industry of the province.

Referring to unemployment, the up-country member said the government faced a serious problem, with thousands of people from other provinces coming to the coast and imposing greater financial problems for the taxpayers of British Columbia. The unemployment question should not be dragged into politics.

Captain Fitzsimmons was opposed to keeping people in camps without work, saying the majority of these men wanted something to do. He eulogized Hon. R. W. Bruhn, Minister of Public Works, for the splendid work he had done throughout the year.

He had attended meetings of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, where some of the best brains of the province were to be found, but these men had no solution to offer for unemployment. He also deprecated the uselessness of party bickerings, saying the feeling of the people was that legislative sessions were merely sham fights between two parties.

T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, adjourned the debate until Monday afternoon.

Across The Bay

The debate on the Speech From the Throne starts on a high plane—and rather empty as befitting the subject—but our old instincts are too strong—and through a tiny opening we behold the fires of politics beneath.

By H.B.W.

THE DEBATE on the Speech From the Throne, wherein there is nothing whatever for debate or for any other purpose, started in the House Friday on a plane too high and too moral to be anything but insufferably dull. The House, on its first working day, with the gold braid and uniforms and distinguished visitors all removed, had evidently resolved to continue that same atmosphere of pious unreality which marked its opening. Aias, it couldn't sustain such an atmosphere even for two days. The flesh was weak. Long before dinner time the calm surface of non-partisanship had been badly punctured, showing clearly the eternal fires of politics that rage beneath.

PERHAPS it was as well. We couldn't stand many days such as Friday started out to be—Friday, which is the political day of days, the day in the week when all parties always try to do their best, to explode their bombs, to impress the unsuspecting public during the leisure of the week-end. Friday started out, indeed, like a funeral procession on a rainy afternoon. As for the debate on the Speech From the Throne, which we were supposed to be launching, we merely went through the motions, listlessly and without any hope of arriving anywhere, except at the graveside.

FAINT RIPPLE

MR. TWIGG launched the debate with a very faint ripple. He moved the immemorial motion thanking the Lieutenant-Governor for his Speech From the Throne, which contained nothing to be thankful for and, for that matter, nothing to be annoyed about either—nothing at all. As mover of this motion Mr. Twigg was supposed to speak the government's opinion, or rather to set the tone, to create the atmosphere and indicate the government's general state of mind.

Evidently the government's state of mind, if Mr. Twigg gauged it, is rather flat and, if not without hope, at least without any high expectations. Perhaps it is hard on the government to blame it for Mr. Twigg's state of mind; and, on the other hand, it is no doubt an injustice to Mr. Twigg to imagine that his real state of mind is as negative as that which, being a loyal supporter he seemed bound to assume.

THIS WAS too bad, for Mr. Twigg, beyond all question, is one of the ablest members of the Legislature, a skilled parliamentarian, an able debater, a keen legislator and an accomplished speaker with an Old World suavity and grace. But as government interpreter he had little scope, or used little, for these recognized talents. He took a lofty stand, refusing even to mention the words "politics" or "party," in token of the government's repudiation of both, scheduled for the spring. Yet in refusing to mention such things he came dangerously near mentioning nothing whatever, or rather nothing that anyone could get hold of.

ON THE SEA

PROBABLY that is a little unjust though, since he pleaded strongly for a new conception of British Columbia's future, economically. He pictured British Columbia graphically as a complete unit in itself, an area cut off from Canada by mountains, from the United States by tariffs, looking out on the sea which brought its people here and which must be the medium of their future.

Let British Columbia, said Mr. Twigg, look out over the Pacific and find among the teeming multitudes of the Pacific bowl the markets for its great resources. Let it have courage to strive for its own future in its own way, forgetting quack remedies and legislative panaceas. Instead of criticizing governments, let businessmen grasp these opportunities themselves and then, perhaps, these hard times would be a lesson in disguise, teaching us that we can't get rich quick, that a great future can only be built on sound foundations.

THE LEGISLATURE, in Mr. Twigg's view, couldn't do much about the present crisis. Only the people could solve it by their own endeavors. As for the government, it should concentrate on the development of foreign markets rather than wasting its money on such things as reclamation schemes. Meanwhile nothing could be gained by petty squabbling. We must bear our load with fortitude and perhaps a heavier one, but with strong resolve and our natural wealth we would win through. As the Speech From the Throne was never mentioned, apparently it wasn't going to be much help to us in winning. And as the government was barely mentioned either, no one could accuse Mr. Twigg of any party bias.

SAILORMAN

CAPT. FITZSIMMONS, of Kaslo-Slocan, seconded Mr. Twigg's motion in the same spirit. This was not new for the Captain, as it was for Mr. Twigg and other Conservatives, whose renunciation of party politics is somewhat recent and as yet rather timid and experimental. Capt. Fitzsimmons has urged the House for years to stop squabbling and the House has always applauded heartily and squabbled harder than ever. Again the Captain renewed his plea and, in his blunt sailorman style, told the House that the country was sick of its partisan debates, its sham battles between parties.

AS A SAILORMAN, said he, he had learned in his deep-sea days (before he started to pilot stern-wheelers on the Arrow Lakes) that after a storm the captain's first job was to make an

observation and see where he had drifted. To-day, during this brief lull in the economic storm, the Captain suggested that orators of the more frothy sort should pause and inquire how far the "stormy waters of useless argument" had driven them from the truth and the actual condition of the country. Having given the House his simple message, this simple and charming old pioneer from the Interior observed his own advice and sat down.

DRAGON UNLOOSED

MR. PATTULLO adjourned the debate to speak Monday and the government benches wondered whether he would follow the Conservatives' example and avoid politics, or break the unearthly peace which has prevailed so far. But we didn't have to wait for Monday to see the dragon of politics rear its head. The case of Mr. Walkem, which no one in the gallery understood, unloosed the monster and revealed for a passing moment the struggles that are going on with it here behind the scenes, behind many a smiling face.

The case of Mr. Walkem was peculiar, perhaps unique. For behold, Mr. Pattullo jumped up to demand that Mr. Walkem, a Conservative, be added to the public accounts committee. Mr. Walkem, it seems, had asked Mr. Pattullo to render him this favor, Mr. Walkem being absent. Such a thing as a Conservative applying to the Opposition Leader instead of the Premier had never been heard of. It was rank heresy. It was repudiation of the party. It was unforgivable. As such it was accepted by the government and the Conservative members. Bluntly they refused to put Mr. Walkem on the committee and Mr. Hinchliffe whispered to Mr. Pattullo that already he was playing politics. The politics, Mr. Pattullo retorted, were being played by the Conservatives. Politics were certainly being played, anyway.

MR. PATTULLO forced a division finally on this extraordinary issue of Mr. Walkem and the Conservative members voted solidly to exclude Mr. Walkem from the public accounts committee. If that wasn't reading a member out of the party, what was it? Conservative members said it was and they were glad, because the independence of Mr. Walkem has long been a deep aggravation to the government.

CLOSED FIST

But there was more behind this amazing spectacle of Liberals all voting to put a Conservative on a committee and Conservatives all voting to keep him off. There was behind it the hardening fist of the Prime Minister. For three years now his friends have been trying to persuade him to deal ruthlessly with recalcitrants in his own party. Always he has refused, preferring the way of negotiation, the technique of the open hand. To Mr. Walkem was applied the technique of the closed fist, with a grim look on the collective face of the government as it stood behind its chief. Liberals might say that this wasn't non-partisan government, but Conservative members only hoped that the new technique hadn't been started too late.

INTEREST RATE SLASH SOUGHT

British Columbia Legislature Will Be Asked to Seek Dominion Action

E. C. Carson, Conservative, Lillooet, Introduces Resolution for Lowering Rates

Action by the Dominion Government to bring in a plan to scale down interest charges which are forcing some municipalities to default and creating serious financial problems for other cities and provincial governments is called for in a resolution filed for the consideration of the B.C. Legislature by E. C. Carson, Conservative, Lillooet.

The resolution, which reads as follows, states the high rates of interest on government securities are preventing the investment of funds in business enterprise:

"Whereas the burden of public debt charges in Canada, federal, provincial and municipal, have become greater than the present ability of the taxpayer to carry;

"And, whereas through the great appreciation in the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar, the taxpayers are called upon to pay security holders substantially more in actual wealth than they contracted to pay;

"And, whereas these charges already have forced a number of Canadian municipalities to default on interest payments and threaten seriously to impair the financial structure of government finance in Canada to the great loss not only of the citizens at large but also of the bondholders;

"And, whereas the principal sums invested on government securities are preventing the investment of funds in business enterprise;

"And, whereas the confidence among investors, the lack of which is increasing the financial difficulties of governments and preventing the use of capital in business enterprise, can best be restored by placing the governmental finances of the country on a sound basis, where outstanding obligations are within the ability of the country to pay;

"And, whereas the principal sums invested in governmental securities of all kinds must be protected and can best be protected by interest rates within the ability of the country to pay;

"And, whereas this problem is national wide and can only be solved satisfactorily through federal action on a national basis;

"And, whereas the government of British Columbia, will not attempt alone under any circumstances to modify its contractual obligations;

"Therefore be it resolved that this House is of the opinion that the Government of the Dominion of Canada should immediately devise a plan for the scaling down of interest rates on governmental borrowings, federal, provincial and municipal, having regard to the present purchasing power of the dollar and the ability of the country to pay; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

Wide Re

Legislature Will Aid Municipalities in Tax

Reductions of Property on A Moratorium

Revision of present charges on taxpayers is a proposition according to indication on the matter

In addition to a plan from B.C. municipalities, Premier Tolmie, municipal councils, in the subject placing it before the committee of the Legislature

Victoria's own tax scheme has the approval of the go to the House.

Just what form it is as yet undecided amendments to the a variety of scheme resolutions which a convention of the municipalities this week

The proposals ran tortious on arrears of of the penalty and Premier's circular tion with regard to penalties.

The following cities are asking for adjustment: Burnaby, North Cowichan, Summerland, Alberver, Vernon and Vico.

Among the schemes Elimination of the rent taxes providing the arrears are paid.

Interest rate on unpaid per cent a month. Reduction of the cent on unpaid tax postponement on current taxes are paid.

Repealing of the and foreclosures on three-year period.

A moratorium on handed by a debt.

Reduction of the cent and extension of year of the time when taxes are paid.

Elimination of the situation of a 10 per cent when taxes are paid.

Suspension of the this year and an years of the period property.

Addition of the per month until 12 per cent in view of the w for relief of this sort Union of B.C. Municipalities the various

Wide Demand For Relief On Taxes

Legislature Will Be Asked to Aid Municipalities in Helping Taxpayers

Reductions of Penalty and Interest on Arrears and Moratoriums Posed

Revision of penalties and interest charges on municipal land taxes this year to give relief to taxpayers is a practical certainty, according to indications of opinion on the matter.

In addition to a flood of applications from B.C. municipalities along this line, Premier Tolmie has circularized municipal councils to gain information on the subject with a view to placing it before the municipal committee of the Legislature.

Victoria's own tax arrears postponement scheme has already been given the approval of the council and will go to the House.

Just what form the relief will take is as yet undecided. It will involve amendments to the Municipal Act and a variety of schemes are suggested in resolutions which will go before the convention of the Union of B.C. Municipalities this week.

The proposals range from full moratoriums on arrears to mere adjustments of the penalty and interest rates. The Premier's circular asks for information with regard to spreading of the penalties.

The following cities and municipalities are asking for some form of readjustment: Burnaby, North Vancouver, North Cowichan, Salmon Arm, Summerland, Alberni, West Vancouver, Vernon and Victoria.

Among the schemes proposed are: Elimination of the penalty on current taxes providing a proportion of the arrears are paid, and fixing of the interest rate on unpaid accounts at 1 per cent a month.

Reduction of the interest to 5 per cent on unpaid taxes with a five-year postponement on arrears providing current taxes are paid.

Repealing of the penalty, tax sales and foreclosures on farm lands for a three-year period.

A moratorium on farm land taxes handled by a debt adjustment board.

Reduction of the penalty by 5 per cent and extension from three to four years of the time when a property must be sold for taxes.

Elimination of the penalty and substitution of a 10 per cent discount when taxes are paid on due date.

Suspension of the annual tax sale this year and an extension to two years of the period for redemption of property.

Addition of the penalty at 1 per cent a month until 12 per cent is reached.

In view of the widespread demand for relief of this sort, it is possible the Union of B.C. Municipalities will assemble the various suggestions into a memorandum for submission to the committee of the Legislature.

CHIROPRACTORS TO FIGHT AGAIN

Drugless Healers Will Also Seek Legislation at Present Session

Another effort will be made at this session to pass legislation giving chiropractors and drugless physicians a status independent of the medical profession. The struggle for recognition has been waged for several years by the combined organizations endeavoring to govern examinations through a board of their own.

This year, it is anticipated, those who are exclusively chiropractors will have a bill of their own and drugless physicians will endeavor to have legislation passed giving them recognition and the same bill, it is expected, will deal with chiropractors, as many of them also follow that profession.

Members of the Legislature are being circularized by the B.C. Chiropractic Association, giving notice that that body does not wish to be associated with any bill introduced by the drugless physicians, and will present a bill of its own.

Last year two votes were taken in one day on similar bills and in each case were defeated by one vote.

CONSERVATIVES SOLID ON VOTE

Reject Opportunity to Express Dissatisfaction on No Confidence Motion

Put Minister Names in Hat and Pick Those Slated to Go, Pattullo Suggests

Conservative members of the Legislature voted as a unit yesterday, when T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, after speaking in the debate on the Speech from the Throne moved a no-confidence motion.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Pattullo moved a motion "that the House feels in duty bound to advise His Honor it does not feel this government has administered the affairs of the province wisely and the course that has been pursued does not meet with public approval." The division brought a straight party vote.

George A. Walkem, Conservative, Vancouver, whose bolt from the party was disclosed when all the Conservatives in the House voted to reject his name for the public accounts committee, voted with the government members.

Before the vote was put, Mr. Pattullo commented that many of the members had expressed their dissatisfaction with the government. They had been free in their utterances against it between session. "Why not be honest about it now?" he asked, "and force the government to go to the country as it ought."

Earlier in his speech Mr. Pattullo referred to the changes in the cabinet which it has been announced will take place. "Some of the ministers look concerned," he commented. "I suppose they are wondering where it will fall. It will make no difference. Put their names in a hat and take your pick."

Across The Bay

The House listens to Mr. Pattullo—with a prophetic attention—trying hard to disguise those fears and regrets which beset a man at the last hour—and refusing to hasten that hour even to please Mr. Pattullo.

By H. B. W.

THE HOUSE listened to Mr. Pattullo Monday. It listened with a new interest and a keener expectation which even the elaborate disregard, the labored carelessness and the organized smirks of the government benches could not quite hide. One eye on the election and the other on Mr. Bowser's new party, the House majority listened a little wistfully to Mr. Pattullo, wondering whether he would still be safely on the left of Mr. Speaker next year, when a lot of us will be left at home.

What it thought of Mr. Pattullo's ideas the House did not indicate, but that hardly mattered, since they will go to a higher tribunal shortly. They were not sufficiently powerful to break the solid Conservative bloc, not even to extract Mr. Walkem and Mr. Dick, whose love for the government is notorious, but probably Mr. Pattullo hardly expected it. His want-of-confidence motion was intended no doubt to be the usual gesture, to put the Conservative majority on record as supporting the government—which Mr. Pattullo evidently thought sufficient to seal its doom.

GETTING STILL BETTER

A PART FROM Mr. Pattullo's ideas, the whole House, most of which is unfriendly, had to admit that his manner of delivering them, of marshalling them, of making them glisten with sudden flashes of repartee and wit, is improving all the time. From a halting, hesitant and self-conscious speaker, Mr. Pattullo has developed into a seasoned debater who could hold his own in any parliament and who derives a joy out of his own speaking which he cannot conceal. No one enjoyed Mr. Pattullo's excellent speech, indeed, more than Mr. Pattullo. He fairly radiated delight, and the fierce pleasure of battle as he put the government in its place which was a pleasure to behold, and a complete confidence in his party's ability which cheered us all immensely.

Mr. Pattullo had hardly condemned the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Twigg's "funereal dirge" and Captain Fitzsimmons' "simplicity and naivete" before loud applause from the Liberal benches signalled the arrival of Mr. Walkem for the first time. But there was no applause from the government benches—only that self-conscious look of parents trying to pretend that they haven't seen little Johnny shooting peas at their guests. Mr. Walkem did not pause, however, and Mr. Walkem sat down in his usual chair among the Conservatives to whom he has bidden farewell, not among the opposition members, who would be glad to welcome him.

AS USUAL, Mr. Pattullo delivered himself of many a sharp epigram and salty phrase which had been crying aloud for utterance this long while and prepared, one suspected, with as much aid from the dictionary as from Mr. Pattullo's own ample storehouse of vocabulary. "Unrepentant and unregenerate government . . . government barque wallowing in the trough of hesitancy . . . fraudulent estimates . . . orgy of spending . . . financial morass . . . programme of ballyhoo . . . policy of froth and foam . . ." All these, and many another sharp dig in the governmental ribs kept us cheerful all afternoon. But, while relying utterly on the Liberal Party and repudiating the suggestion of any other arrangement, Mr. Pattullo was not bitter, as such things are gauged here.

PITY FOR PREMIER

FOR THE PREMIER he seemed to have more pity than anger. The only important statement inserted by the Premier in the Speech from the Throne, he seemed to think, was the gorgeous assertion that the government "had refused to be stampeded," and even this was quite false. For, said Mr. Pattullo, looking with kindly eye and a friendly smile at his chief enemy (who smiled back and made more notes for his reply on the morrow), the Prime Minister had been stampeded in every direction—forward and backward and sideways and endwise, until the poor man had no idea where he was going at all.

To assist him, Mr. Pattullo offered the helpful suggestion that he go to the country and right away. But there was no enthusiasm about this proposal among Conservatives, only a silly titter which did not hide the cold chills creeping up and down many a Conservative back. Viewing it thus, this unrepentant and unregenerate government, this government which had refused for nearly five years to go to the country and get defeated and let him in, Mr. Pattullo paused almost in despair. In the end he could only conclude gloomily that no one understood what kind of a government it was except that it was "superlatively incompetent."

OLD RECORD

IT MADE him feel better to contemplate his own government, which he did in familiar detail. It made an impressive record, and yet in those good old days, what had the present ministers done? Had they sat in opposition and rendered the good old government decent and patriotic support? Oh, no. They had sat there while the good government labored to save the country, and they had gloated over its misery and its sacrifice.

Mr. Pooley had gloated with a "Mephistophelian glee." Mr. Jones had gloated with "muscotonian delight," which must have been very delightful indeed, though the House, through its laughter, had no idea what it was like or where Mr. Pattullo had secured such a lovely word. Mr. Hinchliffe had gloated with an "oleaginous sophistry." Mr. McKenzie had gloated with "wild cannibalistic gesticulations" until he

had finally torn out all his hair. Mr. Maitland had gloated and promised that when his party was elected the Canadians driven out of their country by bad times would see the light in the window and come home. And Mr. Pattullo himself gloated as he denounced these gloatings of the good old days.

HOOR STRUCK

NOW, HE SAID, the government was trying to undermine his prestige within his own party, but without success. And while thus working underground it was proposing on the surface a holy union and abandonment of party in the hope of avoiding its doom. But already the hour had struck. Two ministers were to go next month (he wondered which two and observed that they all looked worried) and the rest later. The prospect did not alarm Mr. Pattullo—the prospect of taking over a shaky structure, a financial jigsaw puzzle, the disagreeable scraps and left-overs of the government's five-year feast. He could handle the situation and he gave the House a brief idea how he would do it. He also gave the moneyed people some pretty plain advice on general economics and the need of providing jobs for the unemployed if they wanted to remain moneyed. He gave the Premier a list of his twenty deadly sins of omission and commission. He gave The Vancouver Province a sharp lecture on manners and morals. Finally he gave the Conservative majority an opportunity to vote itself instantly out of office, which, with characteristic stubbornness and stupidity, it refused to accept.

Pattullo Outlines Back To Work

Reasonable Wage Instead of Dole Liberal Policy

Utilization of National Credit and Public Works to Aid Unemployed

Refunding at Lower Rates of Interest Possible, Says Opposition Leader

Utilization of the national credit to start the wheels of industry moving so that workers in British Columbia can get away from the dole system and be employed at reasonable wages was advocated by T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, in the Legislature yesterday. The proposal was embraced in a definite policy outlined by Mr. Pattullo to put unemployed in British Columbia back on payrolls and restore purchasing power to the hands of the people.

"IMPOTENT WAITING"
Recalling the speech of H. D. Twigg who opened the debate on the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Pattullo remarked, "We are told that with the inherent courage and fortitude of our people and our illimitable resources everything will eventually be all right."

"I entirely disagree with this policy of impotent waiting," he said, with emphasis, and scored the government for its failure to heed early warnings on the unemployment problem it would have to face and its failure to efficiently handle the matter.

"Have we nothing to offer other than to cut down governmental public works, municipal services, express and telegraph services and all other public services?" he asked, "Is this all that is to be offered to the people?"

"What is industry going to do? What is going to happen to all those thrown out of work? Are we to continue to go from bad to worse?"

"With riots taking place, municipalities going into the hands of receivers, with the financial resources of our people being depleted and, worse than that, with their morale being broken down, is there nothing tangible to offer? Is it sufficient to sit back and say that this Legislature can do nothing?"

"If the collective power of our people, as represented through government, is unable to move forward but only to drift backward, what can be expected of private endeavor?"

"Right out upon our provincial highways we have seven thousand men in camps, and road material for our roads, and roads that badly need improving, but we cannot bring the roads, the road material and the men together."

"The present state of affairs cannot be permitted to continue. The physical and mental powers of our people must be mobilized and our credit used to start the wheels of industry moving."

SUGGESTIONS
As a temporary measure, Mr. Pattullo said, useful public works should be started and carried out on the basis of the payment of a reasonable wage. This, of itself, would increase purchasing power and would result in a diminishing number of unemployed.



T. D. PATTULLO

As many people as possible should be placed upon the land. The man who was able to grow his own food supplies was in a very much better position than standing in the breadline, or being herded into camps.

He noted the Minister of Lands was announcing some new land policy. If it were a feasible policy, the speaker would be glad to support it when submitted to this House, but long since should adequate measures have been taken.

Consideration would have to be given to the spread of endeavor through shorter working hours and shorter week. Already large industry has begun the process in the United States and, he believed, at least one large concern in the Dominion of Canada. This should be accomplished without the reduction of wages below a reasonable standard of living.

ECONOMIC COUNCIL

He believed that a national economic council should be established as well as provincial economic councils to collaborate therewith. These councils should be composed of scientists, industrialists, economists and labor. Through the efforts of this organization, industrial effort could be coordinated and a closer relationship between production and consumption could be brought about. This organization could be of immense benefit in assisting private enterprise in the securing and holding of markets and the wheels of progress be set moving.

"Consideration also should be given to the refunding of our obligations at lower rates of interest."

Mr. Pattullo proceeded, "The people of to-day have become fearful of what the future has in store. Many are not spending what they otherwise would spend, not knowing just what is going to happen."

"I have been assured by many holders of bonds that they would gladly accept a lesser rate of interest if they could be assured of their principal."

"At a time when commodity prices are extremely low and wages are extremely low, the price of money is extremely high and this province itself is paying ruinous interest rates."

"It is not the policy of the party which I lead to say that we must sit down and do nothing and that nothing can be done. There is a great deal that can and must be done. All that it requires is courage and common sense to do it, but it is clear from the record of this government that it is impossible to expect results from it."

Opposition Leader Catalogues Charges

Criticizes Tolmie Government For Inefficiency Under Twenty-five Headings

Extravagance, Ineptitude and Financing Under Scathing Review

The Tolmie Government was floundering around in a sea of incompetence and incapability and had neither the decency or the courage to go to the country and face the issue, T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, declared in the Legislature yesterday in the course of a speech in which he listed twenty-five indictments against the present British Columbia administration.

A crowded gallery was present when the opposition leader in speaking in the debate on the Speech from the Throne launched his charges which covered inefficiency, extravagance, secret bond sales, ineptitude, rampant partisanship and reckless financing endangering the credit of the province.

Mr. Pattullo's charges were:

"Creation of the largest and most inefficient cabinet in the history of British Columbia. This action of expediency has turned out to be very inexpedient and, according to published reports, it is now proposed to cut down the number of ministers."

"Setting up an audit, obviously designed primarily to discredit the former administration rather than to present a truer picture of the financial affairs of the province."

"Appointing commissions of various kinds, costing thousands of dollars. This money was entirely wasted, as the results have been nil."

"Selling British Columbia bonds secretly and without public tender, thereby at once creating in the public mind a lack of confidence."

"Embarking upon a policy of wanton extravagance and an orgy of spending, notwithstanding the fact that they were warned that they were heading this province into a financial morass."

"The government was warned against selling short-term issues in the United States, which have since matured, and which are costing the province millions of dollars."

"SPENDTHRIFT POLICY"

"As a consequence of the spendthrift policy of the government, fraudulent estimates were submitted to the House to make it appear that the budget would be balanced. Anyone familiar with the situation knew that the figures were juggled and subsequent events made it evident to every body."

"With revenues falling and expenditures increasing, the government proposed additional taxation, adding impost after impost, while still continuing a wasteful policy of extravagance."

"While protesting frugality it indulged in profligacy. Not content with new impositions of taxation upon the people of the province at large, it took away from, and limited amounts, which had been payable to the municipalities. It also provided for collecting two income taxes this year, 1932-33."

"Notwithstanding that members of the present administration charged the previous administration with negligence in respect of unemployment, this government refused at its very first session, to recognize that such a problem existed, and made no provision therefor."

"When, finally, the government was compelled to recognize that the problem was here in ever-increasing magnitude, the government had already spent so much money wastefully that no money was left to meet the situation. Huge sums were spent on the erection of camps throughout the province only to find that there was no money available to run the camps."

INADEQUATE POLICY

"The means adopted to cope with unemployment relief have been entirely inadequate, inequitable and calculated to break down the morale of our people. Several thousand boys and girls pass out of our schools each year only to find nothing to do. Young men are herded in camps and fed like cattle over the winter. The situation is unhealthy in the extreme and a work programme should long since have been instituted."

"Notwithstanding that the previous government had been charged with extravagance and creating deficits, the present administration increased the annual expenditure by millions, in spite of falling revenues, finally culminating in a deficit in a single year amounting to more than \$7,000,000."

"Notwithstanding that the previous government had been charged with imposing unnecessary taxation, members of this government complained that the previous government should not have reduced taxes which it did reduce, and the present government at once proceeded to impose additional imposts in every direction."

"Notwithstanding that the previous administration was charged with partisanship, partisanship under this administration has been rampant in the extreme."

INJURED SERVICE MORALE

"Men were dismissed from the civil service without warrant, charges against them made which could not be substantiated and the government compelled to reinstate them in office. Leaving aside the heartaches of these individual members and their families, the morale of the service generally has been greatly injured."

"The government appointed an extravagant three-man Liquor Board but was compelled to reduce same to a one-man board."

"The government superannuated the former Agent-General, who had only held office some six years, at a cost of several thousand dollars a year, in order to make room for the appointment of one of its ministers, whose incapacity was only on a par with that of the government generally."

"The government has disrupted our educational system without providing for proper provision to adequately carry on. In respect of so important a problem, with its innumerable ramifications, all interests concerned should have been taken into consultation, instead of which the government proceeded unilaterally, leaving the educational authorities throughout the province to flounder out of the difficulty as best they may."

POLICY OF SECRECY

"The government has pursued a policy of secrecy. While continuously pursuing a publicly ballyhoo of froth and foam it, at the same time, constantly withheld information, and when it did give information, frequently gave information which was not in accordance with the facts."

"In its redistribution measure the government gerrymandered two Liberal seats out of existence. In the case of Columbia constituency, a by-election was called almost before the incumbent was decently interred, under the excuse that the constituency should have representation at the approaching session, yet we now find the riding of Mackenzie unrepresented for six months and no representation in the House this session."

"In respect to the unemployment problem, not only was there a stifling of information but there was a shameless evasion of the truth and there is no doubt that one of the reasons of the difficulties that occurred between the province and the Dominion was due to the fact that the government sought to, and did, charge up to unemployment relief some of the ordinary activities of the province, thus placing a portion of the burden upon the Dominion at large."

"Through its orgy of no corresponding programme, the credit ranks with the lowest in the Dominion, where credit of the province that of any other Dominion of Canada."

"The government plunders of crown property through affiliations, and through methods, greatly injure of British Columbia and the University Endowment."

"This government was the beginning to hunt for those unable to take themselves, while it has favored interests by way of special exclusive franchises."

"Through profligacy, disgusting ineptitude and government has lowered the breeding of sentiment."

NO COALITION FOR LIB

Liberal Leader Sincerity of Prem For British Co

Asks What Measure Not Have Passed Big Major

Frank Intimation Party would have no milder Tolmie's plans for and a challenge to make public any has in mind which have put into effect to one majority he has were given by T. D. Pattullo of the Opposition, in future yesterday.

The sincerity of the union government was contrasted with the effemine Mr. Pattullo's lead disrupt the Liberal force."

"The Liberal Party has and they gave me a cle to use my discretion," said the Liberal leader. "We are a cohesive and based upon sound principles and we are ready to give this country good ment at any time."

"We hear suggestions way out of the impass a non-party government party would be able to party governments are."

Mr. Pattullo commented THE CHALLENGE

"I would like the during this session, to what the mysterious which he has in mind, carried into effect by a ment, which he thinks carried into effect by a administration," Mr. Pattullo are these measures, either into effect with the th jority which has been h. Mr. Pattullo at som treated the records of a ministration and the p mer Conservative Govern which course it was ac people of the province showed how in handling soldier problem the Libe

tion faced a similar sit which existed to-day, undertaken to rehabi were referred to and sc reviewed. These activ province money but if been undertaken the have had to be spent as "When our administ fice in 1928, the positio vicial affairs was th and the credit of our p high as that of any oth the Dominion of Canada tullo remarked.

"Through its orgy of spending, with no corresponding constructive programme, the credit of the province ranks with the lowest of the provinces in the Dominion, whereas formerly the credit of the province was equal to that of any other province in the Dominion of Canada, or even to the Dominion of Canada itself.

"The government placed the disposal of crown property through partisan affiliations, and through its bungling methods, greatly injured the University of British Columbia and the sale of the University Endowment Lands.

"This government was opposed from the beginning to humanitarian legislation designed to ameliorate the lot of those unable to take care of themselves, while it has favored special interests by way of special legislation and exclusive franchises.

"Through profligacy, inadequacy and disgusting ineptitude this administration has lowered public respect for government and has furnished ground for the breeding of unhealthy public sentiment."

NO COALITION FOR LIBERALS

Liberal Leader Challenges Sincerity of Premier's Plans For British Columbia

Asks What Measures He Could Not Have Passed With His Big Majority

Frank Intimation the Liberal Party would have no part in Premier Tolmie's plans for a coalition and a challenge to the Premier to make public any measures he has in mind which he could not have put into effect with the three to one majority he has behind him were given by T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, in the Legislature yesterday.

The sincerity of the proposal for a union government was also sharply contrasted with the efforts to undermine Mr. Pattullo's leadership and to disrupt the Liberal forces in the province.

"The Liberal Party had a convention and they gave me a clear cut mandate to use my discretion on this point," said the Liberal leader. I want to say we are a cohesive and coherent force based upon sound principles and policies and we are ready to step in and give this country good sound government at any time.

"We hear suggestions made that the way out of the impasse is by having a non-party government—that a non-party would be able to do things which party governments are unable to do," Mr. Pattullo commented.

THE CHALLENGE
"I would like the Prime Minister, during this session, to tell the House what the mysterious measures are which he has in mind, which should be carried into effect by a union government, which he thinks can only be carried into effect by a non-party administration." Mr. Pattullo said. "What are these measures, either of policy or administration, that he could not put into effect with the three to one majority which has been his?"

Mr. Pattullo at some length contrasted the records of the Liberal administration and the present and former Conservative Governments to show which course it was advisable for the people of the province to follow. He showed how in handling the returned soldier problem the Liberal administration

tion faced a similar situation to that which existed to-day. Public works undertaken to rehabilitate veterans were referred to and social legislation reviewed. These activities cost the province money but if they had not been undertaken the money would have had to be spent as charity.

"When our administration left office in 1928, the position of our provincial affairs, was thoroughly sound and the credit of our province was as high as that of any other province in the Dominion of Canada or even the Dominion of Canada itself," Mr. Pattullo remarked.

LIBERAL LEADER LAUDS CAMPAIGN

Emergency Employment Plan Here Is Cited in Legislature

The Citizens' Emergency Plan launched in Victoria yesterday, was commended by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, opposition, during his speech in the Legislature.

Mr. Pattullo scored the government for its failure to get behind any similar move to remedy unemployment. Similar systems had been successful elsewhere and there was no reason why the government should not have done something along these lines which would relieve distress without adding a taxation burden to be distributed through the dole.

"Thousands of dollars will be put in circulation in Victoria through this campaign. It is a substantial move to combat the depression and will be successful, I'm sure," he added.

TWO INCOME TAXES A YEAR

By jumping forward the 1932 Income Tax payments from June to March, Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, is guilty of slick practice to collect two payments in one fiscal year, T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, told the Legislature yesterday.

Taxpayers all over the province are making Income Tax returns to-day. Payments must accompany these returns.

Last year the returns were made on March 31 and payment was due in June. The fiscal year begins on April 1 and ends March 31. Hence Mr. Jones is bolstering up his accounts for the current year, according to the Opposition Leader, by collecting two years' Income Tax in one year.

Mr. Pattullo declared that this piece of slickness was on a par with the whole financial methods of the present minister.

MR. BOWSER'S PARTY AND DR. TOLMIE'S PARTY

Six months ago Premier Tolmie, declaring that conditions were so emergent in the province that a union government was necessary, invited Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Bowser to join him in effecting a party junction under his leadership. Mr. Pattullo, having opposed the administration under that leadership, both in the Legislature and out of it, naturally declined the invitation. Mr. Bowser, who is of the same political stripe as Dr. Tolmie, but who has not been active in public life for the last six years, also refused to associate himself with the Premier's project.

Now, Mr. Bowser has a union government party of his own, but as far as we can learn he has not invited the Premier to join him under his leadership. This is not nice of Mr. Bowser. Dr. Tolmie invited him to attend his party; why should he not return the compliment by inviting the Premier to come to his party? That is the way it is done in all polite society; indeed, one invitation of this sort always involves a similar return courtesy. Wedding presents are in the same category. Mr. Bowser will find this custom commended in all standard works on social etiquette.

It was inevitable that the Conservative party regulars should endeavor to use Mr. Bowser's irruption into public life as leader of his own particular union party as an argument against any further efforts by the Premier to form a similar political establishment. It will be recalled that when Dr. Tolmie invited Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Bowser into his proposed fold and they declined the invitation, he announced that he would not abandon his attempt to form a union government but would continue his efforts after the session of the Legislature, and would go to the country under the new auspices.

The Conservative party regulars, to whom a union government is anathema, have been laboring mightily with him ever since to dissuade him from this purpose, and now that Mr. Bowser has beaten him to it they hope he will relegate the whole disagreeable scheme to the limbo of forgotten nightmares and stick by the straight party ship until she sinks.

Unfortunately for these aspirations, the Premier has committed himself to his programme in numerous announcements, notwithstanding that he has known all along that Mr. Bowser was meditating an early plunge into the icy waters which engulfed him some seventeen years ago. How can the Premier now turn his back on his public declarations without exposing himself to the reflection that Mr. Bowser has forced him to swallow himself? On the other hand, is there any material with which to form another union party which Mr. Bowser has left unsolicited?

But if the Premier shall resolutely proceed with his union plan regardless of Mr. Bowser's intervention, who will lead the party regulars? Mr. Maitland, K.C., has been mentioned as a probable chieftain, but the most recent information is that he is not enamored of the role and, besides, is looking in another direction. Old-time Conservatives shudder at the bare thought of their party going about with a lantern looking for a leader, but in view of the fact that the Premier is on public record as stating that their party is incapable of giving the province a satisfactory administration and that there should be a union government, it is not surprising that there is no rush for the dubious distinction.

We appear to have traveled a long way since those halcyon days of 1928 when the majority electorate of the province changed governments because "it was time for a change." The electors certainly have had their changes, and the changing is still going on. Incidentally, there is a certain pungent irony in the fact that some of the party stalwarts who worked hard at the Kamloops convention six years ago to substitute Dr. Tolmie for Mr. Bowser as Conservative leader are now wearing the Bowser label. We hope both Premier Tolmie and Mr. Bowser have been able to preserve a certain sense of sardonic humor in the light of these developments.

The situation is rather embarrassing for the Conservative party press. Our local morning contemporary, being a die-hard Tory, naturally regards the union government idea with heavy loathing. It is heart and soul with the regulars who demand that Premier Tolmie repudiate his union madness and stick to his leaky galleon. On the other hand, our afternoon contemporary in Vancouver, The Province, which originally put the union idea into the Premier's head, has been urging him to stick to his mirage with the implied threat that if he shall fail to do so it never will play with him again. If he shall form his own union government The Province can not escape supporting him. If he shall recant, as The Colonist wants him to do, The Province will support Mr. Bowser. And whatever they do in these respects both our Victoria and Vancouver contemporaries will be backing losing horses, since neither Dr. Tolmie nor Mr. Bowser has the slightest chance of winning the election. The Liberal forces of British Columbia will furnish the next provincial government.

F E B

1933

Friday, February 24, 1933.

Governor Inspecting Guard of Honor



ABOVE is shown Hon. J. W. Fordham Johnson, Lieutenant-Governor, inspecting the guard of honor chosen from the First Battalion of the Sixteenth Canadian Scottish. The Esquimalt naval base also provided a detachment for the guard of honor under the command of Lieutenant-Commander F. G. Hart. On the left of His Honor is Captain S. Robertson, who had command of the Sixteenth Scottish guard. In the rear of the Governor is seen Brigadier J. Sutherland Brown.

Dignitaries Leaving Formal Opening



ABOVE are shown the various dignitaries who officiated at the formal opening of the final session of the Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia. The photograph was taken after the Speech from the Throne was concluded and Hon. J. W. Fordham Johnson, Lieutenant-Governor, was returning to Government House. His Honor is seen a little to the right and in the rear of Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Tremaine, who is the foremost figure in the picture. Behind the Lieutenant-Governor are seen Commander V. G. Brodeur, senior naval officer at the Esquimalt naval base, and A. M. D. Fairbairn, His Honor's secretary. On the extreme right is Lieut.-Commander A. C. Wurtele, R.C.N., while to the right and rear of the Lieutenant-Governor is Brigadier J. Sutherland Brown.

OPENING OF PROVINCIAL SESSION

The Speech from the Throne which opened yesterday's session of the Provincial Legislature was more than usually confined to a review of past happenings. So far as it outlines the course that the session will take it is not a document at all illuminating. In fact, all the legislation forecast is that dealing with the Public Schools Act, the Vital Statistics Act, the Mineral Act and the Placer-Mining Act. The supposition, therefore, is that such legislation will be of the amending variety. In other words, no new Acts are forecast, though there will be some.

It is a matter of satisfaction to the taxpayers that such stress should be laid on the economies that have been effected. These have been more widespread than many people imagine, for the Finance Minister has done a great deal towards reducing the deficit which was normally expected in the 1932-1933 Budget owing to the falling off in taxation collections. It is a difficult matter in these times for any Government to estimate revenues, with economic conditions as they are. The best that can be done is to make the most conservative provision. Mr. Jones thought he had done this when the last Budget was introduced. He found, however, that economic conditions continued depressed, with the result that the revenues anticipated did not reach the mark set. So far there is no indication of what the actual deficit will be. There is more than another month to elapse in the present fiscal year, and an estimate will be possible while the Legislature is in session.

The Government recognizes the possibilities of useful development in mineral resources, and a paragraph of the Speech is devoted to this end. Especial attention is paid to the gold mining industry, both in lode formation and in alluvial gravels. In this respect the public as a whole are at one with the administration in the belief that the present year will see a considerable increase in the output of the precious metal. One feature of encouragement in this respect is that outside capital is already flowing into the province for the purpose of such development.

Some modern Speeches from the Throne are more important for what they leave unsaid than for what they say. It may be hoped that the present one can be listed in that category. There is no aspect of the review of happenings of the past contained in the Speech that is unworthy of comment, but the public would be better satisfied in connection with all such statements were it possible to outline, if only in general terms, any new legislation that is proposed. The supposition always is that any Government has such legislation prepared well in advance. When it has, then much time is saved, and a Legislature can transact its purposes in a business-like way. It is the public wish that the present session should be short and to the point. The people are weary of speechifying and political recriminations. What they want is action which will tend towards the improvement of economic conditions, and if that can be brought about by less legislation, then the less will be the cost of administration.

To Select Committee—Col. Fred Lister was named chairman of the committee to select standing committees by the House yesterday, with Messrs. J. W. Cornett, James H. Beatty, Dr. H. C. Wrinch and F. M. MacPherson. After the filing of routine reports for 1931 and the first part of 1932, the House adjourned until 3 p.m. today.

Favorable Omen Cast by Sun and Sky as Session Opens in Bright Scene

Gay Spectacle Witnessed by Thousands as Lieutenant-Governor Arrives for Ceremony at Parliament Buildings—Naval and Military Forces Add Splendor to Occasion.

TO the accompaniment of saluting cannon, playing bands and troops on parade, the final session of the Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia was formally opened yesterday afternoon by Hon. J. W. Fordham Johnson, Lieutenant-Governor. King's weather favored the opening, with typical blue skies and bright sunlight of Victoria in a pleasant mood. Hundreds attended the ceremonies, lining the streets to the Legislative Buildings, where an impressive array of naval and military forces did honor to the representative of His Majesty.

Actual proceedings in the House were formal and brief. Rt. Rev. Bishop C. D. Schofield led in prayer. The Speech from the Throne was delivered by His Honor. A sincere expression of sympathy was extended by Premier Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo to the relatives of the late Michael Manson, former Conservative member for Mackenzie District, whose vacant chair and unattended desk were marked by a large floral wreath. The House passed a standing vote of condolence to the relatives.

Selection of a committee on committees, filing of routine reports, and provision for the next sitting, closed the business of the opening day. Tomorrow H. D. Twigg (Conservative, Victoria) and Captain James Fitzsimmons (Conservative, Kaslo-Slocan) will be heard as mover and seconder, respectively, of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

SPEECH FROM THRONE

Attended by his aides and escort, and received by Premier Tolmie and Mr. Speaker Davie, His Honor read the Speech from the Throne in a clear, firm voice. It was as follows:

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

"I welcome you to the Fifth Session of the Seventeenth Parliament of British Columbia.

"The year 1932 has been an eventful one in the history of Canada and this Province. The outstanding event of the year has been the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa, where a new policy of intense significance to the future of the world trade was adopted. As a result of the agreements entered into, Canada has been given preference on her primary products, which should result in great benefits to her.

"During the year, this Province was honored by a visit from Their Excellencies the Right Honorable the Earl of Bessborough, Governor-General of Canada, and his gracious consort, the Countess of Bessborough.

"As forecast last year, the first British Columbia Government Inspectional Tour, organized by the Agent-General of this Province in London, and financed by those participating in the tour, resulted in a representative party leaving Liverpool toward the end of May, 1932, for a tour of the Dominion, a special itinerary being arranged for British Columbia, which, in addition, to providing attractions from a tourist standpoint, furnished the necessary financial and commercial contacts which must precede increased trade.

"My Government was represented at the Interprovincial Conference held in Ottawa last month, when consideration was given to the following matters:

- "(1.) Present unemployment and relief conditions.
- "(2.) Unemployment and social insurance.
- "(3.) Old-age pensions.
- "(4.) Duplication of Dominion and Provincial taxation.
- "(5.) Company law.
- "(6.) Jurisdiction over insurance companies.
- "(7.) Avoidance of overlapping where both Dominion and Provincial authorities are exercising jurisdiction.
- "(8.) The regulation of truck and motor-bus services competing with interprovincial and national rail transportation facilities.
- "(9.) Uniform statistical information.

LOSS IS REGRETTED

"Since last we met, this Legislature has suffered a loss in the death of Mr. Michael Manson, one of the oldest and most honored members of the Legislature. His passing has been deeply felt by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

"The timber industries of the Pacific Coast, like all others, were affected by economic conditions and curtailment of markets. It is encouraging, however, to note that, while total deep-sea shipments from the North Pacific dropped still further in 1932, those from British Columbia increased by 10 per cent and the trade within the Empire increased 69 per cent over 1931, due very largely to the trade-extension work conducted jointly by my Government and the timber interests, and but for which a considerable further curtailment in operations and employment would have followed.

"Adverse economic conditions have emphasized the possibilities for useful and profitable employment in the development of our mineral resources. Whilst it is true that the low level of base-metal world prices has retarded that branch of the industry, the Province, it is becoming ever more apparent, possesses important and as yet undeveloped gold resources, both in lode formation and in its alluvial gravels. It is gratifying to note that this is being recognized by those with capital to invest at home and abroad, as well as by the enterprising manhood of the country who are equipping themselves for prospecting this year.

"Amendments to the 'Mineral Act' and the 'Placer-Mining Act' calculated to bring those Statutes more in line with present conditions, but in nowise to change the vital underlying principles of our mining laws, will be submitted.

NEW LAND POLICY

"Agriculture, in common with other industries, has suffered from deflated prices and lack of markets. With the preferences accorded agricultural products at the Imperial Economic Conference, the agricul-

turist should be the first to regain his normal place. If our agricultural industry is to secure the maximum benefits from the market Great Britain affords, our exportable supplies must be continuous, in sufficient volume, and of a quality and price to interest our overseas customers.

"It is encouraging to the producer to note that agriculture in British Columbia in 1932 took first place over all other basic industries in value of commodities produced. The programme for 1933 indicates that this industry will maintain the lead during the present year.

"The price and terms of sale of ordinary Crown lands, and lands reverted for taxes, have been revised and modified with a view to providing easier means for bona-fide settlers to acquire lands as a medium for self-support.

"My Government has placed before the Government of the Dominion of Canada the long standing claim of this Province for better terms. British Columbia has for many years sought and has now renewed its petition for an investigation of its claims for adequate consideration arising out of the peculiar historical, economic and physical conditions affecting British Columbia at the time of Confederation and since continuing.

"A Commission was agreed to and partly appointed in 1912 to investigate these claims, but the war breaking out shortly after prevented any action.

"Until such time as there is a material improvement in the world economic situation, it is intended that Dominion-wide regulations for the administration of unemployment relief will continue to be enforced, having regard to our special needs in British Columbia. This will be done, as far as possible, in such manner as to conserve the interests of the taxpayer and without embarrassment to the self-respect of the recipient.

IN DIFFICULT TIMES

"The problems and difficulties arising from the economic conditions prevalent throughout the world today demand wise, carefully considered, but effective action on the part of all governments. They constitute a call for the co-operation of everyone, ruler and people alike, for the exertion of all the best and noblest in our boasted civilization, in a determined effort to put the world's affairs on a sound basis.

"My Government, while recognizing the seriousness of the situation, and realizing the tremendous tasks that face it, has refused to be stampeded. It has put into effect every economy that it felt could be carried out without unduly serious consequences. At the same time, it has not lost faith in the courage and fortitude of my people, nor in the wonderful resources of the Province, endeavoring to keep British Columbia in such a condition as to be able to take full advantage of the development and growth that will be made possible when prosperous times return. It is with this end in view that my Government has been making every effort to develop our markets, for it is largely in the development of our markets that employment will be created for our people.

"Legislation will be submitted for your consideration dealing with the 'Public Schools Act,' 'Vital Statistics Act,' 'Mineral Act,' and 'Placer Mining Act.'

"Reports of the various departments of my Government will be laid before you in due course.

The Public Accounts of the last fiscal year and the Estimates for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

"I leave you in confidence that your duties will be faithfully performed, and may the blessings of a Divine Providence inspire and guide your deliberations."

CROWDS ATTEND

The formal opening took place at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, with crowded galleries, and hundreds of seats on the floor of the Legislative Chamber filled by guests of the members. Mrs. Fordham Johnson, Mrs. G. C. Jones, Captain and Mrs. Hobart Molson, and Major Seldon Humphreys, from Government House, occupied a position at the left of the dais. His Honor remained seated during the proceedings, and was attended by A. M. D. Fairbairn, his private secretary.

Before entering the Chamber, His Honor took the salute at the

steps of the Buildings and inspected guards supplied by the Royal Canadian Navy, the 1st Battalion Canadian Scottish Regiment, a saluting battery of the 5th Field Battery, (B.C.) Coast Brigade, C.A., and mounted officers of the Provincial Police. A fifteen-gun salute was fired from field pieces near the Causeway. Responses for His Honor in the House were made by the Provincial Secretary, Hon. S. L. Howe.

The proceedings occupied about half an hour, before adjournment until this afternoon, when the first working sitting of the House will proceed.

Leads Government in Provincial House



PREMIER TOLMIE

Who is leading the Conservative Government in the Final Session of the Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia.

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Moves Acceptance of Throne Speech



H. D. TWIGG
Member for Victoria and Deputy Speaker. Yesterday Opened the Debate in the Provincial Legislature.

INITIATIVE IS NEED OF B.C.

H. D. Twigg and Captain James Fitzsimmons Heard in Debate

British Columbia should look for its opening to the West, and enlist every private and public effort to develop trade with countries bordering on the Pacific, the future channel of commerce, H. D. Twigg (Conservative, Victoria) declared yesterday in the Legislature, in moving the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. Captain James Fitzsimmons (Conservative, Kaslo-Slocan) seconded the motion; debate being adjourned at the end of the day by T. D. Pattullo, leader of the Opposition, who will speak on Monday afternoon.

In a forty-minute address, Mr. Twigg emphasized the importance of private initiative in the rebirth of trade; classed the recent Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa as one of the outstanding events in modern history; and appealed for faith in the country and its resources.

NEED PIONEER SPIRIT

Mr. Twigg reminded his hearers that the combined life of all Legislatures in the province had been but a breath of time, with substantial progress to show for the past decades. What was required of the times was a rekindling of the pioneer spirit, the will to go forward and dare. Opportunities lay fallow on every hand, and needed by initiative and enterprise to be developed into concrete returns in the upbuilding of the commerce of the nation.

With mountains to the East, tariff walls to the South, isolation to the North, the West was the logical direction in which to turn. The very life of the province had come at first from the sea, and would return by the same route. It was a challenge to the business men of the province that they cease looking to public bodies for succor, and de-

Continued on Page 2, Column 4

velop their own solution to present conditions, he averred.

If millions spent on social services, highways, reclamation schemes and in other public ways, had been diverted" even in a thousandth part, to market extension, the present lot of B.C. citizens would be better, Mr. Twigg declared. The past was past, but the future afforded new and untried opportunities which could be made to yield their measure of good in the recovery all envisioned, and hoped to see at no distant date, he concluded.

CAPTAIN FITZSIMMONS

Captain James Fitzsimmons told

of the influx of thousands of unemployed persons into the province in the last few years, and said this had put an unfair drain on the resources of the province.

The government, he said, had handled the unemployment situation as well as it had been handled anywhere in Canada. Men in the camps were well cared for, but should be given the opportunity they sought to work, in return for their keep. Captain Fitzsimmons praised the Minister of Works, Hon. R. W. Bruhn, and his staff.

Premier Tolmie, continued the member for Kaslo-Slocan, had made an honest and sincere effort to direct public affairs into the wisest channels in troublesome times, and deserved full recognition and support for that stand. It was a question, he added, "how far the stormy waves of useless argument had drifted the ship of state, but there was no question that the people were tired of sham fights between political parties, and wanted action.

Mariners lost at sea rode out the storm, took their bearings, determined a course and went ahead; countries should follow that lead, Captain Fitzsimmons concluded.

The leader of the Opposition adjourned debate. The House rose shortly afterwards until 3:30 p.m. Monday.

QUITS PARTY IN FINAL SESSION

Premier Tolmie Announces Defection of George A. Walkem, M.P.P.

George A. Walkem, one of the six members for the Greater Vancouver area in the Legislature, will sit as an Independent in the present session, it was learned yesterday on the authority of the leading member of the Government, Premier Tolmie.

Mr. Walkem has notified Premier Tolmie and Mr. Speaker Davie that he wishes himself to be considered as an Independent, and not as a member of the Government party in the House. He has absented himself from caucus, and will make his first appearance this session on Monday when the House resumes at 3:30 p.m. on that day. So far, Mr. Walkem has been alone in this course.

FLURRY IN HOUSE

The issue came up with abrupt suddenness in and out of the House yesterday. Simultaneously with the announcement by Premier Tolmie outside the Legislature that Mr. Walkem had been appointed to committee work as an Independent, and not as a Government member of these panels, T. D. Pattullo, leader of the Opposition, moved on the floor of the House to have Mr. Walkem added to the public accounts committee. Mr. Pattullo said he had been requested so to do by Mr. Walkem, and pressed the point to a division, where the nomination was defeated, 29-9, on the first division of the session.

The leader of the Opposition drew from Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe the retort: "Now we are playing politics!" The committee was ratified, without Mr. Walkem's name being added, on a subsequent vote.

HOUSE SELECTS USUAL PANELS

Standing Committees and Their Chairmen Named at Friday's Sitting

Standing committees of the Legislature were approved yesterday by the House. Premier Tolmie announced the proposed panels picked by the committee on committees, and the choice was ratified without change. The committees will be as follows, with those first named in each case as chairman:

Municipal—Messrs. Reginald Hayward, Dr. R. W. Alward, George Heggie, William Dick, R. Mackenzie, Capt. James Fitzsimmons, Thomas Uphill, Dr. H. C. Wrinch, F. M. MacPherson, Dr. J. J. Gillis.

Public Accounts—Messrs. J. W. Berry, H. D. Twigg, T. H. Kirk, J. H. Beatty, E. C. Carson, Capt. M. F. Macintosh, Col. F. Lister, Dr. C. M. Kingston, Dr. R. W. Alward, J. W. Cornett, Dr. W. H. Sutherland, G. S. Pearson, A. M. Manson, K.C., H. F. Kergin, and F. M. MacPherson.

Private Bills—Messrs. H. D. Twigg, J. A. Loutet, T. H. Kirk, J. W. Cornett, Capt. M. F. Macintosh, Dr. L. E. Borden, A. M. Manson, K.C., L. A. Hanna, and H. F. Kergin.

IN NINE GROUPS

Agriculture—Messrs. Col. Fred Lister, E. C. Carson, J. R. Michell, George Heggie, William Dick, R. Mackenzie, Capt. J. Fitzsimmons, Thomas Uphill, Dr. H. C. Wrinch, F. M. MacPherson, and Dr. J. J. Gillis.

Forestry—Messrs. Dr. G. K. MacNaughton, George Heggie, Col. Nelson Spencer, Capt. James Fitzsimmons, J. R. Michell, H. F. Kergin, A. W. Gray, and Thomas King.

Mining—Messrs. Dr. L. E. Borden, J. H. Schofield, Capt. J. Fitzsimmons, R. Mackenzie, Dr. G. K. MacNaughton, Thomas Uphill, H. F. Kergin, and Dr. J. J. Gillis.

Railways—Messrs. Col. Nelson Spencer, Dr. R. W. Alward, J. A. Loutet, R. Mackenzie, Dr. W. H. Sutherland, and Thomas King.

Fisheries—Messrs. T. H. Kirk, Dr. G. K. MacNaughton, Capt. M. F. Macintosh, E. C. Carson, Dr. H. C. Wrinch, and L. A. Hanna.

Printing—Messrs. James H. Beatty,

J. H. Schofield, Reginald Hayward, Thomas King, and Thomas Uphill.

Leave Granted—Leave for introduction of the private bill of Victoria City, for consideration before the Private Bills committee, was obtained in the Legislature yesterday on the motion of Reginald Hayward, M.P.P. The city is asking special powers to refund a maturing bond issue.

WIDE GAP IN FIRST BUDGET

Falling Revenues and Relief Costs Made Deficit of \$7,051,560

Hon. J. W. Jones disclosed results of his first budget to the Legislature yesterday, that for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1932, as a total deficit of \$7,051,560. This, he said, included \$1,830,502 for unemployment relief taken from current revenue and not capitalized in loans, or a deficit of \$5,221,078 without this addition. Expenditures had been \$29,214,217, and actual revenue \$22,162,657, the Minister intimated in a brief statement while tabling the public accounts for the year.

The deficit for 1932-33 would be considerably less, and that on current account would be smaller, Mr. Jones declared.

REVENUES SHRANK

Ordinary current expenditures in 1931-32 were \$25,373,325, and ordinary current revenue \$21,982,582, or a deficit on current account of \$3,390,742. Expenditures on capital account, special warrants for relief, and other items brought total expenditures for the year to \$29,214,217; while current and capital revenue was \$22,162,657.

The public accounts themselves disclosed \$4,146,335 as outlays by the Province on account of relief in 1931-32. Of this \$1,134,210 was the provincial share of municipal relief; \$2,392,479 the provincial cost of provincial relief and relief works; and \$619,645 in provincial advances on municipal costs, also for relief.

Two Bills Advanced—Two Government bills were introduced for first reading in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. N. S. Lougheed. The first was a bill to amend the Central Park Act, under which a ninety-nine year lease would be given to the Corporation of Burnaby on certain park lands in that area, at its request. The second bill, one to amend the Diking Assessments Adjustment Act, would extend to realty operators the same commission they now obtain on sales of other provincial lands in respect to reverted properties in diking areas.

Files Fish Motion—J. A. Loutet (Conservative) has filed notice in the Legislature of a motion to protest a recent Federal order prohibiting Grade "A" marking of salmon canned more than twenty-four hours after being landed at a cannery.

Leads Opposition in Warm Debate



T. D. PATTULLO
Leader of the Opposition, who opened fire on the Government yesterday in a verbal attack during customary debate.

OPPOSITION HAS INNINGS

T. D. Pattullo Heard in Warm Debate Before B.C. Legislature

It was T. D. Pattullo's day yesterday in the Legislature in the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech From the Throne, and the Leader of the Opposition made the most of it. He assailed the British Columbia Government benches caustically with horse, foot and artillery, in a whirlwind attack that lasted for over an hour. Ten minutes were devoted to castigation of the Vancouver Daily Province, whose editorial had attacked him at the time union was proposed, and ten minutes in a preliminary review of governmental policies in British Columbia since 1903.

The Government of the late Sir Richard McBride had been the first stable ministry, succeeding many years of bargaining and trading incidental to nonparty panels, he submitted. His stand today was against union or coalition ministries, for the same reason. British Columbia had been led astray in the earlier years through alienation of her natural resources worth hundreds of millions to bolster up annual costs that could not be carried out of taxation. Settlement had been allowed at widely-isolated points through the huge territory, and once established became responsibilities of the Government that could not be overlooked.

WOULD USE CREDIT

He believed in the present economic impasse no one solution could be found, but a choice of many expedients might have to be resorted to. First, he would place the use of national credit to create work, and restore the purchasing power of the people at real wages, and not on relief rates, Mr. Pattullo continued.

The Leader of the Opposition presented a verbal indictment with twenty-five counts against the Gov-

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ernment. Creation of the "largest and not the most efficient cabinet" he placed in the lead. Expenditure of \$50,000 on the Hellwell-MacLachlan Report, which he said had been turned to partizan account; irrigation and other commissions established without effective result; the secret sales of bond of the Province; embarkation on a policy of "wanton extravagance and an orgy of spending," all went in the count in the face of warnings of hard times.

Sale of short-term securities in the United States; submission to the House of estimates allegedly not in accordance with the facts; increase of taxation, and new costs for municipalities, continued Mr. Pattullo, had disturbed the confidence of the people. This year there were two income taxes, he asserted.

INDICTMENT LENGTHENED

Failure to provide for unemployment at its inception; expenditure of large sums on camps; failure now to provide work for the 7,000 men in camp on roads that needed repair; "ruthless partizanship" in Government employment; creation of a three-man liquor board, and its subsequent repeal; retirement on a life pension of the former British Columbia Agent-General at London; interference with the basis of education without adequate reference to boards and councils, were other charges listed by the Leader of the Opposition.

Perpetuation of a "policy of secrecy and ballyhoo"; jerrymander of Liberal ridings, especially after the Columbia bye-election; failure to hold a bye-election for Mackenzie district in time for this session; stifling of unemployment information before the House last year; partizan affiliations in connection with sales of the University Endowment Lands, and frank opposition to social legislation along humanitarian lines, continued Mr. Pattullo, completed but the highlights in his indictment.

WOULD PROVIDE WORKS

On the concrete side, he said, he was opposed to the dole, and believed that a comprehensive plan of public works should be carried out throughout the length and breadth of Canada. Men in camps should be put to work, not at relief rates, but at fair wages to restore purchasing power. As in poker, a few players had now got hold of all the chips, and the game had stopped.

There would be no security of tenure for even those with the chips unless a reasonable, safe and comfortable existence was afforded to the people. Purchasing power must be put back in the hands of the people, and the only way out was to use the national credit of the country, the collective power of the people.

The Dominion Government had lent \$1,500,000 to one of the transcontinental railways without interest to create work, and should do as much for the provincial governments and the municipalities, he believed. If the British Columbia Government's plans for land settlement were reasonable, he would support these plans, believing now was the time to re-establish many on the land who had been misplaced in the cities. He would favor the man-a-block plan, and thought the Victoria self-help scheme was admirable.

ECONOMIC COUNCILS

Mr. Pattullo suggested National and Provincial economic councils to be composed of scientists, laborites and politicians, to devise ways and means of creating employment, and preventing some of the periodic displacement of men from industry. There was no one remedy for the present economic state, but a score of remedies should be explored and attempted. The people were tired of indecision and demanded action. An election was coming and the Liberal party was prepared to take over the reins of Government and give the country sound administration, he averred.

Mr. Pattullo drew a running cross fire from the Government benches during his address.

Premier Tolmie adjourned the debate, and will lead today when the House resumes at 3 p.m.

WOULD REDUCE INTEREST RATE

E. C. Carson, M.P.P., Asks Provincial Legislature to Petition Ottawa

Action by the Provincial Legislature to declare in favor of lower interest rates on Dominion, Provincial and municipal borrowings is being sought from the House by E. C. Carson (Conservative, Lillooet), who filed notice of motion to that effect yesterday.

Mr. Carson's proposed resolution would have the House declare that public debt charges in Canada are heavier than the present ability of the taxpayer to carry; that through the appreciation of the dollar's relative value, taxpayers are paying more than they contracted to, at present interest levels; that this situation has forced some municipalities into receiverships, and has impaired the credit of Governments themselves; that high interest rates are retarding commercial investment of idle funds; and that only a return to a sounder basis would remedy the situation.

TEXT OF PLEA

For the above and other reasons, Mr. Carson is asking the Legislature to declare:

"That this House is of the opinion that the Government of the Dominion of Canada should immediately devise a plan for the scaling down of interest rates on governmental borrowings, Federal, provincial and municipal, having regard to the present purchasing power of the dollar and the ability of the country to pay; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Government of the Dominion of Canada."

The member for Lillooet will speak to his resolution at the first opportunity on the floor of the House.

TAX PENALTIES UNDER REVIEW

Premier Suggests Matter Be Placed With Municipal Committee of House

In a personal letter from Premier S. F. Tolmie to the Victoria, City Council, concerning the levy of tax penalties on properties in arrears for taxes, the Prime Minister suggests that the penalties could be set out in the statute as a compulsory measure that these instalments should be 5 per cent at a time, but as a matter of fact, under the present conditions it might be better to make the levy 3 per cent, the first payable July 1. An additional 3 per cent, he points out, could be made payable at the expiration of thirty days until the full penalty had been reached.

The Premier states that in nearly all the municipalities there is a grading of penalties. In some cases 10 per cent is being levied at one time and in others instalments of 5 per cent. This, he says, is a matter that rests entirely in the hands of the councils.

As the question of tax penalties has been brought before the Government on various occasions, the Premier suggests the whole matter be placed with the municipal committee of the Legislature at this session. It is understood that tax penalties will be considered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities when it is in convention next week.

Mainland Members Join Legislature

By addition of members arriving this week, the Provincial Legislature got up to a voting strength of forty-four yesterday. Alex Manson, K.C. (Liberal, Omineca), and Dr. W. H. Sutherland (Liberal, Revelstoke), took their places in the ranks of the Liberal Opposition; Col. Nelson Spencer (Conservative, Vancouver), William Dick (Conservative, Vancouver), and George A. Walkem (Independent, Vancouver), took their original seats on the Government's side.

Mr. Walkem received a welcome from the Liberal benches as he took his seat, but voted with the Government on the only division of the day. He was out of the House when T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, sought to refer to the earlier exchanges in connection with Mr. Walkem and the public accounts committee. Mr. Speaker Davie ruled the subject barred, as the House had already voted on it.

Legislation for the day was brief. Hon. R. L. Maitland introduced for first reading routine amendments to the Vital Statistics Act. Hon. R. H. Pooley, K.C., spoke to second reading of a bill to amend the Town

Planning Act, the object of which is to provide for deputy membership on town planning boards in the absence of mayors or Reeves. The House adjourned at 5:27 p.m., until 3 p.m. today.

Nonconfidence Motion Lost in Test in House

AFTER a spirited address, in which he had assailed the Government for its sins of omission and commission during the last four years, in the House yesterday, T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, moved a direct non-confidence amendment to the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The amendment lost, 33-11, on straight party lines, Tom Uphill (Labor, Fernie) voting with the Opposition, and G. A. Walkem (Independent, Vancouver) voting with the Government. Premier Tolmie adjourned debate for the day, the House rising soon afterwards, until 3 p.m. today.

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO BEGIN LABORS

On Wednesday, at 2:45 p.m., the Municipal Committee of the Legislature will hold its initial meeting, according to notice filed yesterday by Reginald Hayward, M.P.P., chairman. Other committees will follow in short order, it is anticipated.

Many important issues will go before the Municipal Committee, being the main contact body between the Legislature and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, while the House is in session.

Officials of the Union will assemble here this week, to complete proposals they will lay before the Government.

Is Named Deputy Speaker in House For Present Term

H. D. Twigg, fourth member for Victoria in the Provincial Legislature, was re-elected deputy Speaker yesterday by an unanimous vote of the House. Mr. Twigg held the same post last year.

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